



Christian
Reformed
Church

Acts of Synod 2022



Acts of Synod 2022



Christian
Reformed
Church

May 25 and June 10-16, 2022
Calvin University
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Synod 2022 met for the first time in three years after being canceled in 2020 and in 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Convening virtually on May 25, 2022, the assembly opened with worship and selected officers, and then synod regathered in person June 10-16, 2022, in the Covenant Fine Arts Center at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Delegates gathered from across North America to serve the Christian Reformed Church, committing their time for prayer and worship and for the work of the church through discussion and deliberation while church members across the continent also lifted up the proceedings in prayer. As a record of the work accomplished, the *Acts of Synod 2022* provides another chapter in the Christian Reformed Church's journey of faithfulness for 165 years.

The *Acts of Synod 2022* 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.
- Three communications.
- A financial summary.
- Service of Prayer and Praise.
- The minutes of Synod 2022.
- An index for the *Acts of Synod 2022*, the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, and the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*.

It is necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2022* and the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021* readily available for reference. The *Agendas* are not reprinted in the *Acts*. The minutes of synod often make reference to reports and overtures in the *Agenda for Synod 2022* and the *Deferred Agenda*. The pagination from the *Agenda for Synod 2022* continues into this volume. Supplementary materials begin on page 703, following preliminary unnumbered pages. A fiscal 2023 financial summary is found on page 813. The minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 819. The index references the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, and the *Acts of Synod*; page numbers in **boldface type** in the index refer to pages in the minutes of Synod 2022.

The pages that follow, as well as the referenced *Agendas for Synod*, bear continuing evidence of service by the Christian Reformed Church in response to a vision adopted by Synod 2005: "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."

Synod 2022 was significant for many reasons. I would ask that you continue to pray as we process the decisions made at synod, seeking the Holy Spirit's leading as we consider how to implement them. May the reports and decisions presented here remind us of God's loving faithfulness to us in every generation, place, and context. And may we demonstrate Christ's love in all its fullness to every people and nation, doing so together in "the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

Colin P. Watson, Sr.

Executive Director of the CRCNA

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES SUPPLEMENT

I. Polity matters

A. Council of Delegates membership

1. Appointment of classical delegates

The COD recommends that synod appoint Debbie Karambowich as the Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan delegate to fill out the term of Heather Cowie, to conclude June 30, 2025.

Debbie Karambowich is a member of River Park CRC in Calgary, Alberta, where she has served as an elder. Currently engaged as a student and homemaker, she has a B.A. in linguistics and psychology, and she serves as a Challenging Conversations facilitator.

The COD recommends that synod appoint Paul K. Im as the Classis Hanmi delegate to fill out the term of Roger Ryu, to conclude June 30, 2024.

Paul K. Im, now retired, served as a CRC pastor for over thirty years and is a member of HyungJe Presbyterian Church of S.C. in Anaheim, California. He has served as the president of the CRC's Korean Council, as the stated clerk of Classis Hanmi, as a member of the council of Springing Fountain CRC (Dream Church), and as the secretary of the Korean American Presbytery. Currently he is serving on the ethnic relations team.

The COD recommends that synod appoint Peter Meerveld as the Classis Huron delegate to fill out the term of Ralph Wigboldus, to conclude June 30, 2024.

Peter Meerveld, a member of New Life CRC in Guelph, Ontario, is retired and working as a consultant for strategic planning/leadership development. He has served on the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture, on the interview panel for the CRCNA executive director, and on the leadership review team for the executive director. He currently serves as an elder at his church.

Note: The above nominees will be considered eligible for an additional term of three years, subject to the approval of classis and recommendation by the COD Nominating Services Committee.

2. Appointment of at-large delegate

The COD recommends that synod appoint the following two nominees as Canada at-large delegates for a first term of three years.

Kelli Berkner serves as the associate pastor and interim senior pastor at Christ Community CRC in Nanaimo, British Columbia. She has previously

served as a member-at-large for the World Renew Board of Delegates and as the diaconal coordinator for Classis Zeeland. Currently she serves on the board of the University Christian Ministries at Vancouver Island University.

Roberta Vriesema, a member of Water Street CRC in Guelph, Ontario, is employed as an Ontario Health Care representative with the Christian Labour Association of Canada. She served two terms on the CRC Judicial Code Committee and was a member of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support coalition and the Two Rivers Group from 2007-2011. Currently she is serving as chair of Water Street Hospitality, as a coleader of the worship team, and as an elder at Water Street CRC.

The COD recommends that synod, by way of exception, allow Ralph Wigboldus to fill out his classis delegate term on the COD as a Canada at-large member until June 30, 2024.

Grounds:

- a. Ralph has expressed willingness to fill out his term in this way, with the blessing of his new council.
- b. This would bring continuity to the work of the COD and the CRCNA Canada Corporation.
- c. Ralph currently serves on the *Banner* Advisory Committee and the Nominating Services Committee; these committees would benefit by this continuity in the coming year (with each losing a COD member who is retiring in 2022).
- d. The COD is allowed up to ten at-large members.

B. Corporation officers and executive committee of the Council of Delegates

At its recent meeting the COD members from their respective corporations and the full Council of Delegates elected the following to serve as officers in 2021-2022:

1. CRCNA Canada Corporation

President: Andy de Ruyter
 Vice president: A. Henry Eygenraam
 Secretary: Bev Bandstra
 Treasurer: Greta Luimes

2. CRCNA U.S. Corporation

President: Michael L. Ten Haken
 Vice president: Sheila E. Holmes
 Secretary: John R. Lee
 Treasurer: Daudi Mutisya Mbuta

3. ReFrame Ministries Canada Corporation

President: Andy de Ruyter
 Vice president: A. Henry Eygenraam
 Secretary: Bev Bandstra
 Treasurer: Greta Luimes

4. ReFrame Ministries U.S. Corporation

President: Michael L. Ten Haken
 Vice president: Sheila E. Holmes

Secretary: John R. Lee
Treasurer: Daudi Mutisya Mbuta

5. Council of Delegates executive committee and officers

Chair: Andy de Ruyter
Vice chair: Michael L. Ten Haken
Secretary: John R. Lee
Treasurer: Greta Luimes
Bev Bandstra
Jill Feikema
Sheila E. Holmes
Melissa Van Dyk

C. *Executive leadership*

1. Executive director of the CRCNA

The Council of Delegates is grateful to Colin P. Watson, Sr., for his service to the COD and the CRCNA since his appointment in 2015 as director of denominational ministries and is especially thankful for the leadership he has provided during the past twenty-seven months as executive director of the CRCNA, during a time fraught with the challenges of a world-wide pandemic and proposed structural changes within the CRCNA. With gratitude to God for his service and contributions, the COD has bestowed on him the title of *executive director emeritus*.

2. Deputy executive director and chief financial officer

The Council of Delegates celebrated the faithful service of John H. Bolt as director of finance and administration over the past nineteen years and as deputy executive director and chief financial officer (since early 2021) to assist with the workload of the executive director. We are grateful for his excellent leadership through financial crises, through a period of reimagining and redesigning ministry shares, and much more.

3. Chief administrative officer

The COD was informed by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Search Committee that the finalist at the conclusion of the months-long search process declined the offer to serve as CAO. Upon considering several options, the COD has launched a new search process with the participation of both new and returning search team members.

Due to the delay in providing a nominee for the new role of CAO, the COD requests that synod grant it power to act on the appointment of a CAO should a nominee be identified and presented to the COD prior to Synod 2023.

Because of a vacancy in the CAO position, the COD has authorized Zachary King, general secretary designee, to appoint a person to assist him in the Office of General Secretary until the COD names a person to fill the CAO position. This permission is subject to the appointment of Zachary King to the general secretary role by Synod 2022.

4. Transitional executive director - Canada

In late April the CRCNA Canada Corporation appointed Albert Postma to the position of transitional executive director – Canada for two years.

He began serving in this new role in early May. Postma's experience of pastoring in the church and working with classis leadership has helped to prepare him to serve with a listening and pastoral posture through the process of leadership restructuring in the CRCNA.

5. Director of U.S. Ministry Operations

The CRCNA U.S. Corporation appointed Joel Huyser to serve as director of U.S. ministry operations for the corporation in addition to his current role as interim director of Resonate Global Mission while Zachary King prepares to take on the role of general secretary.

6. Executive staff to the Office of General Secretary

With proposed changes anticipated in the structure of the CRCNA, including the proposed Office of General Secretary, the COD requests that synod, upon adoption of the new structure as proposed in the Structure and Leadership Task Force report and adoption of a new ecclesiastical corporation (see section I, E of this report), grant the COD authority to appoint all senior level staff within the Office of General Secretary (excluding the general secretary) going forward. This grant would help to provide expedience in filling leadership vacancies and planning for transitions. The general secretary, as the sole employee of synod, would continue to require appointment by synod.

D. *Revised Ecclesiastical Mandate Letter*

The COD presented an Ecclesiastical Mandate Letter in its report in the *Agenda for Synod 2022* for adoption by synod (see Appendix D, pp. 78-80, in the *Agenda for Synod 2022*). Subsequently, legal counsel advised several revisions to the mandate letter. The COD therefore submits for adoption by synod the *revised* Ecclesiastical Mandate Letter as provided in Appendix A.

E. *Proposed ecclesiastical corporation*

To further clarify the roles of the ministry corporations of the CRC, the COD is proposing a new ecclesiastical corporation, the Worldwide Christian Reformed Church, for adoption by synod. The COD meets between synods to carry out the work that synod has assigned. Staff to the Office of General Secretary serve the COD as an ecclesial body. Legal entities, known as ministry corporations (e.g., the CRCNA Canada and U.S. corporations, the World Renew Canada and U.S. corporations), lead the ministry work being done in both the United States and Canada. They are in ecclesiastical partnership with the COD, and they are in a covenant relationship to do ministry together. While the ministries are accountable to their country-specific boards, the Worldwide Christian Reformed Church would manage their ecclesiastical partnership.

The COD recommends that synod adopt the Worldwide Christian Reformed Church bylaws and certificate of incorporation and receive the accompanying "Christian Reformed Church Ecclesial and Ministry Organizational Views" document as background regarding the new corporation (see Appendices B1 through B3).

F. *Consent Agenda for Synod 2022*

In order to relieve some of the work of the advisory committees and plenary sessions of Synod 2022, the Program Committee of Synod 2022 (officers

of Synod 2019) has designated some matters within the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021* and the *Agenda for Synod 2022* to be considered as “consent agenda” material. These matters do not have recommendations associated with them in the various reports and will not be addressed in the advisory committees. A delegate may make a request to the officers of synod that a specific matter designated as part of the consent agenda be moved off the consent agenda so that it may be addressed by the assembly.

The COD recommends that synod receive as information all agenda items designated as consent agenda by the Program Committee of synod.

G. Review and improvement of the appeal process

In response to a decision of the Special Meeting of the Council of Delegates 2021 (see Minute COD-SM 07, section I, B, 2), a review of the appeals process has been completed and a final report was presented to the COD in May. Proposed updates to the appeals process include updates to the “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader” and proposed modifications to an Article 30-a appeal process in situations of abuse.

The Council of Delegates recommends to synod for adoption the proposed revisions to the Church Order Supplement (Arts. 30-a and 42-b) and to the “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader” as found in Appendices C1 and C2.

Grounds:

1. The proposed changes provide greater support for the local council and the classis to act with justice and compassion when allegations of abuse against a church leader are brought forward.
2. The proposed changes increase awareness about how to adjudicate allegations of abuse by those who are authorized to respond on behalf of the church, in order to ensure better outcomes.
3. By expanding the use of the Advisory Panel Process, those who bring forward allegations of abuse and those who are accused will all be given a safe, objective process by which to have their voices heard.
4. The proposed changes reduce the likelihood of appeals to classis and synod involving allegations of abuse.
5. The proposed changes ensure proper support and care for the claimant and the accused should the allegations be appealed to classis.
6. The proposed changes are consistent with the recommendations proposed by the Addressing the Abuse of Power Committee report approved by Synod 2019.

H. Judicial Code Committee (JCC)

1. JCC nominees

The Council of Delegates recommends that synod appoint the following single nominees to the Judicial Code Committee for a first term of three years:

Ordained minister of the Word

Robert D. Drenten is the pastor of Lebanon CRC in Sioux Center, Iowa. He has served on a variety of classical committees, as a stated clerk in two classes, and as a synodical deputy. In addition, he has served on the

Dordt University Board of Trustees and is presently serving on the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.

Nonordained person with no legal training

Sarita Vandernaalt is a member of Fellowship CRC in St. Thomas, Ontario, and is employed as the chief operating officer for PGC Coaching. She has served on the Fellowship CRC search committee and Alpha Committee, and she has served on the local Parent's Council for Sparta and Kettle Creek as well as on the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee. Currently she is serving as Fellowship CRC's Human Resources Committee lead, as part of the church's transition team, and as a young adults leader. She also serves on the board of directors and the executive team of PGC Basketball.

2. Review of the Judicial Code

The COD, upon completion of a review of the appeal process as noted in section I, G of this report, will initiate a review of the Judicial Code as instructed by Synod 2019—that is, to review the code every five years (*Acts of Synod 2019*, p. 763).

I. Bible Translations Committee report

The Bible Translations Committee, a committee of the COD, developed criteria for evaluating a Bible translation and for recommending it for use for specific purposes in the CRCNA. When requests for a certain translation are received, the Bible Translations Committee will formulate an initial impression about the translation and then submit a report to the COD's Ministry Plan, Communication, and Synodical Services Committee, which in turn would make a recommendation to the Council of Delegates regarding whether or not the Bible Translations Committee should move forward with a more complete evaluation.

J. Calvin University proposed bylaw changes

1. Faculty appointment without synodical approval

The COD took note that the Calvin University faculty handbook has been revised to eliminate the requirement for synod ratification of faculty appointments, citing that synod lacks the information and context necessary to play a role in the faculty appointment process.

2. Update to registered agent

The registered agent in the Calvin University Articles of Incorporation was changed from the name of a position (vice-president of finance and administration) to the name of a person (Tim Fennema). The Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) department of the State of Michigan would not accept the revision to a position. When the Calvin University Executive Committee requested it be changed to a position in May 2021, they also approved the change to state a name in case the position listing was not approved by LARA, which it was not.

The COD recommends that synod adopt the change to Calvin University's Articles of Incorporation (see Appendix D).

K. Addressing the abuse of power

1. Separation agreement template for churches

The COD reviewed and approved a separation agreement template (as found in Appendix E) for use by churches in addressing a pastor's departure. This sample document removes nondisclosure-agreement language suggested in earlier guidelines adopted by synod (see *Acts of Synod 1998*, pp. 392-94). Pastor Church Resources will recommend use of this template in its work with churches.

2. Appointment of CRCNA Dignity Team

The COD made the following appointments to the inaugural Dignity Team (see *Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 41): Sherry Fakkema, Carel Geleynse, Lee Hollaar, Sheila Holmes, and Cecil Van Niejenhuis. The staff of Safe Church Ministry and Pastor Church Resources will meet with the new team, help them to establish a working relationship, and orient them to the work.

L. Repositioning the CRC for sustainability through listening and supporting

A paper presented by Reggie Smith, director of Diversity, focusing on the need to listen to and support the growing number of CRC diaspora and ethnic churches, includes examples of recent encounters with Hispanic, African American, and Korean leaders. The paper notes that there is a need for change at the classis level in order to allow all members to be seen, to be heard, and to feel valued and welcomed. Currently many classis participants from non-Anglo backgrounds feel that they are treated as *guests*—not *members*.

The COD tasked the general secretary designee, Zachary King, to facilitate a "One Family Conversation" related to the topic of diversity and its key place in the CRCNA, both now and in the future. The conversation will include the following:

- How the gifts and challenges of living in a diverse community can be fully included in our classes.
- How to structure listening sessions, facilitated by an outside group, at classis meetings in order to find out what is really happening with regard to diversity and the inclusion of ethnic-minority leaders.
- How to structure the sharing of resources with fledgling churches from various backgrounds.
- A review of the CRC's historical perspective and synodical reports.

II. Program and finance matters

A. Resonate Global Mission

1. Timeline for search for and appointment of director of Resonate Global Mission

Anticipating the appointment by Synod 2022 of Zachary King (current director of Resonate Global Mission) as general secretary in June, the COD endorsed a proposal for the transitional leadership of Resonate Global Mission, including endorsement of Joel Huyser as Resonate's interim director from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, to allow for the search for a new director. Joel has worked with the CRC's world mission agencies

(Christian Reformed World Missions and now Resonate) since 1995, serving as a founder of the Nehemiah Center in Nicaragua, as a global area director for Latin America and Asia, and as leader of the Diaspora and Ethnic Ministry Guiding Team.

2. Long-range International Plan

The COD received and endorsed the Resonate Global Mission Long-range International Plan. Through a process of interviews, focus groups, and surveys, the international area directors team of Resonate worked for over a year to articulate a long-range plan for Resonate's international program. The plan has two parts: (1) discernment of the "contours" of Resonate's international ministry—which summarizes the essence of who they are as an organization and their strategy (how they do what they do), and (2) concrete implementation steps and recommendations.

B. *Congregational Ministries reorganization*

Reduced ministry-share income has resulted in a hiring freeze and may require staff layoffs within the Congregational Ministries (CM) areas. These layoffs will be decided before the end of this fiscal year. Leaders within Congregational Ministries have established an overall plan for closer collaboration between the various ministries through a major reorganization that will not eliminate ministry functions but will eliminate all "offices" so that there will be one department of Congregational Ministry with one congregation-focused mandate. Various specialty areas will cover the work that the congregational ministries are currently carrying out. Organizational structure will be divided between an operations manager, one or more program managers, and a networking manager to whom other CM staff will report. The manager positions will be supervised by a single director of Congregational Ministry.

C. *Finance matters*

1. The COD took note of 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 Fund of the CRC as presented to the COD Support Services Committee in the report of the COD Budget Review Team.
2. The COD approved the allocation of ministry shares within the fiscal-year 2023 budget, based on the individual church ministry-share pledges reported by the churches and classes. The COD took note that pledges have been received from several emerging churches for the first time because ministry shares are no longer based on membership numbers.
3. The denominational salary grid

The COD recommends that Synod 2022 adopt the salary grid included below for use in fiscal year 2022-2023, noting that the current pay ranges reflect a 5 percent increase for Canadian staff and a 4 percent increase for U.S. staff from the previous year. *Note:* The grid reflects the salary structure adopted by the Council of Delegates in 2019.

Grounds:

- a. The recommended adjustment to the salary range targets are needed to reflect the marketplace salary inflationary increase that has been experienced in Canada and the United States.
- b. These changes are consistent with the compensation levels included in the endorsed fiscal 2023 budget.

2022-2023 Salary Grade and Range Structure				
Level	U.S. Range		Canadian Range	
	Minimum	Target	Minimum	Target
E1	\$158,538	\$198,172		
E2	\$143,069	\$178,836	\$137,632	\$172,040
E3	\$121,244	\$151,556	\$120,602	\$150,753
H	\$102,750	\$128,437	\$103,370	\$129,212
I	\$87,076	\$108,845	\$88,601	\$110,751
J	\$73,793	\$92,241	\$75,941	\$94,926
K	\$62,537	\$78,171	\$65,090	\$81,363
L	\$52,997	\$66,246	\$55,790	\$69,738
M	\$44,913	\$56,141		
N	\$38,062	\$47,577		

4. The COD recommends that synod ratify the following denominational agencies, institutions, and ministries and recommend them to the churches for one or more offerings, and that World Renew be recommended to the churches for one offering per quarter because the agency receives no ministry-share support.

Denominational agencies, institutions, and ministries recommended for one or more offerings

The Banner

Calvin Theological Seminary

Calvin University—above ministry share needs

Congregational Ministries

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

Raise Up Global Ministries

ReFrame Ministries

Resonate Global Mission—two offerings per year

World Renew—four offerings per year because the agency receives no ministry-share support

5. The COD informs synod that it has approved the renewal of the following accredited organizations for offerings in the churches for 2023—year three in a three-year cycle of support (2021-2024). Guidelines adopted by

Synod 2002 require an application by nondenominational organizations and synodical approval every three years. Synod indicated that, in the intervening years, organizations are to submit updated financial information and information regarding any significant programmatic changes. Each nondenominational organization requesting approval submitted the required materials for consideration.

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

a. United States

1) Benevolent organizations

Hope Haven
The Luke Society
Mississippi Christian Family Services
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
QuietWaters Ministries

2) Educational organizations

All Belong Center for Inclusive Education / Friendship Ministries
Ascending Leaders
Christian Schools International
Christian Schools International Foundation
Dordt University
Dynamic Youth Ministries
 a. GEMS
 b. Calvinist Cadet Corps
 c. ThereforeGo Ministries (formerly Youth Unlimited)
Elim Christian Services
Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies)
International Network for Christian Higher Education (INCHE)
International Theological Education Ministries, Inc. (ITEM)
The King's University (through the U.S. Foundation)
Kuyper College
Langham Partnership
Redeemer University (through the U.S. Foundation)
Rehoboth Christian School
Tent Schools International
Trinity Christian College
Zuni Christian Mission School

3) Miscellaneous organizations

Association for a More Just Society (AJS)
Audio Scripture Ministries
Bible League International
Center for Church Renewal
The Center for Public Justice
The Colossian Forum
Crossroads Prison Ministries

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Mission India
Partners Worldwide
Pathways to Promise
Talking Bibles International
World Communion of Reformed Churches
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

b. Canada

1) Benevolent organizations

Beginnings Family Services
Diaconal Ministries Canada

2) Educational organizations

Dordt University
Dynamic Youth Ministries
a. GEMS
b. Calvinist Cadet Corps
c. ThereforeGo Ministries (formerly Youth Unlimited)
EduDeo Ministries
Friendship Ministries – Canada
Institute for Christian Studies
The King's University
Kuyper College
Redeemer University
Trinity Christian College

3) Miscellaneous organizations

A Rocha Canada
Bible League – Canada
Canadian Council of Churches
Cardus
Christian Labour Association of Canada Foundation (CLAC)
Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation)
Dunamis Fellowship Canada
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
Gideons International – Canada/ShareWord Global
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada
OneBook
Shalem Mental Health Network
World Communion of Reformed Churches
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.

6. 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 2023 for ministers of the Word in the United States is \$56,625 and in Canada is \$61,060.
 - b. That the 2023 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$37.20 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$7,704. Similarly, that the 2023 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.
7. 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 F.

III. Recommendations

A. That synod by way of the ballot elect Debbie Karambowich (Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Paul K. Im (Classis Hanmi), and Peter Meerveld (Classis Huron) to fill out the respective terms of the previous classis delegates on the Council of Delegates (COD Supplement section I, A, 1).

B. That synod by way of the ballot elect Kelli Berkner and Roberta Vriesema to the Council of Delegates as Canada at-large members for a first term of three years (COD Supplement section I, A, 2).

C. That synod, by way of exception, allow Ralph Wigboldus to fill out his classical delegate term on the COD as a Canada at-large member until June 30, 2024 (COD Supplement section I, A, 2).

Grounds:

1. Ralph has expressed willingness to fill out his term in this way, with the blessing of his new council.
2. This would bring continuity to the work of the COD and the CRCNA Canada Corporation.
3. Ralph currently serves on the *Banner* Advisory Committee and the Nominating Services Committee; these committees would benefit by this continuity in the coming year (with each losing a COD member who is retiring in 2022).
4. The COD is allowed up to ten at-large members.

D. That synod express its gratitude to Colin P. Watson, Sr., and John H. Bolt for their faithful leadership and service to the CRCNA (COD Supplement sections I, C, 1-2).

E. That synod grant the COD power to act on the appointment of a chief administrative officer should a nominee be identified and presented to the COD prior to Synod 2023 (COD Supplement section I, C, 3).

F. That synod adopt the Worldwide Christian Reformed Church bylaws and certificate of incorporation and receive the accompanying "Christian Reformed Church Ecclesial and Ministry Organizational Views" document as background regarding the new corporation (COD Supplement section I, E, and Appendices B1 through B3).

G. That synod, upon adoption of the new structure as proposed in the Structure and Leadership Task Force report and adoption of a new ecclesiastical corporation, grant the COD authority to appoint all senior level staff within the Office of General Secretary (excluding the general secretary) going forward (COD Supplement section I, C, 6).

Ground: This will result in quicker response time in filling leadership vacancies and planning for transitions.

H. That synod adopt the *revised* Ecclesiastical Mandate Letter as provided in Appendix A in place of the previous version presented in the COD Report (COD Supplement section I, D).

I. That synod receive as information all agenda items designated as “consent agenda” by the Program Committee of synod (COD Supplement section I, F).

J. That synod take the following actions to improve the appeal process (COD Supplement section I, G, and Appendices C1 and C2):

1. Adopt the following proposed revisions to Church Order Supplements Articles 30-a and 42-b as proposed in Appendix C1:

Proposed Church Order Supplement, Article 42-b, section b (the current Supplement, Article 42-b would become section a)

b. When allegations of abuse against a church leader are brought forward to a church council, the council will contact the classis interim committee, which will appoint church visitors to do the following:

- 1. Meet with the church council of the accused for the purposes of advice, encouragement, and support as the council determines the most appropriate process for investigating and responding to the allegations (advisory panel process, independent investigation, mediation/restorative conversations, other).*
- 2. Participate as an observer on the panel if an advisory panel process is initiated.*
- 3. Advise the church council as they discern how to follow up on and respond to the advisory panel findings.*
- 4. Prepare a report detailing their observations of the advisory panel proceedings and the council’s response. The report will be submitted to the church council and, if requested, to the claimant, the claimant’s advocate, the accused, and the support person for the accused. The report is to be kept confidential and may be submitted to classis only if there is an appeal of the council’s decision. All parties shall commit to maintaining the confidentiality of the report.*

Proposed addition to Church Order Supplement, Article 30-a: section A, 3 (the current sections A, 3 and 4 would become A, 4 and 5)

3. Appeal Process in Situations of Abuse That Are Appealed to Classis

Involvement of Synodical Deputies. When an appeal of a council decision involving allegations of abuse against a church leader comes before classis, the synodical deputies will advise the classis in order that fair

process and proper respect and care for all involved may be maintained (per Church Order Art. 48-c).

Orientation and Training. *Before handling an appeal involving abuse allegations against a church leader that have been taken up by an advisory panel process, classis delegates will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.*

Independent Investigations. *If an investigation hasn't already been done, classes or their interim committees may choose to arrange for an independent investigation into the allegations claimed. An independent investigation is strongly recommended in the following situations:*

- a. The accused or claimant is a prominent leader in the community or region such that impartiality is especially elusive.*
- b. The accusations consist of multiple victims or multiple jurisdictions.*
- c. Real or perceived conflicts of interest make impartiality especially elusive.*
- d. The case is appealed to classis because of alleged irregularities or mishandling of the allegations.*

Responsibilities to the Claimant and the Accused

- a. Orientation to the process: Classes or their interim committees shall ensure that the claimant and the accused are familiar with the process, understand what is expected of them, and know how best to prepare.*
- b. Commitment to confidentiality: Delegates to the classis meeting addressing the appeal will commit to holding all matters of the testimony and discussion, including the identity of persons involved, in confidence according to the Rules for Synodical Procedure (section V, B, 11). Breaches of confidentiality will be reported to the councils of any delegates who violate this commitment.*
- c. Communication: The clerk of the classis that is taking up the appeal will communicate in a timely fashion the decisions of the classis to the claimant and the accused.*

Follow-up Care. *After the proceedings are finished, the church visitors and/or the classis Safe Church coordinator will arrange for restorative circle conversations to be made available to the persons most affected by the allegations of abuse and by the appeal process, to provide a pathway forward for healing and restoration to the community. Classes are also strongly encouraged to set aside funds for follow-up counseling for affected parties.*

Proposed addition to Supplement, Article 30-a: section B, 8

- 8. When an appeal of a classis decision involving allegations of abuse against a church leader comes before synod, members of the synod advisory committee will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.*
2. Adopt the revised "Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader" document as proposed in Appendix C2.

Grounds:

- a. The proposed changes provide greater support for the local council and the classis to act with justice and compassion when allegations of abuse against a church leader are brought forward.
- b. The proposed changes increase awareness about how to adjudicate allegations of abuse by those who are authorized to respond on behalf of the church, in order to ensure better outcomes.
- c. By expanding the use of the Advisory Panel Process, those who bring forward allegations of abuse and those who are accused will all be given a safe, objective process by which to have their voices heard.
- d. The proposed changes reduce the likelihood of appeals to classis and synod involving allegations of abuse.
- e. The proposed changes ensure proper support and care for the claimant and the accused should the allegations be appealed to classis.
- f. The proposed changes are consistent with the recommendations proposed by the Addressing the Abuse of Power Committee report approved by Synod 2019.

K. That synod by way of the ballot appoint Robert D. Drenten (ordained minister of the Word) and Sarita Vandernaalt (nonordained person with no legal training) to the Judicial Code Committee for a first term of three years (COD Supplement section I, H).

L. That synod adopt the change to the registered agent information in Calvin University's Articles of Incorporation (COD Supplement section I, J, 2, and Appendix D).

M. That synod receive the agencies and institutional unified budget as information and note the approval of ministry-share allocations, based on ministry-share pledges reported by the churches and classes (COD Supplement sections II, C, 1-2).

N. That synod adopt the 2022-2023 denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed, noting that the current pay ranges reflect a 5 percent increase for Canadian staff and a 4 percent increase for U.S. staff from the previous year (COD Supplement section II, C, 3).

Grounds:

1. The recommended adjustment to the salary range targets are needed to reflect the marketplace salary inflationary increase that has been experienced in Canada and the United States.
2. These changes are consistent with the compensation levels included in the endorsed fiscal 2023 budget.

O. That synod ratify the following with regard to organizations requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:

1. The list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for denominational agencies, institutions, and ministries of the CRC (COD Supplement section II, C, 4).

2. The list of nondenominational organizations, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2023 (COD Supplement section II, C, 5).
- P. That synod take note of the COD's endorsement of the following actions of the Pension Trustees (COD Supplement section II, C, 6):
1. The three-year average salary to be used to determine retirement benefits beginning in 2023 for ministers of the Word in the United States is \$56,625 and in Canada is \$61,060.
 2. That the 2023 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$37.20 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$7,704. Similarly, that the 2023 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
Andy de Ruyter, chair

Appendix A

Note: The following document has been updated by legal counsel to replace a version submitted earlier (see pp. 78-80 in the *Agenda for Synod 2022*).

Ecclesiastical Mandate Letter

Christian Reformed Church in North America - Canada

Preamble

The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) is a Reformed denomination composed of approximately 1100 congregations that operates in both the United States and Canada. The CRCNA values being a binational denomination for the opportunity it provides to combine pursuit of a common mission with an intentional and meaningful engagement with different national, regional, and local contexts for ministry.

Background

While Reformed churches historically have been organized by national boundaries, the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in the United States began to work with churches in Canada in the early 1900's. As more immigrants arrived in Canada after World War II, the CRC helped organize and support the formation of Christian Reformed Churches across Canada. These early efforts contributed to the development of the CRC as a binational church. The sense of its binational identity became official when a statement of its character as one church in two countries was adopted by the Synod in 1997. [*Acts of Synod 1997, p 625-629*]

The Place of Canada

Historically, the organizing center of the Christian Reformed Church has been in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Since its establishment in 1857, the head-

quarters of the CRC and most of its ministry agencies, institutions and organizations were located there. Over time, however, a number of influences framed the need to establish and affirm Canada's place within the CRC.

Identity: As citizens of Canada, members and their congregations felt called to participate, plan, manage and support its mission and ministry in Canada. They wanted to own and be engaged in what the church was doing in Canada.

Mission & Ministry: Canadian members of the CRC and its congregations began to address and/or be involved in social-justice issues, ministry with the poor, and ministry with Indigenous peoples, participating in inter-church relations and interacting with governments. They also wanted the church to be positioned in Canada to make a difference for the sake of God's kingdom.

Governmental: As a registered charity, CRCNA Canada Corporation (CRCNA Canada) and the other CRC Canadian ministry charities, are required to comply with the *Income Tax Act* and Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regulations as well as other federal and provincial laws that regulate privacy and employment standards and labour relations. These laws and regulations can differ from United States federal and state law.

CRCNA Canada

In 1985, the CRCNA established the CRCNA Canada Corporation (CRCNA Canada) to serve as a legal registered charity. CRCNA Canada is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes in compliance with Canadian federal and provincial law, and in accordance with the fundamental principles of Reformed doctrine and government as expressed in the Article 32 d of the CRCNA Church Order.

CRCNA Canada is governed by a Board of Directors whose membership is constituted by synod from every CRC Classis in Canada, from whom the directors as well as directors-at-large are elected. The Board hires and supervises an Executive Director who is responsible to manage the day to day affairs of the CRCNA Canada Office. Among some of those responsibilities are: ensuring compliance with the *Income Tax Act* and Canada Revenue Agency regulations regarding registered charities, to manage Joint Ministry Agreements (JMAs) with other CRCNA organizations, and to work cooperatively with other organizations, institutions and agencies to implement the CRCNA Ministry Plan, and in concert with churches and classes to identify and address ministry priorities and initiate ministries in Canada.

Ecclesiastical Mandate -

The Christian Reformed Church in North America established CRCNA Canada to serve as its legal vehicle in the performance of the CRCNA's ecclesiastical mandate as developed by the synod, in conjunction with its Council of Delegates and the Office of General Secretary.

The CRCNA culture of collaboration is animated by key values:

Shared Mission: We share a similar passion for God's kingdom work, and we work together for one purpose. The CRCNA has a shared sense of its

mission, expressed in congregations and ministries in Canada and the United States and through partnerships around the world.

Culture: We recognize that the CRCNA is one denomination in two countries in North America, and it has national identities and many distinct cultural contexts applicable in different geographies. We recognize the cultural context of each location and how the distinct political and legal realities shape each context and influence how we engage together in ministry.

Mutual Accountability: We serve together as collaborators to advance the mission and ministry of the CRCNA. As partners, CRCNA Canada leads ministry in Canada and CRCNA United States leads ministry in the United States. As partners, we serve together to advance the joint ministries of the CRCNA. As equal participants, we are ecclesiastically accountable to synod, its Council of Delegates, and we work cooperatively with the Office of General Secretary.

Gracious Organizational Space: We take a posture of making gracious organizational space that provides freedom of expression, local agency and decision-making. We do so recognize the variety of ministry contexts internationally, nationally, regionally and locally. Developing that space involves discerning how to develop and do ministry in each context.

As an ecclesiastical partner, CRCNA Canada is responsible to fulfill the following:

1. Agent of Synod:

The synod is governed by the Church Order and by its rules of synodical procedure. The mandates of synod guide the ecclesiastical organization of the CRCNA. CRCNA Canada will transact those matters assigned by Synod as it seeks to further its mission and ministry in Canada. CRCNA Canada will transact that which is in keeping with its Canadian registered charity purposes and which does not exceed its resource capacity and that of the Canadian churches.

2. CRCNA Ministry Plan:

CRCNA Canada will contribute to the formation, development, implementation, and evaluation of the CRCNA Ministry Plan. The CRCNA Ministry Plan will include ministry programs and activities that are culturally appropriate to Canada, and identify opportunities to establish ministry associations to further its mission and ministry in Canada.

3. Canada Office:

CRCNA Canada will establish and operate the Canada Office of the CRCNA. The Canada Office will be led by an Executive Director. Among some of the responsibilities, the Canada Office will:

- Manage the affairs of CRCNA Canada as a registered charity,
- Develop, contextualize, implement, and evaluate the CRCNA Ministry Plan to ensure ministry is culturally appropriate.
- Collaborate with local churches and classes to identify and address ministry priorities.

- Develop and manage the Joint Ministry Agreements with CRCNA organizations and ministry partners,
 - Represent and maintain ecumenical and ecclesiastical relationships in Canada in conjunction with the General Secretary.
4. Ministry Organizations, Institutions and Agencies:
CRCNA Canada will enter into Joint Ministry Agreements with ministry organizations, institutions, and agencies in Canada, United States, and internationally to advance its mission and purpose.
 5. Dissolution:
The mandates of synod shall regulate the ecclesiastical organization of the CRCNA including CRCNA Canada. In the event of division, liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, Church Order article 32d and its synodical supplement material provides a guide and model to be followed.

Appendix B1

Christian Reformed Church Ecclesial and Ministry Organizational Views May 2022

I. Executive summary

Currently the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) has an executive director for the denomination. The structure is based on a synodically approved series of reports from the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture (TFRSC), which presented its final report to Synod 2015. While the CRCNA family includes entities¹ such as Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary, whose boards have appointed their own presidents, the role of the CRCNA executive director for these entities is purely ecclesiastical. However, for the entities that have not appointed their own chief executive, the executive director of the denomination has served as the chief executive (e.g., CRCNA U.S. Corporation and CRCNA Canada Corporation).

Effective with decisions made by the CRCNA Canada Corporation in December 2019, the corporation appointed its own chief executive. At that point the role of Canadian executive director became more like the role of the presidents of the CRC educational institutions. With the advent of the Structure and Leadership Task Force (SALT) report, the recommendation for the denomination is to move from an executive director model to a general secretary model. The general secretary will not be chief executive of any of the current corporations in the CRCNA family. Thus there is a need to ensure that the boards of each of the corporate entities and agencies have an appointed chief executive who would in turn be responsible for executing the wishes of the board for all ministry matters.

The following diagrams and explanations highlight the positioning and functioning of the new structure (i.e., the Office of General Secretary and its two principal staff—the general secretary and the chief administrative officer) and describe the functioning of the Ministries Leadership Council (MLC)

¹ *Entities* refers to legally incorporated entities in any of the geographical locations in which the CRCNA operates.

to ensure that the ecclesiastical and ministry functions of all of the CRCNA ministries, agencies, and institutions are well coordinated.

In the current executive director model, the ecclesiastical office of the CRCNA is housed within the CRCNA U.S. Corporation (incorporated in Michigan). With the implementation of the SALT report, this conflation of roles—Office of General Secretary staff housed within a ministry corporation—could be problematic since it obfuscates the responsibility of synod to clearly direct its ecclesiastical office.

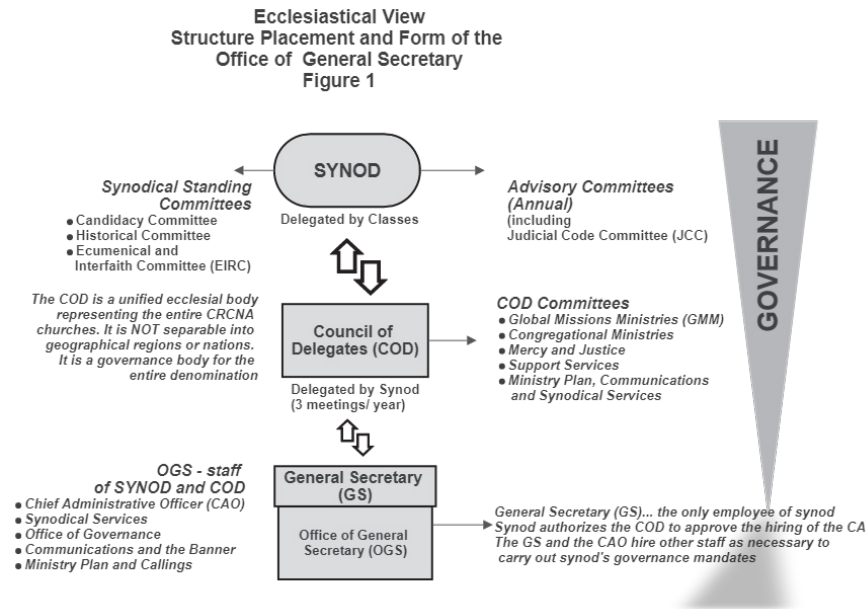
With this in mind, we recommend that the Office of General Secretary be governed by a new separate legal entity. This new entity would be directly controlled by synod and the COD and would be ecclesiastical in form and function.

In addition, with the removal of the executive director of the denomination as its chief executive, the CRCNA U.S. Corporation will need to appoint a new executive leader, appointed by its board of directors. The corporation has discerned how best to implement this reality and subsequently has named the interim director of Resonate Global Mission—the largest of the ministries within the corporation—as having the additional title of U.S. director of ministry operations.

With the appointment of a new chief executive, the following are important to keep in mind:

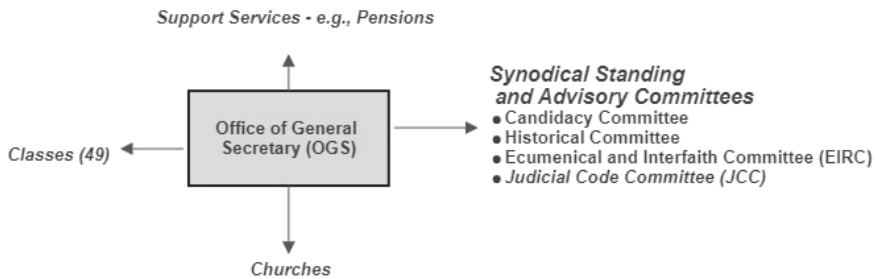
1. This appointment significantly enhances the ability of the CRCNA to implement the recommendations of the SALT report; it also clarifies the relative roles of the CRCNA as an ecclesiastical body, the Canada Corporation, and the U.S. Corporation.
2. This role will not mirror the executive director - Canada role, since it is highly contextualized for the United States context and is focused on ministry implementation and integration. It is recognized that no two nations are alike and that therefore organizations will not mirror each other.
3. This is not a new position; rather, this appointment shifts some responsibilities currently assigned to the executive director of the denomination to an already existing ministry director.
4. This is a necessary component of working within the new structure proposed by the SALT recommendations. Without this action, the U.S. Corporation will not have a chief executive unless the general secretary or the chief administrative officer is seconded to perform this additional role.
5. It is important to use an appropriate title for this role. Using the title *executive director* would cause significant confusion because of a potential lack of clarity between the current role of the denominational executive director and that of the executive director of the Canadian office. That said, agency directors have been using the title *director* for a number of years, and it is well understood that this title refers to the role of a managing director of an agency.

The following charts highlight the recommended changes



- Office of General Secretary (OGS) governed by a new legal entity (the Worldwide Christian Reformed Church) doing business as “CRCNA.”
- This corporation is separate from the other ministry corporations.
- The general secretary is the chief executive officer of the new legal entity.
- Members of the corporation the Worldwide Christian Reformed Church are Council of Delegates members; the executive committee members of the COD serve as the board of directors with up to four additional at-large members appointed by the corporation members (upon recommendation by the COD Nominating Services Committee). Inclusion of at-large members provides for the opportunity for adding diversity and expertise to the board of directors.

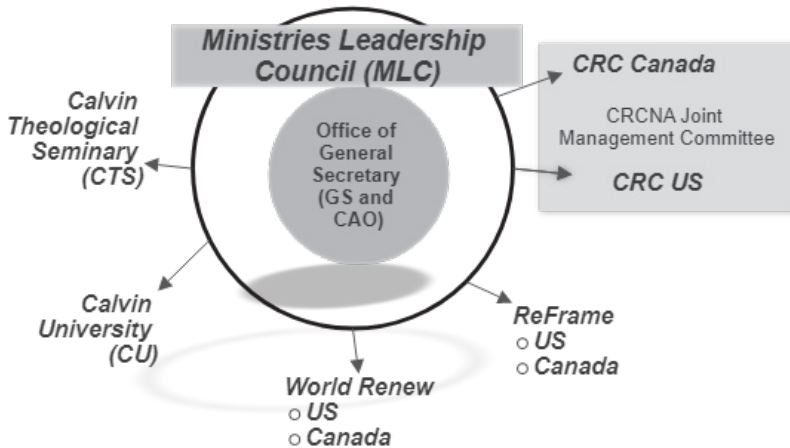
**Ecclesiastical View
Office of General Secretary and Related
Synodical and COD Committees
Figure 2**



The OGS is accountable to the COD, which is a unified ecclesial body; therefore, the OGS represents all CRCNA churches regardless of their geographic location. Because the COD committees are committees of a unified ecclesiastical body (the COD), the committees are also ecclesiastical, non-separable bodies. The committees are advisory to the COD body; they do not have power to act independently.

- The Office of General Secretary (OGS) is accountable to its board and members (i.e., the Council of Delegates), which is in turn accountable to synod. The Office of General Secretary is the day-to-day representation of the ecclesiastical will of synod for the CRC.
- In this role, the OGS will regularly interact and communicate with churches and classes about Church Order and other synodical matters, including responsibility for interfacing with the standing committees of synod and the Judicial Code Committee (advisory committee to synod) as necessary.

Ministry View
Office of General Secretary, the CAO and
CRCNA Institutions, Ministries and Other Legal Entities
Figure 3



The Ministries Leadership Council (MLC) will serve as the roundtable to ensure that all CRC ministries, agencies and institutions are well aligned with the five calling areas, the denominational ministry plan, and that all boards are well supported re: governance, alignment and training. Membership includes corporation and agency leaders

- The OGS serves as a critical link between the ecclesiastical governance structure and the ministry structure (corporations and ministry entities) of the CRC.
- The primary interface between the OGS and ministry entities is through the periodic meeting of the Ministries Leadership Council (MLC).
- The MLC is a roundtable that includes representatives from each corporation and ministry entity (agencies).
- The MLC serves as the ministry team (as opposed to the governance team) that ensures that all CRC ministries are well coordinated and executed in accordance with the five calling areas and the Ministry Plan as approved by synod.

II. Summary – key elements of the governance and ministry structure

Office of General Secretary

- The OGS becomes a separate legal entity.
- The general secretary (unlike the current executive director of the CRCNA) is *not* the chief executive of a ministry corporation (including the CRCNA U.S. Corporation).
- The CRCNA U.S. Corporation needs to appoint a director (as an added part-time role and has the responsibility to fill the gap).
- The OGS includes the chief administrative officer, Candidacy, Communications, *The Banner*, Synodical Services, Governance Office, etc.

Council of Delegates

- The Council of Delegates is an ecclesiastical body—*not* separated into U.S., Canada, or any other geographic region.
- COD committees are also a subset of the ecclesiastical body—*not* ministry boards.
- COD committees are to be concerned with program (not budget and people resources); they receive reports and provide guidance for the five calling areas in accordance with the ministry plan (*Our Journey 2025*).
- While the ministry boards are responsible for developing their annual budgets, it is the responsibility of the COD to allocate ministry shares among the ministry corporations as ministry shares are requested of the churches by synod.
- *Note:* It is *not* the responsibility of COD committees to send resource recommendations to corporations for their approval. Committees report to the full Council of Delegates; if direction is needed to be given to any corporation (including World Renew, Calvin Theological Seminary, Calvin University, etc.), it will come from the full Council of Delegates—not from a committee of the COD.

Ministries Leadership Council (MLC)

- Roundtable for corporations and CRC legal entities.
- Focus is on ensuring alignment with synodical priorities (i.e., five calling areas, Ministry Plan, and governance alignment). See section III for the role of the Office of Governance within the OGS.
- Membership will include chief executives of each of the ministry and institutional organizations plus directors of each of the ministry agencies (i.e., Resonate Global Mission, Raise Up Global Ministries, and Congregational Ministries) in addition to World Renew, ReFrame Ministries, Calvin Theological Seminary, and Calvin University.

III. Office of Governance²: Development work plan

The Office of Governance must address issues relating to the following:

- denominational structure at the ecclesiastical as well as operational (ministry and corporate) levels
- organizational development
- organizational systems and challenges
- forum for dealing with issues arising from constituencies (i.e., corporations and partners) regarding organizational alignments
- responsibilities and equipping of board members, including their fiduciary and governance responsibilities
- compliance issues—assisting the CRCNA corporations in complying with regulations in the various geographical areas served, including Canada (for CRA compliance), the United States (IRS rules and regulations), and other areas

² As recommended in the SALT report and approved by the Council of Delegates—see Addendum.

Ongoing activities of the new office include the following:

1. Continue to communicate the vision of the CRCNA³—inform and educate all constituencies about structure, function, roles, and responsibilities.
2. Collect existing documents and review them for consistency and alignment with current decisions (i.e., SALT report, etc.).
 - a. Ecclesiastical matters and documents
 - 1) Synod—Rules for Synodical Procedure
 - 2) Council of Delegates—COD Governance Handbook
 - 3) Church Order—elements of Church Order dealing with assemblies (i.e., Article 32)
 - b. Management and leadership matters and documents—integrative
 - 1) Ministries Leadership Council—MLC standards
 - 2) Management Committee relating to the joint venture of the corporations—CRCNA U.S. Corporation and CRCNA Canada Corporation
 - c. Individual corporation matters, including corporate integration with the CRCNA organism—ecclesial charter letters
3. House all the governance documents in a shared Google drive.
4. Review and markup documents to ensure consistency with existing synodical and COD rules as well as new SALT guidelines.
5. Review current work activities as they relate to the proposed governance office.
 - a. Synodical and COD support—Office of Synodical Services
 - b. Support of U.S. and Canadian boards, including board training and development—Office of Synodical Services, Office of General Secretary
 - c. Board meeting scheduling and agenda development
 - d. Church Order support—CRCNA Church Order expert (Prof. Kathy Smith)
6. Diagram how the CRCNA as an organization integrates with the operational and corporate mission entities; diagram also the integration of the various corporations as well as the placement of the joint venture between the CRCNA U.S. Corporation and CRCNA Canada Corporation.
7. Identify initial structure and membership of the Office of Governance.
 - a. Office of Synodical Services
 - b. Church Order consulting
 - c. Staff support to the Office of General Secretary
 - d. Candidacy office⁴ (as needed)
 - e. EIRC⁵ office (as needed)

³ A good starting point might be the overview previously written by Colin P. Watson and provided to SALT regarding the description of the CRCNA.

⁴ The Candidacy Office is responsible for approving the readiness of all candidates for offices of minister of the Word and commissioned pastors. This work has impact on all CRCNA member churches; Candidacy works closely with Calvin Theological Seminary in this regard.

⁵ The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) advises synod regarding the relationships among Reformed entities associated with the CRCNA (e.g., churches in ecclesiastical fellowship and churches in dialogue). The EIRC also advises regarding church affiliation in new countries. There is potential for this work to affect the long-term governance structure of the CRCNA.

8. Define the broad contours of which elements and matters need to be on the agendas of the following bodies (*italics* indicates *governance* bodies, regular type indicates *management* bodies).
 - a. Ecclesiastical
 - 1) *Synod*
 - 2) *Council of Delegates*
 - a) *ministry committees of the COD*
 - b) *executive and support committees of the COD*
 - 3) Ministries Leadership Council
 - b. Operational and ministerial
 - 1) *Corporation boards*
 - 2) Corporation senior management groups
 - a) Canadian ministries leadership—CRCNA
 - b) U.S. Corporation leadership team—CRCNA
9. Training and development
 - a. Identify training and development opportunities for board members of the various constituencies within the CRCNA.
 - b. Identify training and developmental gaps within the CRCNA system.
 - c. Propose new training opportunities for the benefit of board and COD members.
 - d. Recommend the frequency of training or board development as needed.
 - e. Committee protocols—voting in committees and corporations, including, for example, use of registered negative votes.
10. Office of Governance relationship to corporations
 - a. Linkages to, for example, the CRCNA Corporation Governance Committee
 - b. Managing multiple commitments and potential conflicts (e.g., members of COD, corporations, etc.)

IV. Costs

The Office of Governance will be established in a way that minimizes incremental costs to the CRCNA denomination in the aggregate.

V. Timeline

The preliminary work of establishing the Office of Governance will begin immediately, recognizing that this work will not officially be under way until the approval of the SALT report by Synod 2022 and the implementation and initiation of the Office of General Secretary.

Addendum

SALT Report Reference

(from *Minutes of the Special Meeting of the COD 2021*, p. 537)

Governance Framework and Design

C. That the COD adopt the following with regard to governance framework and design:

1. Begin the work of establishing an Office of Governance to help improve and strengthen the governance framework and design of the CRCNA organization. Just as the Office of Synodical Services supports the CRCNA's ecclesiastical structure, the Office of Governance would support the governance structure of the CRCNA. In partnership with the Office of General Secretary, the Office of Governance would seek to strengthen and support the board members and leaders in Canada and the United States as they carry out their *fiduciary duties* and *governing responsibilities*. The office would be responsible to advance the following activities:
 - a. Develop an effective process to recruit, select, and appoint members with appropriate insight and expertise.
 - b. Develop learning and development opportunities that would enable board members to effectively exercise their fiduciary and governing responsibilities.
 - c. Assist ministry leaders to develop effective governance partnerships with their boards.
 - d. Assist board chairs in effectively leading and managing their respective boards.
 - e. Oversee the governance framework of the CRCNA, making recommendations to improve the structure and framework.
 - f. Assist the CRCNA corporations in complying with the Canada CRA [Canada Revenue Agency] and the United States IRS rules and regulations.
2. Recommend that synod adopt the establishment of an Office of Governance.

Appendix B2

BYLAWS OF THE WORLDWIDE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

ARTICLE 1 NAME AND PURPOSES

Section 1.1 Name. This corporation is known as The Worldwide Christian Reformed Church (the "Corporation").

Section 1.2 Purposes. The Corporation is a nonprofit, ecclesiastical corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law)(the "Code"). The purpose of the Corporation is to perform executive and administrative functions on behalf of, and to be responsible and accountable to, the Council of Delegates (the "COD") of the Christian Reformed Church in North America ("CRCNA").

This Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under

Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

The Corporation has not been formed for pecuniary profit or gain. No part of the assets, income or profit of the Corporation are for the benefit of its Members, Directors or officers. However, the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Article I, Section 1.2 of these Bylaws.

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

ARTICLE II **ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT**

The CRCNA's Church Order ("Church Order"), its Rules of Synodical Procedure ("Rules of Synodical Procedure") and the mandates of Synod shall regulate the ecclesiastical organization and operation of this Corporation. Collectively, the Church Order, Rules of Synodical Procedure and mandates of Synod shall be referred to as the "Ecclesiastical Requirements." Consistent with the Ecclesiastical Requirements, the Corporation shall constitute the Office of General Secretary (the "Office of General Secretary") for the CRCNA and is comprised of the General Secretary (the "General Secretary"), Chief Administrative Officer (the "Chief Administrative Officer"), and such other officers and employees appointed or authorized by the Board of Directors. The Chief Administrative Officer will report and be accountable to the General Secretary and the Board of Directors. The General Secretary will report and be accountable to the COD and Board of Directors. Collectively, the Office of General Secretary will be responsible and accountable to the COD.

ARTICLE III **MEMBERS**

Section 3.1 Membership Corporation. The Corporation is organized as a nonprofit nonstock corporation under the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "Law"). The members of this Corporation (each, a "Member" and, collectively, the "Members") shall be composed of the members of the COD.

Section 3.2 Meetings of Members. The Members shall meet annually at the time and place as determined consistent with the Ecclesiastical Requirements. For convenience, this meeting time shall correspond with one of the three tri-annual COD meetings.

Section 3.3 Voting. The Members shall vote consistent with the Rules of Synodical Procedure.

Section 3.4 Financial Statements. The Corporation will provide notice to its Members indicating that any Member may obtain a copy of the Corporation's annual financial statements upon the written request of the Member.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4.1 Generally. The directors of this Corporation (each, a “Director” and, collectively, the “Directors” or “Board of Directors”) shall be those individuals who are elected by the Members consistent with the requirements set forth in these Bylaws.

Section 4.2 Number. The Board of Directors shall consist of at least 8 members, but no more than 12. Within the specified limits, the number of directors can be increased or decreased from time to time, by resolution of the COD, but no decrease shall shorten the term of any director then in office.

Section 4.3 Country Representation. Churches and leadership in both the United States and Canada comprise the CRCNA. During the period in which the representation of churches and leadership within the CRCNA is bi-national (covering the United States and Canada), the Members shall elect members of the Board of Directors in a manner to ensure the composition of the Board of Directors consists of an equal number of Directors from each of the United States and Canada. In the event that the representation of churches and leadership within the CRCNA meaningfully extends to additional countries, the Members and Board of Directors will consider implementing such measures as may be necessary to ensure the composition of the Board of Directors consists of equitable representation from each such country.

Section 4.4 Term of Directorship. Directors shall serve for a term of three years. Directors may serve successive terms; provided, however, that the duration of a Director’s term, or consecutive terms, shall not extend beyond six consecutive years.

Section 4.5 Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy on the Board due to resignation or removal of a Director, the Members may select an interim successor who will serve until the Members can elect a Director at the next annual meeting of the Members to fill the unexpired term.

Section 4.6 Termination of Directorship. A Directorship shall be terminated upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- (a) Resignation given in writing to the General Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer;
- (b) Upon the unanimous vote of all Directors, other than the Director who may be terminated, and at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors or special meeting of the Board of Directors called for that purpose;
- (c) Upon failure to attend two consecutive Board meetings without prior notice to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Section 4.7 Meetings of Board of Directors. The Directors will conduct an annual meeting of the Board following the annual meeting of Members. In addition, the Board will hold at least one other regular meeting each year. The Chief Administrative Officer shall call additional special meetings of the Board if requested in writing by at least one-third (1/3rd) of the Directors. Normally, an executive session is held at each regular meeting.

Section 4.8 Notice of Meetings. All Directors of the Corporation are entitled to not less than fifteen (15) days’ notice of all special Board of

Director meetings. Notice shall be in writing and may be by electronic transmission. The notice shall contain sufficient information to allow a Director to determine what matters are to be deliberated.

Section 4.9 Meetings by Electronic Conference. If all persons who are members of the Board or a committee (as the case requires) consent and each has adequate access, then they may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by means of a conference telephone, video conference or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and a person participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

At the outset of each such meeting, and whenever votes are required, the chair of the meeting shall call roll to establish the presence of a quorum, and shall, whenever not satisfied that meeting may proceed with adequate security and confidentiality, unless a majority of the persons present at such meeting otherwise require, adjourn the meeting to a predetermined date, time, and place.

Section 4.10 Action Without Meeting. Unless otherwise restricted by the Certificate of Incorporation or the Bylaws, any actions required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if all Directors consent thereto in writing or by electronic transmission. After an action is taken, the consent or consents relating thereto shall be filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Directors in accordance with applicable law.

Section 4.11 Quorum and Voting. Fifty one percent (51%) of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of business at a Board of Directors meeting. Each Director present at a meeting shall have the right to exercise one (1) vote. At all meetings of Directors of the Corporation every question shall be determined by a majority of votes present, unless otherwise specifically provided by the Certificate of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

Section 4.12 Location of Meetings. The meetings of the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be held at the home office of the Corporation or elsewhere in Canada or the United States, as the Board of Directors may by resolution determine or as the General Secretary may determine.

Section 4.13 Remuneration. Directors shall not receive any remuneration for their services, but may be reimbursed for expenses for their attendance at regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V **OFFICERS**

Section 5.1 Officers Generally. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of the General Secretary, Chief Administrative Officer, and any other officers that the Board may elect or appoint. Except as otherwise provided under any Ecclesiastical Requirements, the Board of Directors shall appoint the Officers. All officers other than the General Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer must be Directors. All officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualify or until their resignation or removal. The Board of Directors may remove an officer by vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5.2 General Secretary. The General Secretary shall be the chief ecclesiastical officer of the CRCNA and shall have the authority and respon-

sibilities as are prescribed from time to time by the COD, any relevant Ecclesiastical Requirements and the Board of Directors. The General Secretary shall report to (i) the Chair and Vice Chair of the COD and (ii) the Board of Directors. The duties of the General Secretary shall include the following:

- (a) Partner with Synod and the COD to advance the mission of the CRCNA.
- (b) Ensure compliance with CRCNA governance frameworks, promote best governance practices, and fulfill such executive roles as may be assigned from time to time by the COD.
- (c) Oversee the ministry team and ministry frameworks of the CRCNA and implement the ministry plans of the CRCNA.
- (d) Lead the ecumenical affairs of the CRCNA, including consultation and coordination with ministry leaders and partners on international ecumenical and interfaith matters.
- (e) Supervise the offices and staff of Synodical Services.
- (f) Preside as chair at meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (f) Perform such other duties as the COD or Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

The General Secretary also shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the Corporation.

Section 5.3 Chief Administrative Officer. The Chief Administrative Officer shall have overall responsibility for administration and ministry operations within the CRCNA. The Chief Administrative Officer shall function as the chief financial officer of the Corporation. The Chief Administrative Officer shall have the authority and responsibilities of the General Secretary when the General Secretary is absent. The Chief Administrative Officer shall report to the General Secretary and the Board of Directors. The duties of the Chief Administrative Officer shall include the following:

- (a) Partner with the General Secretary to advance the mission of the CRCNA.
- (b) To supervise members of the CRCNA ministry leadership team and ensure advancement of the priorities set forth in the CRCNA Ministry Plan.
- (c) Support the General Secretary in connection with providing governance oversight for the CRCNA.
- (d) Lead the operational affairs of the CRCNA, including oversight of operating budgets, ensuring compliance with organizational policies, practices and decisions made by Synod and the COD.
- (e) To call meetings of the Board of Directors consistent with the Ecclesiastical Requirements and the requirements of the Law.
- (f) In the absence of the General Secretary, to serve in place of the General Secretary and perform those responsibilities of the General Secretary outlined under Section 5.2 of this Article V.
- (g) Perform such other duties as the General Secretary or Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

In the absence of the General Secretary, the Chief Administrative Officer shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the Corporation for those

matters which arise within the scope of the General Secretary's duties. The Chief Administrative Officer shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the Corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of any other duties that the Board of Directors assigns to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Section 5.4 Corporate Officers. The Corporation shall have such other corporate officers performing such duties as COD and the Board of Directors determine from time to time.

ARTICLE VI **COMMITTEES**

The Board of Directors may form standing and ad hoc committees as are necessary for the Corporation to carry out the purposes outlined under Article I, Section 1.2 of these Bylaws. The committees shall perform those duties which are delegated by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII **LIABILITY PROTECTION; INDEMNIFICATION**

Section 7.1 Protection from Corporate Obligations. No Director, officer, employee or agent is personally liable for obligations of the Corporation, except as applicable law requires otherwise.

Section 7.2 Volunteer Protection from Personal Actions. To the extent the articles describe, volunteer Directors, officers, and other volunteers are protected against personal liability for actions taken on the Corporation's behalf.

Section 7.3 Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Corporation will indemnify all Directors and officers and may indemnify employees and other agents. The Board of Directors may purchase insurance, advance expenses, and take all other appropriate actions to exercise these powers.

ARTICLE VIII **NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

Section 8.1 Permitted Methods. Notice may be given only in one or more of the following methods:

- (a) hand delivery
- (b) U.S. first class, registered or certified mail
- (c) electronic transmission if the recipient consents as described below.

Section 8.2 Addresses and Expense. Unless otherwise provided by law, any notice or other communication required or permitted under these by-laws must:

- (a) be in writing,
- (b) have its delivery expenses prepaid by the sender,
- (c) for notices given by the Chief Administrative Officer on the Corporation's behalf, addressed to the address most recently received by the Chief Administrative Officer from the recipient,
- (d) for notices given to the Corporation, be addressed to the Chief Administrative Officer's attention unless otherwise provided in these

Bylaws. If the sender holds the office of Chief Administrative Officer, that sender must give the notice to the General Secretary. If that sender also holds the office of General Secretary, that sender must give the notice to each Director, and

(e) for notices of meetings, describe the means of communication by which the recipient may participate.

Section 8.3 Option for Electronic Methods. By written notice containing the recipient's electronic mail or facsimile address, a recipient may authorize the sender to give notices and other communications to that recipient by electronic mail or facsimile.

For purposes of these Bylaws, "electronic mail" and "electronic mail address" have the meaning given under Section 232(d)(2) and 232(d)(3), respectively, of the Law.

Section 8.4 Effective Date of Notice. Notice given on the Corporation's behalf (i) that is mailed by first-class, registered or certified mail is deemed given when deposited in the U.S. Postal Service, postage prepaid, and (ii) that is sent by electronic transmission is deemed given when electronically transmitted to the person entitled to the notice in a manner that person authorized, and (iii) that is hand delivered is deemed given when handed to the recipient by the sender or left at the recipient's address in either a mail-box or with a person the sender reasonably believes will deliver the notice to the recipient.

ARTICLE IX

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 9.1 Fiscal Year. The Board of Directors may fix the fiscal year for the Corporation from time to time.

Section 9.2 Books and Records. Any records administered by or on behalf of the Corporation in the regular course of its activities, including its books of account and minute books, may be maintained on any information storage device, method, or one or more electronic networks or databases (including one or more distributed electronic networks or databases); provided that the records so kept can be converted into clearly legible paper form within a reasonable time. The Corporation shall so convert any records so kept upon request of any person entitled to inspect such records pursuant to applicable law.

Section 9.3 Checks, Notes, Drafts, Etc. All checks, notes, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money of the Corporation shall be signed, endorsed, or accepted in the name of the Corporation by such officer, officers, person, or persons as from time to time may be designated by the Board of Directors or by an officer or officers authorized by the Board of Directors to make such a designation.

Section 9.4 Conflict with Applicable Law or Certificate of Incorporation. These Bylaws are adopted subject to any applicable law and the Certificate of Incorporation. Whenever these Bylaws may conflict with any applicable law or the Certificate of Incorporation, such conflict shall be resolved in favor of such law or the Certificate of Incorporation.

ARTICLE X
AMENDMENTS

The Members may amend these Bylaws by a majority vote of all of the Members.

ARTICLE XI
INTERESTED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

For the purposes of these Bylaws, an “Interested Party Transaction” is any contract or other transaction between the Corporation and (a) any present Director or any individual who has served as a Director in the five years preceding the transaction (a “Past Director”), (b) any family member of a present or past Director, (c) any corporation, partnership, trust, or other entity in which a present or past director is a director, officer, or holder of a financial interest, (d) any present officer or any individual who has served as an officer in the five years preceding the transaction (a “Past Officer”), (e) any family member of a present or past officer, or (f) any corporation, partnership, trust, or other entity in which a present or past officer is a director, officer, or holder of a financial interest.

In any instance where the Corporation proposes to enter into an Interested Party Transaction, such Interested Party Transaction shall be approved only if approved by both a majority of the disinterested and fully informed Directors of the Corporation and the COD.

CERTIFICATE

I, [____], General Secretary of The Worldwide Christian Reformed Church, certify that these Bylaws were adopted by this Corporation on _____, 2022.

Dated: _____, 2022

_____, General Secretary

Appendix B3

STATE of DELAWARE
CERTIFICATE of INCORPORATION of
THE WORLDWIDE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
A NONPROFIT NON-STOCK CORPORATION

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of the corporation is The Worldwide Christian Reformed Church (the “Corporation”).

ARTICLE II
REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT

The address of the Corporation's registered office in the State of Delaware is 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808. The name of the registered agent is Corporation Service Company.

ARTICLE III
PURPOSES

The Corporation is a nonprofit nonstock corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The purpose of the Corporation is to perform executive and administrative functions on behalf of and to be responsible to the Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The Corporation may engage in any lawful activity for which nonprofit corporations may be organized under the Delaware General Corporation Law. However, the Corporation will not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by a corporation to which contributions are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE IV
NONSTOCK

The Corporation will not have any capital stock.

ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Corporation (each, a "Member" and, collectively, the "Members") shall be composed of the members of the Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

ARTICLE VI
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Corporation's board of directors (each, a "Director" and, collectively, the "Directors" or "Board of Directors") shall be elected by the Members immediately upon the organization of the Corporation and each will serve as a Director until his or her resignation, removal or replacement as provided in the Bylaws of the Corporation.

The Board of Directors will manage and direct the affairs and business of the Corporation. The qualifications, election, number, tenure, powers, and duties of the members of the Board of Directors will be as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII
PROHIBITIONS ON INUREMENT AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

No part of the assets, income or earnings of the Corporation will inure to the benefit of members, officers, directors or individuals. However, the Corporation will be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Certificate of Incorporation.

No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation will be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Corporation will not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE VIII
LIMITATIONS ON LIABILITY

To the fullest extent permitted by law, no Director will be personally liable to the Corporation or its Members for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty as a Director. No amendment to, modification of, or repeal of this Article VIII shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any Director for or with respect to any acts or omissions of such Director occurring prior to such amendment.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

In addition to the powers conferred upon the Board of Directors by law, the Board of Directors will have the power to make, adopt, alter, or repeal, from time to time, the Bylaws of the Corporation.

ARTICLE X
DISTRIBUTIONS UPON LIQUIDATION OR DISSOLUTION

In the event of the liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the affairs of the Corporation, whether voluntary, involuntary, or by operation of law, the Board of Directors will, except as may be otherwise provided by law, transfer all of the assets of the Corporation in such manner as the Directors, in the exercise of their discretion, may by a majority vote determine; provided, however, that:

- (1) any such distribution of assets will be consistent with the purposes stated in this Certificate of Incorporation; and
- (2) such distributions may only be to one or more organizations that are tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENT OF CERTIFICATE

The Corporation may amend, alter, or repeal any provisions contained in this Certificate of Incorporation in a manner prescribed by applicable statutes. However, no amendment will authorize the Board of Directors or Members of the Corporation to conduct the affairs of the Corporation in any

manner or for any purpose contrary to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XII
TERM OF CORPORATION

The term of the Corporation is perpetual.

ARTICLE XIII
REFERENCE TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE

Any reference in this Certificate of Incorporation to a provision of the Internal Revenue Code will refer to that provision in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law.

ARTICLE XIV
NAME AND ADDRESS OF INCORPORATOR

The name and mailing address of the incorporator are as follows:

Name: Dustin J. Jackson
Mailing Address: 45 Ottawa Ave. SW, Suite 1100, Grand Rapids
Michigan 49503

I, the undersigned, for the purpose of forming a corporation under the laws of the State of Delaware, do make, file and record this Certificate of Incorporation, and do certify that the facts stated in this Certificate of Incorporation are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed on _____, 2022

By: _____
Dustin J. Jackson, Incorporator

Appendix C1
Proposed Modifications to Advisory Panel Process and Appeal Process in Situations of Abuse (Church Order Supplement, Articles 30-a and 42-b)

I. Background

According to current procedures for responding to abuse by a church leader, a claimant contacts either a member of a Safe Church Team (either in their own church or in the classis), the Safe Church Ministry office, or a member of the church council of the accused, and the person who is contacted by the claimant initiates an advisory panel process (APP). The APP provides a mechanism for objectively assessing the probability and gravity of abuse. Its aim is to provide recommendations for a church council in order to help them respond to abuse in ways that promote both justice and healing. As an advisory body, the APP has no decision-making authority. Instead, the council determines how the church will respond to the allegations. For a variety of reasons, councils don't always follow up on the recommendations of the APP.

When a council decides not to act on the recommendations of the APP, or when a council decides to handle an allegation of abuse against a church leader without making use of an APP and in ways that seem inadequate or unjust, a claimant or the accused can appeal the decision to classis. Unfortunately, classes are not well equipped to adjudicate cases of abuse. While panelists who serve on the APP receive abuse-awareness training—orienting them to the nature of abuse, to the patterns of an abuser (including grooming), to the impact on a person who has been victimized, to techniques for asking questions in ways that disclose the information needed without retraumatizing the victim, and to methods on how to assess the situation judiciously—classical delegates receive no such training.

Especially in cases where the APP is not used and there is thus not a “report” to provide counsel and guidance, the classis is left to its own resources to discern (often within the limits of a classis meeting) the veracity of the allegations and to map out a way forward for the church to respond to the allegations of abuse. Classes must do this important work with limited time, limited information, and insufficient relevant competency. Further, personal relationships between an accused church leader and/or claimant and delegates to classis may make it difficult to gain an unbiased hearing for the involved parties. Finally, the possibility of retraumatization in this scenario is significant because the alleged victim is asked to disclose what feels shameful and painful to an increasing number of people who have the authority to decide whether the claimant’s experience and testimony are truthful and significant enough to warrant the church’s response.

II. Proposal

In light of the above, the following modifications are proposed to the advisory panel process¹ and to the appeal process in situations of alleged abuse in order to ensure due process, greater levels of accountability, support, and counsel for the various assemblies involved in adjudicating allegations of abuse, as well as to ensure greater support and care for the claimant and for the accused.

A. Summary of proposed revisions to the advisory panel process (see also proposed changes to “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader”)

1. Inclusion of *emotional abuse*

When allegations of emotional abuse by a church leader are brought to the council, the council can ask for an advisory panel to inquire into the allegations. The following definition of emotional abuse shall be added to the “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader”²:

¹ It is the hope that these revisions to the Advisory Panel Process will instill greater confidence in the process and reduce the likelihood of appeal.

² This proposed revision is consistent with Recommendation F of the Addressing the Abuse of Power Committee report approved by Synod 2019, mandating the executive director “to oversee the development of appropriate measures for responding effectively to emotional abuse. Such measures will include definition, inclusion in relevant CRC policies, and appropriate responses through restorative practices and the safe church advisory panel process.”

Emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior in which a person insults, humiliates, and manipulates an individual or group in order to establish or maintain control over them. Emotional abuse includes

- threatening a person’s safety, property, or loved ones;
- isolating a person from family, friends, and acquaintances;
- demeaning, bullying, belittling, shaming, or humiliating a person;
- delivering constant criticism; or
- emotionally blackmailing or harassing a person.

2. Revision to consequences for determination of guilt

If the advisory panel determines that an officebearer is guilty of sexual misconduct, the officebearer will be considered guilty of a serious deviation from godly conduct and worthy of special discipline according to Church Order Supplement, Articles 82-84, b. If, however, the advisory panel determines that an officebearer is guilty of emotional misconduct or abuse, the advisory panel shall make recommendations for disciplining the officebearer in ways that are appropriate to the harm done and that prioritize both justice and, if possible, rehabilitation and restoration of the offender (this could include such recommendations as suspension for a period of time, counseling, abuse of power training, mentoring, restorative practices, oversight and accountability, or, if the officebearer is deemed unfit for ministry, deposition). Please note that this recommendation in no way seeks to diminish the weightiness of emotional abuse. In fact, studies show that emotional abuse can be equally as damaging as other forms of abuse. However, because of the range of gravity and impact of behaviors that constitute emotional abuse, what is required for justice, the healing of the victim(s), and the welfare of the church is not always best served by deposition.

3. Involvement of church visitors³

When allegations of abuse against a church leader are brought forward to a church council, the council will contact the classis interim committee, which will appoint church visitors to do the following:

- a. Meet with the church council of the accused for the purposes of advice, encouragement, and support as the council determines the most appropriate process for investigating and responding to the allegations (advisory panel process, independent investigation, mediation/ restorative conversations, other).
- b. Participate as an observer on the panel if an advisory panel process is initiated.
- c. Advise the church council as they discern how to follow up on and respond to the advisory panel findings.

³ The involvement of church visitors in a church’s response to allegations of abuse against a church leader is new to the role of church visitor. In order to equip church visitors for this involvement, it is strongly recommended that church visitors take a 60-minute training on abuse in the church in preparation for their role as church visitors. This training is available through Safe Church Ministry. This new role will also be described in a new Supplement to Church Order Article 42-b regarding church visitors.

d. Prepare a report detailing their observations of the advisory panel proceedings and the council's response. The report will be submitted to the church council and, if requested, to the claimant, the claimant's advocate, the accused, and the support person for the accused. The report is to be kept confidential and submitted to classis only if there is an appeal of the council's decision. All parties shall commit to maintaining the confidentiality of the report.

4. Orientation and training

Before handling situations involving abuse allegations against a church leader, members of a council will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.⁴ Training will be made available through Safe Church Ministry. Classes and councils are strongly encouraged to include this training in the orientation of all church visitors and officebearers.

5. Independent investigations

The council, in conversation with the claimant's advocate and a Safe Church representative, and the church visitors, may choose to arrange for an independent investigation⁵ into the allegations. This is strongly recommended in the following situations:

- a. The accused or claimant is a prominent leader in the community or region such that impartiality is especially elusive.
- b. The accusations consist of multiple victims or multiple jurisdictions.
- c. Real or perceived conflicts of interest make impartiality especially elusive.
- d. The case is appealed to classis because of alleged irregularities or mishandling of the allegations.

B. Summary of proposed modifications to an Article 30-a appeal process in situations of abuse that are appealed to classis or synod (the following material will be proposed as a new Supplement to Church Order Art. 30-a)

1. Involvement of synodical deputies when an appeal regarding abuse comes before classis

When an Article 30-a appeal of a council decision involving allegations of abuse against a church leader comes before classis, the synodical deputies will advise the classis in order that fair process and proper respect and care for all involved may be maintained (per Church Order Art. 48-c)⁶. Because the role of the synodical deputies in such a case is not concurrence but simply advisory to the classis, no report will be submitted.

⁴ This training might be fulfilled through watching and discussing a Safe Church Ministry training video, participating in an in-person training by a Safe Church representative or mental health professional, engaging in a live online training with Safe Church staff, or taking part in some combination of these options.

⁵ Safe Church will keep a list of credible organizations that do independent investigations (for example, GRACE [Godly Response to Abuse in a Christian Environment] and Plan to Protect).

⁶ "Besides the duties elsewhere stipulated, the deputies shall, upon request, extend help to the classes in the event of difficulties in order that proper unity, order, and sound doctrine may be maintained" (Church Order Art. 48-c).

2. Orientation and training

Before handling an appeal to classis involving abuse allegations against a church leader that have previously been taken up by an advisory panel process, classis delegates will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.

Before handling an appeal to synod involving abuse allegations against a church leader that have previously been taken up by an advisory panel process, the synod advisory committee members will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.

3. Independent investigations

If an independent investigation hasn't already been done, classes or their interim committees may choose to arrange for an independent investigation into the allegations claimed. An independent investigation is strongly recommended in the following situations:

- a. The accused or the claimant is a prominent leader in the community or region such that impartiality is especially elusive.
- b. The accusations consist of multiple victims or multiple jurisdictions.
- c. Real or perceived conflicts of interest make impartiality especially elusive.
- d. The case is appealed to classis because of alleged irregularities or mishandling of the allegations.

4. Responsibilities to the claimant and the accused

- a. Orientation to the process: Classes or their interim committees shall ensure that the claimant and the accused are familiar with the process, understand what is expected of them, and know how best to prepare (see Art. 30-a).
- b. Commitment to confidentiality: Delegates to the classis meeting addressing the appeal will commit to holding all matters of the testimony and discussion, including the identity of persons involved, in confidence according to the Rules for Synodical Procedure (section V, B, 11). Breaches of confidentiality will be reported to the councils of any delegates who violate this commitment.
- c. Communication: The clerk of the classis that is taking up the appeal will communicate in a timely fashion the decisions of the classis to the claimant and the accused.

5. Follow-up care

After the proceedings are finished, the church visitors and/or the classis Safe Church coordinator will arrange for restorative circle conversations and other forms of care to be made available to the persons most affected by the allegations of abuse and by the appeal process, to provide a pathway forward for healing and restoration to the community. Classes are also strongly encouraged to set aside funds for follow-up counseling for affected parties.

III. Recommendation

That synod adopt the following proposed revisions (indicated by italics) to the Church Order Supplement (Arts. 30-a and 42-b) and to the “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader.”

Grounds:

1. The proposed changes provide greater support for the local council and the classis to act with justice and compassion when allegations of abuse against a church leader are brought forward.
2. The proposed changes increase awareness about how to adjudicate allegations of abuse by those who are authorized to respond on behalf of the church in order to ensure better outcomes.
3. By expanding the use of the advisory panel process, those who bring forward allegations of abuse and those who are accused are given a safe, objective process by which to have their voice heard.
4. The proposed changes reduce the likelihood of appeals to classis and synod involving allegations of abuse.
5. The proposed changes ensure proper support and care for the claimant and the accused should the allegations be appealed to classis.
6. The proposed changes are consistent with the recommendations proposed by the Addressing the Abuse of Power Committee report approved by Synod 2019.

Proposed Church Order Supplement, Article 42-b, section b (the current Supplement, Article 42-b would become section a)

- b. When allegations of abuse against a church leader are brought forward to a church council, the council will contact the classis interim committee, which will appoint church visitors to do the following:*
 1. *Meet with the church council of the accused for the purposes of advice, encouragement, and support as the council determines the most appropriate process for investigating and responding to the allegations (advisory panel process, independent investigation, mediation/restorative conversations, other).*
 2. *Participate as an observer on the panel if an advisory panel process is initiated.*
 3. *Advise the church council as they discern how to follow up on and respond to the advisory panel findings.*
 4. *Prepare a report detailing their observations of the advisory panel proceedings and the council’s response. The report will be submitted to the church council and, if requested, to the claimant, the claimant’s advocate, the accused, and the support person for the accused. The report is to be kept confidential and may be submitted to classis only if there is an appeal of the council’s decision. All parties shall commit to maintaining the confidentiality of the report.*

Proposed addition to Church Order Supplement, Article 30-a: section A, 3 (the current sections A, 3 and 4 would become A, 4 and 5)

3. Appeal Process in Situations of Abuse That Are Appealed to Classis

Involvement of Synodical Deputies. When an appeal of a council decision involving allegations of abuse against a church leader comes before classis, the synodical deputies will advise the classis in order that fair process and proper respect and care for all involved may be maintained (per Church Order Art. 48-c).

Orientation and Training. Before handling an appeal involving abuse allegations against a church leader that have been taken up by an advisory panel process, classis delegates will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.

Independent Investigations. If an investigation hasn't already been done, classes or their interim committees may choose to arrange for an independent investigation into the allegations claimed. An independent investigation is strongly recommended in the following situations:

- a. The accused or claimant is a prominent leader in the community or region such that impartiality is especially elusive.*
- b. The accusations consist of multiple victims or multiple jurisdictions.*
- c. Real or perceived conflicts of interest make impartiality especially elusive.*
- d. The case is appealed to classis because of alleged irregularities or mishandling of the allegations.*

Responsibilities to the Claimant and the Accused

- a. Orientation to the process: Classes or their interim committees shall ensure that the claimant and the accused are familiar with the process, understand what is expected of them, and know how best to prepare.*
- b. Commitment to confidentiality: Delegates to the classis meeting addressing the appeal will commit to holding all matters of the testimony and discussion, including the identity of persons involved, in confidence according to the Rules for Synodical Procedure (section V, B, 11). Breaches of confidentiality will be reported to the councils of any delegates who violate this commitment.*
- c. Communication: The clerk of the classis that is taking up the appeal will communicate in a timely fashion the decisions of the classis to the claimant and the accused.*

Follow-up Care. After the proceedings are finished, the church visitors and/or the classis Safe Church coordinator will arrange for restorative circle conversations to be made available to the persons most affected by the allegations of abuse and by the appeal process, to provide a pathway forward for healing and restoration to the community. Classes are also strongly encouraged to set aside funds for follow-up counseling for affected parties.

Proposed addition to Supplement, Article 30-a: section B, 8

- 8. When an appeal of a classis decision involving allegations of abuse against a church leader comes before synod, members of the synod advisory committee will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.*

Appendix C2

Proposed Changes to “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader”

Note: Changes to the existing document are noted in bold italics and strikethrough.

B. Guidelines for Safe Church Panel Process in Response to an Abuse Allegation

1. Definitions

- a. Church Leader: Member churches and classes should be allowed some freedom in defining *church leader*. A member church or classis may use the definition of church leader that is consistent with its general liability policy or other insurance coverage.
- b. Misconduct: The Canadian provinces and each of the fifty United States have legal definitions of child abuse, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and physical abuse as well as a host of definitions of crimes committed against adults, including assault and battery, rape, and sexual harassment. Ecclesiastical procedures such as those outlined in *sections 2-4* that follow cannot measure a person’s guilt by a legal standard; only civil authorities are entitled to hold a person accountable for violation of a civil or criminal code. For that reason, an ecclesiastical procedure cannot judge a person to be guilty of child abuse or rape as defined by law. An ecclesiastical procedure can, however, judge someone to be guilty of ungodly conduct, misuse of power, misuse of spiritual authority, sexually inappropriate behavior, and neglect and abuse of office. These behaviors are not violations of civil or criminal code and therefore are not subject to criminal prosecution or civil redress. They are, instead, behaviors that violate the trust and well-being of individuals and the community of believers, and they taint the office held by the offender.

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

- 1) Physical misconduct: Physical misconduct means
 - threatened harm or nonaccidental injury inflicted on a minor or legally protected adult, or
 - offensive or harmful contact by an adult.

Physical misconduct is sometimes a single event, but more often a chronic pattern of interacting with a minor or an adult.

- 2) Sexual misconduct: Sexual misconduct means
 - exploiting or grooming (preparing) a minor or an adult—regardless of consent or circumstances—for the purpose of sexual touch, sexual activity, or emotional intimacy, with the result of either sexual gratification or power and control over the minor or adult;
 - unwelcome touch, sexual activity, or emotional intimacy between coworkers, or covolunteers; or

- sexual touch, sexual activity, or emotional intimacy between a supervisor and a subordinate who serve together in a church program or church ministry.

3) *Emotional abuse: Emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior in which a person insults, humiliates, and manipulates an individual or group in order to establish or maintain control over them. Emotional abuse includes*

- *threatening a person's safety, property, or loved ones;*
- *isolating a person from family, friends, and acquaintances;*
- *demeaning, bullying, belittling, shaming, or humiliating a person;*
- *delivering constant criticism; or*
- *emotionally blackmailing or harassing a person.*

2. *Responding to abuse by a church leader when the claimant is an adult*

The guidelines in this section describe the process to be followed (1) when the claimant is an adult or (2) when the claimant comes forward as an adult with an allegation of abuse that took place during childhood or adolescence. ~~The guidelines for handling abuse allegations by an adult against a church leader assume the availability of an advisory panel. The role of the advisory panel is to evaluate the gravity of the allegations and the probable veracity of them. The standard of proof is that the testimony "more likely than not" supports the allegations.~~

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

- The claimant contacts the office of Safe Church Ministry or a classis safe church team for an advocate. The advocate will assist the claimant with her or his allegation by helping to compile witnesses and testimony, by attending the panel session with the claimant, and by advocating for the claimant before other ecclesiastical bodies.
- The advocate should contact a member of the executive committee or similar committee (executive) of the accused person's church or the chairperson of the safe church team (team) *with the allegation of abuse*. The contact should include the allegation in writing with the names of the claimant and the accused person.
- The executive notifies the safe church team chairperson (or the chairperson notifies the executive) of the advocate's contact. The executive (or chairperson) will identify the claimant, the accused person, and the allegation known at that time.

¹ Before handling situations involving abuse allegations against a church leader, members of a council along with the church visitors will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response. Training will be made available through Safe Church Ministry.

- d. *The executive calls a meeting with the executive committee or the council, the claimant's advocate, the church's safe church leader or the classis safe church coordinator and the church visitors to develop a plan for exploring the veracity of the allegations.¹ Ordinarily, the plan will involve*
 - *suspending the accused from their duties without prejudice until the allegations have been investigated.*
 - *participating in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.²*
 - *at least one of the following processes:*
 - 1) *an advisory panel process exploring the gravity and probability of the allegations of abuse (the denominational Safe Church Ministry office is available to convene the panel)*
 - 2) *an independent investigation into the allegations of abuse (the denominational Safe Church Ministry office will keep a list of reputable investigators). It is strongly recommended that councils make use of an independent investigator in the following situations:*
 - a) *The accused or claimant is a prominent leader in the community or region such that impartiality is especially elusive.*
 - b) *The accusations consist of multiple victims or multiple jurisdictions.*
 - c) *Real or perceived conflicts of interest make impartiality especially elusive.*
 - 3) *an internal investigation led by a designated investigation team*
- e. *Denominational Safe Church Ministry staff are available to help the council execute the agreed-upon plan for responding to abuse (i.e., providing a list of independent investigators, initiating an advisory panel, providing training and counsel, and/or providing resources regarding how to conduct a church investigation).*

3. Convening an Advisory Panel

- a. *If the council decides to respond to an allegation of abuse against a church leader through the advisory panel process, the chair of council contacts the classis safe church team to convene the panel.*
- b. *If a classis does not yet have a safe church team, then the advocate or the executive should contact the nearest team to convene an advisory panel (panel). A panel should be convened as soon as possible after it receives a request to convene. If the accused person is an employee of the CRCNA or an agency of the CRCNA, the panel shall include an observer who is a representative of the employer to be named by the executive director of the CRCNA in consultation with any agency involved. If the accused person is an officebearer, the panel shall include two church visitors from the classis of the accused's church as*

² *This training might be fulfilled through watching and discussing a Safe Church Ministry training video, participating in an in-person training by a Safe Church representative or mental health professional, engaging in a live online training with Safe Church staff, or taking part in some combination of these options.*

observers. The observers shall not participate in the panel but shall simply observe the proceedings.

- c. The chairperson of the panel contacts the advocate to schedule the claimant's meeting. The panel chooses the location and the time. The claimant and witnesses should be available for the meeting. The panelists, executive committee members, claimant, advocate, *observers*, and witnesses should not publicly mention the meeting.

Note: *The advisory panel will notify the accused person of the allegation only after it has evaluated the testimony of the claimant to be both probable and serious.*

- d. The panel chairperson brings the panelists under a pledge of confidentiality regarding the name of the claimant, the accused person, and the details of the allegation brought forward. The claimant and witnesses may waive confidentiality of their own testimony at the conclusion of the panel process so the advocate, the panelists, and the observers (see section 3, *e* below) may report on the matter when it is presented to the executive, the council, and other ecclesiastical bodies.
- e. If the executive chooses, it may appoint two representatives to observe both the claimant's and the accused person's meeting with the panel. A representative observer must adhere to confidentiality during the panel process.
- f. The panel receives the information presented to it by the claimant, examines the contents of written materials, questions the witnesses, and consults with experts as needed.

Testimony may be in the form of written material, witnesses, notarized statements, depositions (statements taken under oath), email and other electronic communications, and personal property. When distance would make travel difficult, costly, or cause an undesirable delay in convening the panel, teleconferencing and other secure methods of communication are permissible.

- g. Following the meeting with the claimant, if the panel evaluates the allegation as both serious and probable, then the panel notifies the claimant of their evaluation, and the panel moves to the next step in the advisory panel process. If, however, the allegation is not evaluated as serious or probable, then the panel ends its work. If the panel ends, it notifies the claimant and the executive. The executive may dismiss the matter or continue contact with the claimant.

Note: *If the panel does not find evidence to support the allegations, this does not mean that the claimant has not been hurt or harmed by inappropriate uses of power by the accused. It only means that the allegations did not meet the standard of evaluation as serious and probable. As such, it is important that the council continue to ensure pastoral support and care for the claimant in ways that lead to healing and health.*

- h. If the panel process continues, a panelist notifies the accused person that a claimant's advisory panel meeting took place. The panelist

submits the allegations in writing to the accused person. The allegation must include specific incidents, the dates of those incidents when possible, and an indication of witnesses or corroborating evidence.

The accused person has at least five (5) days after receiving the written allegation to prepare for his or her meeting with the panel. The accused person should be accompanied by a support person who is not a current or former practicing lawyer.

The accused person presents his or her testimony before the same panel at a time and location chosen by the panel. The panelists, executive committee, accused person, support person, *observers*, and witnesses should not publicly mention the meeting.

- i. The panel receives the information presented to it by the accused person. They examine the contents of written material, notarized statements, or depositions. They interview the accused person and witnesses, and they consult with experts as needed. When distance would make travel difficult, costly, or cause an undesirable delay in convening the panel, teleconferencing and other secure methods of communication are permissible.

The accused person and witnesses may waive confidentiality of their own testimony at the conclusion of the panel process so that the panelists and the representatives may report to the executive, the council, and other ecclesiastical bodies.

- j. The panel convenes to consider the seriousness and the probability of the allegation along with the testimonies offered by the claimant and the accused person. The panelists sign a report of their findings. If the panel hears the accused person's admission of misconduct, or if the claimant's testimony is more likely to have occurred than that of the accused person's testimony, the panel may offer specific recommendations for pastoral care and church discipline. The panel will send a copy of their report to the claimant and the accused person.
- ~~m. The executive receives the panel's report. The chairperson presents the panel's report first; next, the advocate (or the claimant) presents to the executive; and then the representatives present to the executive. If the accused person is an ordained pastor, then a classical church visitor or member of the classical interim committee must be present when the chairperson, advocate or claimant, and the representatives meet with the executive.~~
- k. The executive must convene the council to bring the panel's report. At this meeting, the chairperson first presents the panel's report. Second, the council should meet with the claimant (or advocate) and the accused person individually, one after the other. Neither the claimant (advocate) nor the accused person should meet with the council prior to this meeting. Third, the representatives meet with the council. *Fourth, the church visitors meet with the council.*
- l. If *the situation involves any form of sexual misconduct* and the accused person acknowledges his or her guilt at the council meeting, the council should initiate steps of discipline by following Church

Order Articles 82 and 83. When the council *exercises discipline over an ordained minister*, it should inform the neighboring council for its concurrence, if necessary, and the congregation as well.

If the situation involves emotional misconduct or abuse, the advisory panel shall make recommendations for disciplining the officebearer in ways that are appropriate to the harm done and that prioritize both justice and, if possible, rehabilitation and restoration of the offender (this could include such recommendations as suspension for a period of time, counseling, abuse of power training, mentoring, restorative practices, oversight and accountability, or, in cases where the officebearer is determined unfit for ministry, deposition). Please note that this recommendation in no way seeks to diminish the weightiness of emotional abuse. In fact, studies show that emotional abuse can be equally as damaging as other forms of abuse. However, because of the range of gravity and impact of behaviors that constitute emotional abuse, what is required for justice, the healing of the victim(s), and the welfare of the church is not always best served by deposition.

- m. The council has thirty days from receipt of the report to adjudicate the allegation and decide the next course of action. The council will notify in writing the claimant and the accused person of its adjudication and its next course of action. The council may conduct its own hearing into the matter, and if so, the claimant and the accused person may have legal counsel present at the council's expense. Guidance on hearing procedures can be found in the Supplement to Article 30-c of the Church Order, "Judicial Code of Rights and Procedures," Articles 2-14.
- n. *The church visitors shall be present at all deliberations regarding the council's response to the allegations of abuse. At the end of the deliberations, the church visitors will prepare a report detailing their observations of the advisory panel proceedings and the council's response. The report is to be kept confidential and will be given only to the church council and, if requested, to the claimant, the claimant's advocate, the accused, and the support person for the accused. The report may be submitted to classis only if there is an appeal of the council's decision.*
- ~~q. If the council decides to take no further action on the report, or if the action taken by the council is contrary to the findings of the advisory panel, then the panel chairperson, after consultation with the claimant or advocate, will~~
 - ~~1) submit a copy of the panel's report to the church visitors with a request for intervention; or~~
 - ~~2) submit a copy of the panel's report to the classical interim committee with a request for intervention.~~
- ~~r. If the executive does not inform the council of the panel's report, the panel chairperson or advocate will immediately contact the church visitors or classical interim committee:~~
- o. The advocate, the claimant, *and the church visitors* may attend any subsequent ecclesiastical meetings where the allegations are discussed,

including classis, the denominational Judicial Code Committee, or the advisory committee of synod.

~~t. The claimant and the accused person may appeal the decision of the council. Such appeals should be addressed to the classis, where standard appeal procedures are applied. These procedures can be found in the Supplement to Article 30-c of the Church Order, "Judicial Code of Rights and Procedures," Articles 16-27.~~

p. The claimant and the accused person may appeal the decision of the council. Such appeals should be addressed to the classis, where standard appeal procedures are applied as outlined in Article 30 of the Church Order and Its Supplements. When an Article 30-a appeal involving allegations of abuse against a church leader comes before classis, the synodical deputies will advise the classis in order to ensure that fair process and proper respect and care for all involved are maintained (per Church Order Art. 48-c)³.

4. Five important footnotes

- a. These are *suggested* guidelines. The circumstances of abuse may dictate that church officials deviate from them. ~~Such circumstances cannot all be anticipated in advance, but would include deviations that provide protection for the alleged victims or alleged perpetrators of abuse.~~ In addition, state and provincial laws vary somewhat in terms of the manner in which abuse is defined and how it should be reported. The presumption should be in favor of following the guidelines in the case of each allegation of abuse; however, the church is best served by retaining legal counsel with expertise in the area to define the legal standards relevant to a particular jurisdiction. Furthermore, the director of Safe Church Ministry can be consulted regarding the application of the guidelines.
- b. The guidelines anticipate that the claimant's allegations will be disclosed to certain entities or individuals at certain times. At each stage of the proceedings outlined in the guidelines, those individuals who disclose and/or receive information relating to the allegations should use extensive precautions to ensure that the allegations and surrounding circumstances are not shared with any entities or individuals other than those expressly described under these guidelines or required by law. Accuracy is of the utmost importance in the disclosure of allegations or surrounding circumstances to those individuals or entities named in these guidelines. Wrongful or inaccurate dissemination of information can lead to adverse legal consequences.
- c. Whenever a disclosure of allegations of child abuse or assault is warranted, the disclosure must include the language of the criminal code along with the indication that criminal authorities have made the

³ "Besides the duties elsewhere stipulated, the deputies shall, upon request, extend help to the classes in the event of difficulties in order that proper unity, order, and sound doctrine may be maintained" (Church Order Art. 48-c).

charges and will follow them up to the full extent of their capabilities. If the allegations are ungodly conduct, abuse of office, and so forth, then the disclosure must include the language of the Church Order along with the indication that church officials will follow up to the full extent of their capabilities. After a judgment on the matter is rendered, subsequent disclosure must include the language of the Church Order; an explanation of the violation(s) may be given but only with care so as to protect the identity of the *person who was victimized*. Failure to explain the nature of the violation enables the offender to continue a pattern of denial or minimization and promotes the perception that the matter is being covered up somehow.

- d. Member churches and classes that adopt these guidelines should check with their own legal counsel about potential liability that arises from the guidelines. By adopting the guidelines, the member church and its classis may be assuming legal obligations not dictated under the laws of their jurisdiction. The liability of the advisory panel that serves the member church or classis should also be discussed with legal counsel. A classis that *appoints a safe church coordinator who forms* an advisory panel should be incorporated and should obtain legal protection for the volunteers serving on *it*. Finally, member churches and classes that adopt the guidelines should follow the procedures specified. Negligent failure to follow the guidelines as adopted could be a basis for potential liability.

- e. Denominational personnel should not serve on *an advisory panel*.

Revised March 15, 2022

Appendix D

Note: Changes to be considered for adoption are indicated by underline and strikethrough in the following document.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF CALVIN UNIVERSITY

The following Articles of Incorporation are executed by the undersigned for the purpose of forming a nonprofit corporation pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporations Act, as amended.

ARTICLE I

The name of the Corporation is Calvin University.

ARTICLE II

The purpose or purposes for which the Corporation is organized, either directly or indirectly, are as follows:

1. To provide students courses in the liberal arts including, but not limited to, the sciences, history, philosophy, professional, and pre-professional

disciplines, and in theology, which are of a positively Reformed character entirely in accord with the doctrinal standards of the Christian Reformed Church in North America;

2. To enrich the education experiences of its students by offering exposure to a variety of disciplines, all from a distinctly Reformed perspective;

3. The corporation is approved to operate a private postsecondary educational institution in Michigan located at 3201 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. This is a class Y educational corporation. Degree programs authorized to be offered are as follows: Masters, Bachelors, and Associates. Certificate and diploma programs are also approved;

Associate degree programs must consist of at least 60 semester credit hours or equivalent of collegiate level of study. Bachelor degree programs must consist of at least 120 semester credit hours or equivalent of collegiate level of study. Master degree programs must consist of 30 semester credit hours or equivalent of collegiate level of study and shall be granted after the successful completion of a bachelor's degree;

4. To do all things necessary or incidental to or usually done by similar types of institutions; and

5. The Corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

ARTICLE III

The Corporation is organized on a non-stock, directorship basis.

ARTICLE IV

The address of the registered office is 3201 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546. The name of the resident agent at the registered office is Tim Fennema.

ARTICLE V

The term of the corporate existence is perpetual.

ARTICLE VI

These Articles of Incorporation shall not be amended without the approval of the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

ARTICLE VII

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Corporation shall be selected by the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America in accordance with the Bylaws of this Corporation.

ARTICLE VIII

The Corporation shall not merge or consolidate with another corporation, or sell, lease, exchange, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets other than in the usual and regular course of its business, or voluntarily dissolve and liquidate its assets without the approval of the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

ARTICLE IX

No person who is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Corporation shall be personally liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for a breach of his or her fiduciary duty as a trustee. However, this Article shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a trustee for any breach of duty, act or omission for which the elimination or limitation of liability is not permitted by the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, as amended from time to time. No amendment, alteration, repeal or modification of this Article or adoption of any other provisions in these Articles of Incorporation inconsistent with this Article shall have any effect to increase the liability of any trustee of the Corporation with respect to any act or omission of such trustee occurring prior to such amendment, alteration, repeal, modification, or adoption.

As used in this Article, the term “trustee” means “volunteer director” as defined in Section 10 of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, as amended.

ARTICLE X

The Corporation assumes all liability to any person other than the Corporation or its trustees for all acts or omissions of a person who is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Corporation occurring on or after the date this Article becomes a part of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation. No claim for monetary damages for a breach of a trustee’s duty to any such person shall be brought or maintained against a trustee. No amendment, alteration, repeal or modification of this Article or adoption of any other provisions in these Articles of Incorporation inconsistent with this Article shall have any effect to increase the liability of any trustee of the Corporation with respect to any act or omission of such trustee occurring prior to such amendment, alteration, repeal, modification, or adoption.

As used in this Article, the term “trustee” means “volunteer director” as defined in Section 10 of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, as amended.

ARTICLE XI

Trustees and officers of the Corporation shall be indemnified as of right to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by law in connection with any actual or threatened civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative action, suit or proceeding (whether brought by or in the name of the Corporation, a subsidiary or otherwise) in which a trustee or officer is a witness or which is brought against a trustee or officer in his or her capacity as a trustee, officer, employee, agent, or fiduciary of the Corporation or of any corporation,

partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise which the trustee or officer was serving at the request of the Corporation. Persons who are not trustees or officers of the Corporation may be similarly indemnified in respect of such service to the extent authorized at any time by the Board of Trustees of the Corporation.

The Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance to protect itself and any such trustee, officer, or other person against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in respect of such service whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability by law or under the provisions of this Article.

The provisions of this Article shall be applicable to actions, suits or proceedings, whether arising from acts or omissions occurring before or after the adoption hereof, and to trustees, officers, and other persons who have ceased to render such service, and shall inure the benefit of the heirs, personal representatives, executors, and administrators of the trustees, officers, and other persons referred to in this Article.

The right of indemnification provided pursuant to this Article shall not be exclusive, and the Corporation may provide indemnification to any person, by agreement or otherwise, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees may approve. Any agreement for indemnification of any trustee, officer, or other person may provide indemnification rights which are broader or otherwise different from those set forth in, or provided pursuant to, or in accordance with, this Article. Any amendment, alteration, modification, repeal, or adoption of any provision in these Articles of Incorporation inconsistent with this Article shall not adversely affect any indemnification right or protection of a trustee, officer, or other person existing at the time of such amendment, alteration, modification, repeal, or adoption.

ARTICLE XII

No part of the earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any shareholder, director, officer of the Corporation, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Corporation effecting one or more of its purposes), and no shareholder, director, officer of the Corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the Corporation. In the event of dissolution, all assets of the Corporation, real and personal, shall be distributed to the Christian Reformed Church in North America, provided it is exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, at the time of dissolution. If the Christian Reformed Church in North America is not exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, at the time of dissolution, all assets will be distributed to one or more organizations exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Incorporator of the Corporation has executed these Articles of Incorporation on this 18th day of June, 1991.

Revised and adopted by the Board of Trustees: August 2021~~June 2020~~.

Appendix E

Separation Agreement Template

I. Introductory note

This separation agreement template is a basic resource for churches and pastors and should be tailored to address the specific circumstances of any particular pastor's departure. Churches would be wise to engage legal counsel to address whether new or expanded provisions should be included, and to ensure that federal, state, and provincial laws are observed.

This template is grounded in the work of Synod 1998 (see *Acts of Synod 1998*, pp. 392-94) and in subsequent work to update specific guidelines adopted at that time. It should be noted that this agreement could become void in the event that the pastor, after signing it, were to act in violation of his/her ordination vows, act in violation of the agreement, renounce the jurisdiction of the Christian Reformed Church, or become the subject of criminal charges.

II. Principles regarding the use of this resource

It is hoped that the agreement that arises from this resource provides for a separation that is characterized by love, respect, and care for one another. It is also hoped that all communications leading up to and following from this agreement will be marked by both truth and grace. These hopes can be expressed as principles:

1. Church has a legitimate interest in
 - a. minister speaking truthfully and graciously about it.
 - b. minister avoiding all false statements about the church, its leaders, and/or the reasons behind the separation.
2. Minister has a legitimate interest in
 - a. church, through its council, speaking truthfully and graciously about him/her.
 - b. church, through its council, avoiding all false statements about the minister and/or the reasons behind the separation.
3. The Christian Reformed Church in North America and its member congregations have a legitimate interest in allowing churches and ministers who separate from one another to provide truthful information about one another and the reason(s) for the separation. Congregations shall be expected to do this through their councils.

Sample Separation Agreement

This Separation Agreement is made as of the date executed below between _____ Christian Reformed Church ("Church") and Reverend _____ ("Minister") and will become effective as of the date of Classis _____ approval.

1. Termination: Termination of Minister's service to Church will become effective on _____, when he/she will be relieved of all duties and benefits of the position, except as expressly preserved in this Agreement. The parties will work together to agree upon an appropriate communication to the congregation and any identified external parties.

2. Date of Last Service: Minister will conduct his/her final act of service to Church on _____.

3. Financial Provision: Church will provide Minister with a total of \$_____, representing Minister’s salary for _____ weeks/ months [including/excluding such things as book allowance, mileage expenses, etc.]. This severance will be paid in weekly/biweekly installments of \$_____, less appropriate payroll deductions. For _____ weeks/ months, Church will also continue these benefits for Minister: _____. Minister may remain in the Church parsonage until _____, when it must be vacated.

4. General Release: On behalf of himself/herself and anyone who could claim through him/her, Minister waives and releases Church, Classis _____, and the Christian Reformed Church in North America (“CRCNA”) from all claims and damages. This is intended as a general release covering all claims whatsoever.

5. Confidentiality: Minister agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the terms of this agreement and of the nonpublic matters of Church that came to his/her attention during the course of his/her ministerial service. Church, through its Council, agrees not to disclose the terms of this Agreement.

6. Public Communications: Minister agrees not to make, or encourage others to make, false statements about Church, Classis _____, or the CRCNA. Church, through its Council, agrees not to make, or encourage others to make, false statements about Minister.

7. Non-Recruitment: Minister agrees not to directly or indirectly engage in any activity designed to cause any Church member to relinquish membership or cause any person not to become a member of Church.

8. Dispute and Venue: This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding of the parties. Any dispute regarding this Agreement which cannot be resolved by the parties will be reconciled by Classis _____ or, on appeal, by synod. The decision of synod is final and binding on the parties.

Date: _____ Signature of Minister _____

On behalf of Church _____

Appendix F

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, 2021, 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
Reported in U.S. Dollars
As of December 31, 2021
Exchange Rate

0.7926

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:

	CRCNA		Total	ReFrame Ministries	World Renew	Calvin University	Calvin Seminary	Loan Fund	TOTAL
	Other Denominational Ministries	Raise Up Global Ministries							
A. SHORT-TERM CASH									
Bank Balance	4,666,513	447,008	13,487,186	4,085,765	19,051,145	46,070,771	1,888,743	5,597,048	44,109,906
Money Market	4,800,391	-	4,800,591	-	-	-	-	-	50,000,000
CDS	-	-	-	-	-	212,988	-	-	212,986
B. EXCESS SEASONAL FUND									
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. INTERMEDIATE-TERM FUNDS									
CRCNA LLC Liquidity Fund	41,100	(1)	8,546,539	(1)	6,097,492	(1)	-	-	17,439,605
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	7,172,120	-	7,172,120	-	1,580,200	-	6,624,410	-	15,381,730
D. LONG-TERM FUNDS									
CRCNA LLC Balanced Fund	75,889	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,934,247
Equity mutual funds	-	-	-	5,498,982	14,487,415	-	-	-	47,900,000
U.S. treasuries or Canadian govt bonds	-	-	-	47,260	(3)	-	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. treasuries or Canadian govt bonds	7,569,594	-	473,930	-	3,134	186,532,560	(8)	44,030,341	211,040,565
U.S. treasuries or Canadian govt bonds	6,475,362	-	7,569,504	-	-	87,838,303	-	-	95,407,807
(Investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	6,475,362	-	-	-	-	-	6,475,362
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	-	-	28,584,113	-	-	37,347,873
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	(23,201,550)	-	(23,201,550)	-	-	-	8,783,760	-	(23,201,550)
Other Alternatives	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,050,000	(7)	1,050,000
Common Stock - non-listed	-	-	-	-	-	2,768,480	-	-	-
Other Alternatives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private equity/hedge funds	-	-	-	-	-	35,409,663	-	-	40,697,712
Life insurance cash value	29,601	(5)	-	593,605	15,478	(5)	5,288,049	-	639,654
E. FUNDS HELD FOR SPECIFIC DENOMINATIONAL PROGRAMS (i.e. Barmhart Foundation, grants)									
Beneficial Interest	-	-	294,516	1,415,356	-	-	-	-	1,709,872
Interagency Investments (Obligations):									
Loan to CRCNA (Denom. Service)	717,000	(717,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total	\$ 8,360,349	\$ (269,982)	\$ 27,405,511	\$ 13,533,208	\$ 42,139,864	\$ 387,416,876	\$ 67,645,003	\$ 5,597,048	\$ 529,060,287
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Numbers in parentheses are footnote numbers. See the footnotes that follow.

ACTS OF SYNOD 2022

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:									
REVENUE	EXPENSE	NET ASSETS	LIABILITIES	NET NEW	CHANGES	COMBINED	NET NEW	CHANGES	TOTAL
A. SHORT-TERM CASH									
Bank Balance	2,167,671	4,903,720	7,518,389	2,735,864	6,635,538	1,888,743	5,597,048	24,375,982	
Money Market	3,470,892	-	3,470,892	-	-	-	-	49,541,063	
CDs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	212,866	
B. EXCESS SEASONAL FUND									
C. INTERMEDIATE-TERM FUNDS									
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	41,100 (1)	8,506,439 (1)	8,546,539 (1)	1,861,574 (1)	6,997,492 (1)	6,624,410	-	17,435,605	
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,624,411	
D. LONG-TERM FUNDS									
Equity Mutual Fund	75,889 (2)	9,771,962 (2)	9,847,850 (2)	5,498,982 (2)	14,437,415 (2)	44,030,941 (8)	-	29,934,317	
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	47,906	-	-	-	47,906	
Equity mutual funds	-	473,930	473,930	-	3,134	-	-	211,040,565	
U.S. treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87,838,303	
U.S. treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds (investment grade, at least Aaa)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,347,873	
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Real Estate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,650,000	
Real Estate - stock, non-issd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,768,480	
Other Alternatives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Private equity/hedge funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,697,712	
Life Insurance cash value	29,601	-	29,601	593,605 (5)	15,478 (5)	5,288,049 (4)	36,048,347	-	
E. FUNDS HELD FOR SPECIFIC DENOMINATIONAL PROGRAMS (i.e., Barabara Foundation, grants)									
Beneficial Interest	-	-	-	1,402,062	-	-	1,402,062	-	
Emergency Investments (Obligations):									
Loans to CRNA (Denom. Services)	717,000	(717,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	6,502,162	23,695,051	29,867,211	12,169,983	28,139,457	67,645,903	5,597,048	546,266,141	

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

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA
Report of the Council of Delegates
Investment Summary (CANADA IN CDNs)
As of December 31, 2021

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:

	CRCNA						World Renew	Calvin University	Calvin Seminary	Loan Fund	TOTAL
	Other Denominational Ministries	Raise Up Global Ministries	Reemerge Global Mission	Total	ReFrame Ministries						
A. SHORT-TERM CASH											
Bank Balance	3,170,379	-	4,360,263	7,530,642	1,703,168		15,663,900	-	-	-	24,897,709
Money Market	1,677,642	-	-	1,677,642	-		-	-	-	-	1,677,642
CDA	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
B. EXCESS SEASONAL FUND											
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
C. INTERMEDIATE-TERM FUNDS											
CRCNA LLC Liquidity Fund	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	9,046,862	-	-	9,046,862	-		2,000,000	-	-	-	11,046,862
D. LONG-TERM FUNDS											
CRCNA LLC Balanced Fund	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Fixed Income, Dividend, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
U.S. treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	9,550,219	-	-	9,550,219	-		-	-	-	-	9,550,219
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	8,170,051	-	-	8,170,051	-		-	-	-	-	8,170,051
Private Equity (Investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	(29,272,710)	-	-	(29,272,710)	-		-	-	-	-	(29,272,710)
Real Estate	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Common stock - non-listed	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Other Alternatives	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Private equity/hedge funds	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
E. FUNDS HELD FOR SPECIFIC DENOMINATIONAL PROGRAMS (i.e., Barnabas Foundation, grants)											
Benetech Internet	-	-	371,582	371,582	16,773		-	-	-	-	388,355
Interagency Investments (Obligations):											
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-

Total	\$ 2,344,432.10	\$ 4,731,845.38	\$ 7,076,277.48	\$ 17,663,900.00	\$ 1,719,940.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,460,117.70
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Numbers in parentheses are footnote numbers. See the footnotes that follow.

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:

SHORT TERM
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS
Cash, CDs, and money-market mutual funds
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES
Guaranteed investment contracts
Stable Asset Income Fund
COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock
Diversified/Alternative mutual fund
Equity mutual funds
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)
U.S. treasuries, Canadian gov't bonds or publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)
Bond mutual funds
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS
Total

Employees' Savings Plan - U.S. in U.S. \$	Ministers' Pension Plan U.S. in U.S. \$	Special Assistance Fund U.S. in U.S. \$	Employees' Retirement Plan - Canada in Canadian \$	Ministers' Pension Plan Canada in Canadian \$	Special Assistance Fund Canada in Canadian \$	Consolidated Group Insurance Canada in Canadian \$
-	4,127,867.00	289,725.00	360,937.00	1,813,843.00	417,025.00	112,366.00
-	-	-	105,161.00	-	-	-
3,614,363.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	102,736,343.00	-	-	69,634,992.00	-	-
9,364,188.00	-	-	5,029,511.00	-	-	-
26,093,599.00	-	-	1,031,429.00	-	-	-
-	20,504,032.00	-	-	13,133,639.00	-	-
7,264,393.00	-	-	242,164.00	-	-	-
-	14,883,577.00	-	-	3,269,835.00	-	-
46,336,543.00	142,251,819.00	289,725.00	6,769,202.00	87,852,309.00	417,025.00	112,366.00

Footnotes to the December 31, 2021, Investment Summary

1. CRCNA Funds LLC pooled / unitized fixed income account (1.63% cash, 78.52% fixed income, 19.85% mutual funds) for agencies.
2. CRCNA Funds LLC pooled / unitized balanced account (1.65% cash, 27.1% fixed income, .06% mutual funds, and 64.3% equities).
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 investment in Creative Dining Services, owned jointly with Hope College.
7. Real estate received as a gift or held for investment purposes.
8. Includes equity, commodity, and hedged mutual funds.
9. Includes Tactical Tilt Allocation Fund and other alternative private equity funds.

AGENCY AND INSTITUTION SUPPLEMENTS

Faith Formation

Calvin University Supplement

I. Introduction

The Calvin University Board of Trustees met April 21-22, 2022, 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 April meeting, the board thanked six members who are leaving—Michael Den Bleyer, Jeffrey De Nooyer, Christopher Grier, Jonathan Kuyers, Scott Spoelhof, and Willemina Zwart—for their diligent work on the board and their service to Calvin University. The board also recognized President Michael Le Roy for his ten years of service and welcomed Senator Mark Huizenga, who presented him with a legislative tribute on behalf of his work with higher education in the state of Michigan.

II. Finance

The Calvin University Board of Trustees approved the 2022-2023 budget proposal.

III. Academic

The Calvin University Board of Trustees ratified or endorsed curricular program revisions, new courses, course revisions, faculty handbook revisions, faculty promotions, faculty retirements, and faculty completion of service recognitions. They also approved the recommendations in the academic portfolio planning report and granted emeriti status to President Michael Le Roy.

IV. Board Matters

The Calvin University 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 University Board of Trustees.

A. *Board membership*

1. Trustee nominations

a. At-large trustees

Bruce Los is completing his second three-year term on the board as a Region 4 at-large trustee. The board recommends him as an at-large trustee to serve a three-year term.

Jeffrey De Nooyer is completing service on the board as an at-large trustee. The board recommends the following nominee to serve a three-year term:

Mindy (Andringa) Vanden Bosch, a member of Second Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa, is a 2000 graduate of Calvin University from Pella, Iowa. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in business communications and graduated from Davenport University with a master's degree in business administration. She is the managing director of Forage Solutions at Vermeer Manufacturing. She has extensive experience in business and board membership.

b. Regional at-large trustees

Region 2

Willemina Zwart is completing service on the board as a regional at-large member. The board recommends the following nominee to serve a three-year term:

Lambert (Tony) Kamphuis, a member of Mountainview CRC in Grimsby, Ontario, is a 1985 graduate of Calvin University from Smithville, Ontario. He earned his bachelor of arts in education, and he earned a master's degree in Canadian History from Wilfrid Laurier University. He currently serves as the CEO of the Christian School Foundation and has extensive education experience.

Region 4

Bruce Los is completing his second three-year term on the board as a Region 4 trustee. There was also a one-year vacancy in a Region 4 at-large position for 2021-2022. The board recommends the following single nominees to serve a three-year term:

Eugene (Gene) Miyamoto, a member of Pillar Church in Holland, Michigan, is a 1977 graduate of Calvin University with a philosophy major. He earned a master of health services administration degree from the University of Michigan. He is a healthcare services consultant and a co-owner/managing partner of a private asset management trust and has extensive business, board, and health-care experience. He previously served as president of the Calvin Alumni Association Board and currently serves as chair of the Colossian Forum Board.

Carolyn Van Allen, a member of Monroe Community Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a 2002 graduate of Calvin University with an accounting major. She is a partner at Monroe, Sweeris, and Tromp PLC. She has nonprofit accounting experience.

Region 6

Michael Den Bleyker is completing his second term on the board as a regional trustee; he served from 2013-2019 and is now completing a one-year term. The board recommends the following nominee to serve a three-year term:

Bryan Dik, a member of Immanuel CRC in Fort Collins, Colorado, is a 1998 graduate of Calvin University with a psychology major and

a minor in religion and theology. He earned a Ph.D. in psychology (counseling) from the University of Minnesota. He is a professor of psychology at Colorado State University. He is the author of *Redeeming Work* and a coinventor of PathwayU.

2. Trustee reappointments

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

Region 2 (elected): Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman for a three-year term

Alumni: Alice Klamer for a second three-year term

At-large: Mary Tuuk Kuras for a second three-year term

At-large: Rachel Vander Veen for a third three-year term

B. Board officers

The Calvin University Board of Trustees appointed the following officers of the board for 2022-2023: Bruce Los, chair; Mary Tuuk Kuras, vice chair; Rhonda Roorda, secretary; and Tim Fennema, treasurer (vice president for finance and administration).

V. Other

The Calvin University Board of Trustees ratified the decision authorizing President Le Roy to grant degrees, honors, and certificates upon those recommended by the faculty at the 2022 commencement ceremonies.

VI. Recommendation

A. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Bruce Los, and to the president of Calvin University, Michael K. Le Roy, when matters pertaining to education are discussed.

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

Calvin University
Michael K. Le Roy, president

World Renew Supplement

I. Board matters

A. Classical delegate appointment - Canada

The board requests that synod approve the appointment of Aria Sawyer to serve a first term of three years as a classical delegate for Classis B.C. North-West to replace the retiring Dave Mayer. In addition, it is recommended that synod appoint Cindy Benedictus to serve a first term of three years as a classical delegate for Classis Ontario Southwest. These two persons have been nominated by their respective classes.

B. Canadian members completing terms

World Renew would like to recognize and thank the following board members on completing their terms of service: Sheku Koroma (member-at-large), Chloe Stel (member-at-large), and George Lubberts (Alberta South/Saskatchewan).

C. Classical delegates - U.S.

The board requests that synod appoint the following as U.S. classical delegates to a first term of three years: Emily Boldenow Fortuna (Atlantic North-east), Ron Schrottenboer (Central California), Ken MacBain (Hackensack).

D. Member-at-large delegate - U.S.

The board requests that synod appoint the following nominee as a U.S. member at large to a first term of three years:

Thomas Christian is an active member of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., where he is committed to the engagement and support of ministry activities. He firmly believes in the mission of World Renew and desires to use his relevant professional work experience and skill sets to assist World Renew however he can. Having practiced law at an international law firm in Washington, D.C., and taking a year to work for a federal judge, he understands complex topics that NGOs face on a day-to-day basis. He has advised Fortune 500 companies on complex international trade and compliance matters—including federal government foreign direct investment reviews, sanctions, and export control compliance. In addition, he has participated in pro bono work for several NGOs, helping them with U.S. economic sanctions compliance, board governance, and other corporate matters.

E. Reappointment of U.S. members to additional one-year term

The board recommends that synod reappoint the following U.S. classical delegates to an additional one-year term: Monika Grasley (Central California), Marc Faasse (Grandville), and Rebekah Vanderzee (Greater Los Angeles).

F. Board member emeritus

The board reports that the following person will serve as board member emeritus for up to two years: Charles Adams from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

G. U.S. member completing term

World Renew would like to recognize and thank the following board members for completing service on the board: Chadd Huizenga (Columbia), Michelle Falk (Grand Rapids North), Stephen Na (Holland), Dave Hoekstra (Kalamazoo), and Tim Kuperus (Yellowstone).

II. Recommendation

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

World Renew

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

Kenneth Kim, interim 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 from its February and May 2022 meetings.

I. Board of Trustees

At its meeting on May 19-20, 2022, the board elected the following officers for 2022-2023: David Morren, chair; Rev. Scott Greenway, vice chair; Susan Keesen, secretary.

II. Academics**A. *Graduates and new programs***

During the course of the past year we increasingly moved to in-person learning along with our online delivery system of education. A recent change to our M.Div. program will allow us to offer a four-year (down from five-year) online M.Div. degree.

We also were able recently to fully open our remodeled building, which helps us to focus increasingly on community, education, and worship with the use of more technology, better flexibility, and multiple collaborative learning spaces. Synod delegates are invited to an open house the evening of June 14, 2022.

On May 21, 2022, Calvin Theological Seminary conducted its first “normal” commencement program since 2019 to honor sixty-one students who completed certificate or degree programs. A viewing of the ceremony can be found at calvinseminary.edu/commencement.

Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) has been approved by the Association of Theological Schools to begin offering a doctor of ministry (D.Min.) degree, and we are ready to welcome our third cohort this summer. A previous synod asked CTS to investigate this degree program as part of a continuing education report—we are glad for the ongoing support of the church. (See calvinseminary.edu/academics/doctor-of-ministry.)

B. *Distinguished Alumni Awards – 2022*

Rev. Harvey Kiekoover was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2022. We highlighted his contributions on the mission fields of Nigeria, depth of pastoral care experience, and distinguished service at Calvin Christian Reformed Church and at Holland Home senior living facilities.

Rev. Stanley Workman was also recognized as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2022. We highlighted his contributions in various churches—and especially his development of a multiethnic congregation as Oasis CRC in Orlando, Florida, over a period of thirty years. Rev. Workman was also recognized for his lengthy classical and denominational service, as well as his work with twenty-three interns as developing ministry leaders.

Two videos on the ministry and testimonies of Rev. Kiekoover and Rev. Workman are available for viewing:

Rev. Harvey Kiekoover: vimeo.com/manage/videos/710369013
 Rev. Stanley Workman: vimeo.com/711303998

C. *Board actions*

At its two most recent meetings, the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees took the following actions or took note of the following items for information:

1. Reappointed Dr. Cory Willson as associate professor of missiology and missional ministry and awarded him tenure as a faculty member of Calvin Theological Seminary.
2. Approved curriculum changes for the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree along with the Master of Arts in Bible and Theology (MABT) and Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree programs. Approved a proposed name change and curriculum change for the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership.
3. Approved the faculty recommendation and hereby submit for interview and approval by synod the appointment of Dr. Yudha Thianto as professor of history of Christianity and Reformed theology. Dr. Thianto's curriculum vitae is found in Appendix A.
4. Approved the faculty recommendation and hereby submit for interview and approval by synod the appointment of Dr. Wilson Cunha as professor of Old Testament. Dr. Cunha's curriculum vitae is found in Appendix B.

5. Approved the formation of a search team for the positions of professor of New Testament and Latino/a ministry program director due to the retirement of Dr. Mariano Avila.
6. Noted the celebration of the first bachelor of arts commencement ceremony for students completing this degree through the Calvin Prison Initiative. The pandemic interrupted plans to hold this ceremony until 2022. Seventy-eight students were represented for the classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022. This program is part of an ongoing partnership with Calvin University.
7. Noted that the Meeter Center for Calvin Studies of Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Various plans are being developed to help with the celebration.
8. Noted that the Kuyper Prize sponsored by Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary was awarded to Ruth Padilla DeBorst in April 2022 at the Kuyper Conference.
9. Heard an update on summer course offerings, including one course on resilience and another on mindfulness as we seek to help leaders sustain and flourish during this stressful time of ministry. We anticipate that continuing education offerings will continue to expand and grow as a result of the \$1 million award to Calvin Theological Seminary through Lilly Endowment Inc. in response to an application for the Pathways for Tomorrow grant program for seminaries. CTS is one of 84 seminaries to

receive such an award. More information can be found at calvinseminary.edu/the-table/stories/lilly-grant.

10. Heard an update from Rev. Shawn Brix, who continues his work as the Calvin Theological Seminary Canadian church relations liaison.
11. The Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees approved emeritus status for the following: Dr. Mariano Avila (professor of New Testament), Dr. Lyle Bierma (P.J. Zondervan professor of the history of Christianity), and Dr. John Rottman (professor of preaching).
12. Noted the development of an arrangement for Dr. Young Ahn Kang to continue to teach and serve students (especially in the Th.M. and Ph.D. programs) from South Korea.
13. Heard an update about and toured the major CTS renovation/remodeling project focused on classrooms, the Student Center, and the Chapel for the purpose of upgrading technology, providing flexibility in use of space, and developing collaborative learning environments. We give thanks for the support that has been received above and beyond our annual operating fund.

D. Board appointment

The board recommends that synod appoint the following nominee to the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees as an at-large member for a first term of three years.

Pastor James Jones is a commissioned pastor with Oakdale Park CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In addition to his service at Oakdale, Pastor Jones brings previous experience as president of the Christian Reformed Home Missions Board, as a member and officer of the CRC Candidacy Committee, as chair of 70 x 7 (formerly known as Criminal Justice Chaplaincy), and as a member of Grand Rapids Area Pastor Association. Pastor Jones is dedicated to serving in a multiethnic congregation and to the disciplines needed to resource church leaders for sustaining in ministry. Pastor Jones recently completed a master of arts degree in ministry leadership at Calvin Theological Seminary.

III. Recommendations

- A. That synod, upon a successful interview, appoint Dr. Yudha Thianto as professor of history of Christianity and Reformed theology.
- B. That synod, upon a successful interview, appoint Dr. Wilson Cunha as professor of Old Testament.
- C. That synod by way of the ballot appoint Pastor James Jones as an at-large member to the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees for a first term of three years.

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
Susan Keesen, secretary

Appendix A

Curriculum Vitae: Dr. Yudha Thianto

Education

Calvin Theological Seminary

- Ph. D. in History of Christianity (2003)
- Dissertation title: *Baptismal Practice and Trinitarian Belief in Joseph Bingham's Origines Ecclesiasticae: A Study in the Historical and Theological Contexts of Patristic Scholarship at the Close of the Era of Orthodoxy*
- Dissertation advisor: Prof. Richard Muller

Calvin Theological Seminary

- Completed course work for Th.M. Program in Historical Theology (1995)

Calvin Theological Seminary

- Master of Theological Studies (MTS) in General Theology (1994)
- Major Fields of Study: Course work in five academic areas: New Testament, Old Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology, and Philosophical Theology

South-East Asia Bible Seminary, Indonesia

- Certificate in Biblical and Systematic Theology (1991)

Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia

- University (Doctorandus) degree in English Linguistics (1988)

Languages

- Native speaker of Indonesian and Javanese
- Reading ability of Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, and seveneenth-century Malay

Teaching Experience

Fall 2008 – present

Trinity Christian College

Professor of Theology with Permanent Tenure

- Courses Regularly Taught
 - Theo 121 Biblical Foundations: The Old Testament and Its Fulfillment (every fall semester)
 - Theo 122 The Church and Christian Traditions (every spring semester)
 - Theo 242 Cross-cultural Missions (every spring semester)
 - Theo / Phil 335 Calvinistic Tradition (every fall semester)
 - Theo 401 Senior Capstone (every fall semester)
 - Theo 330 History of Christianity (every spring semester)
- Other Courses Taught (frequently but not regularly)
 - HON 331 Recent Trends in the Doctrine of God (honors course)
 - Theo 305 Contemporary Issues in Christian Theology
 - HON 333 God, Creation, and the Age of the Universe (honors course)
 - HON 335 If Adam Evolved (honors course; team teaching with a colleague in the Biology Department)
 - INQ 205 Theology and Biology in Dialogue: Human Origins (foundations course; team teaching with a colleague in the Biology Department)

Fall 2004 – Spring 2008

Associate Professor of Theology, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois

Fall 2001 – Spring 2004

Assistant Professor of Theology, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois

Summer 2000

Adjunct Faculty at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan

- Teaching two M.Div. Courses: Historical Theology IV (Early Modern to Modern Period) and Historical Theology I (Early Church History)

Spring 2000

Adjunct Faculty at Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan

- Teaching M.A. course: Systematic Theology Survey I (Prolegomena, Doctrine of God, and Doctrine of Humanity and Sin)
- Team-teaching for M.A. course: Church History Survey; responsibility: Teaching Early Modern to Modern Period of Church History (1650–1950)

1999 – 2000

Adjunct Faculty at Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Michigan

- Teaching undergraduate course on General Epistolary Literature (Spring 2000)
- Teaching undergraduate course on World Religions II: Judaism and Islam (Fall 1999)

Summer 1996

Visiting Lecturer at Reformed Evangelical Seminary, Jakarta, Indonesia

- Teaching Summer M.Div. course on Modern Theology

Summer 1995

Visiting Lecturer at Reformed Evangelical Seminary, Jakarta, Indonesia

- Teaching Summer M.Div. course on Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions

2014 – present

South-East Asia Bible Seminary (STT Seminary Alkitab Asia Tenggara-SAAT), Malang, Indonesia

Visiting Professor

- Regularly teaching Th.M.-level intensive summer and online courses:
 - Reformation and Post-Reformation Era
 - Early Church History

Th.M. thesis supervisor

Current Research Projects

- Influence of Calvin's theology and ecclesiastical practices in the early establishment of Reformed churches in the Dutch East Indies in the seventeenth century. First research topic within this broader scope is on the Malay translations of catechisms and sermons in the East Indies. Second topic is on the adaptation and translation of Genevan (metrical)

psalms and ecclesiastical songs from Dutch to Malay in the seventeenth-century Dutch East Indies.

- Research on historical linguistics, primarily studying changes and development of Malay in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, utilizing manuscripts and printed texts published by the Dutch East India Company (*Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie*—VOC) for church and education in the East Indies.

Working Experience

1998 – 2001

Research Assistant, H. Henry Meeter Center at Calvin College

- Primary responsibilities: Maintaining and indexing the Meeter Center for Calvin and Calvinism article collection database
- Other responsibility: Assisting Dr. Karin Maag, director of H. Henry Meeter Center, in the Sixteenth-Century French Religious Book Project. My task in this project was to extract necessary information of printed texts that were part of the collection of the *Dutch Pamphlets* in the Royal Library, the Netherlands, and pamphlets included in *French Political Pamphlets 1547-1648*, edited by Robert Lindsay and John Neu.

Relevant Experience

1991 – 1992

Translator staff of Reformed Evangelical Council, Indonesia

- Primary task: Translating Louis Berkhof's *Systematic Theology* from English into Indonesian

Publications

Monographs

The Way to Heaven: Catechisms and Sermons in the Establishment of the Dutch Reformed Church in the East Indies (Eugene, Ore.: Wipf & Stock, 2014).

An Explorer's Guide to John Calvin (Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, July 2022).

Edited Volume

Calvin and the Old Testament (under contract from Brill Publishing Company. Leiden, the Netherlands, forthcoming).

Translation Work

Indonesian Translation of Louis Berkhof's *Systematic Theology*, published by Reformed Evangelical Council Indonesia, Jakarta, 1992-1996 (published in six volumes).

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

"Three Persons as Three Individual Substances: Joseph Bingham's Sermon on the Trinity and Its Place in the Trinitarian Controversy at Oxford in the Last Decade of the Seventeenth Century," *Fides et Historia* (40:1), Winter / Spring 2008, 67-86.

"Stories Registers of Baptism Told: Private Baptism in Post-Reformation England," *History* (Blackwell, Oxford), vol. 95, issue 2, number 318, April 2010, 177-193.

- "Elements of Calvin's Theology and Practice in the Reformed Churches in Java in the Seventeenth Century" in *John Calvin: Myth and Reality*, Amy Nelson-Burnett, ed., (Eugene, Ore.: Cascade Books, 2011), 96-117.
- "Formula of Baptism and the Equality of the Godhead: Joseph Bingham (1667-1723) and the Trinitarian Controversy in Late-Stuart England" in *The New Evangelical Subordinationism?* Dennis W. Jowers and H. Wayne House, eds., (Eugene, Ore.: Pickwick Publications, 2012), 182-212.
- "Reformed Education from Geneva through the Netherlands to the East Indies" in *Church and School in Early Modern Protestantism: Studies in Honor of Richard A. Muller on the Maturation of a Theological Tradition*, Jordan J. Ballor, David S. Sytsma, and Jason Zuidema, eds. (Leiden: Brill, 2013), 489-501.
- "From Ruyl to Leijdecker: A Study of the Development of the Malay Language as Reflected in the Translations of the Beatitudes" in Neila G. M. Mamahit, ed., *385 Years of the Gospel of Matthew, Translated by A. C. Ruyl* (Jakarta: Lembaga Alkitab Indonesia, 2014), 21-33.
- "Genevan Psalms in Javanese," *Calvin Theological Journal* 52.2 (2017): 151-180.
- "The Early Establishment of Calvinism in South-East Asia: Cultural Encounters and the Shaping of Religious Language for God," *Advance Science Letters* (ASL) vol. 23, no. 10 (Oct. 2017).
- "Calvin in Asia" in *Calvin in Context*, R. Ward Holder, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 399-407.
- "Muslim-Calvinist Encounters and the Shaping of Reformed Protestantism in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch East Indies" in *Juden, Christen, und Muslime im Zeitalter der Reformation / Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Reformation Era*, Matthias Pohlig, ed. (Heidelberg: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 2020), 316-331.

Book Reviews

- Review of Willem J. Van Asselt and Eef Dekker, eds., *Reformation and Scholasticism: An Ecumenical Enterprise in Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis / Dutch Review of Church History*, (82) Fall 2002.
- Review of Douglas Catterall, *Community without Borders: Scots Migrants and the Changing Face of Power in the Dutch Republic, c. 1600-1700* in *Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis / Dutch Review of Church History*, (84) Fall 2004.
- Review of Michel Rene Barnes, *The Power of God: Dynamis in Gregory of Nyssa's Trinitarian Theology* in *Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis / Dutch Review of Church History*, (84) Fall 2004.
- Review of William Gibson, *Enlightenment Prelate: Benjamin Hoadly in Fides et Historia*, (38/2) Summer / Fall 2006.
- Review of Charles Partee, *The Theology of John Calvin* (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2008) in *Religious Studies Review*, (35/4) Dec. 2009, 290-91.
- Review of Gordon Mikoski, *Baptism and Christian Identity: Teaching in the Triune Name* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2009) in *Calvin Theological Journal*, (45/1) Apr. 2010, 216-217.
- Review of Hadrianus Junius (trans. Nico de Glas), *Holland is een Eiland: De Batavia van Hadrianus Junius (1511-1575)* (Hilversum: Verloren, 2011) in *Sixteenth-Century Journal*, (44/1) Spring 2013, 299-230.

Review of Friederich Schleiermacher (trans. Ian G. Nicol and Allen G. Jorgenson), *On the Doctrine of Election with Special Reference to the Aphorisms of Dr. Bretschneider*, Columbia Series in Reformed Theology (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), *Sixteenth-Century Journal*, (46/3) Fall 2015, 826-827.

Academic Presentations

- "Baptism, Bingham, and the Book of Common Prayer: What Postmodern Churches Can Learn from the Way Late Seventeenth-Century Anglicanism Utilized the Patristic Material in Its Liturgy of Infant Baptism," Calvin Institute for Worship and Liturgy, Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 28, 2004.
- "Three Persons as Three Individual Substances: Joseph Bingham's Sermon on the Trinity and Its Place in the Trinitarian Controversy at Oxford in the 1690s," American Society of Church History Conference, Seattle, Wash., Jan. 7, 2005.
- "From Servitor to University College Tutor: The Education and Early Career of Joseph Bingham at Oxford University, 1684-1695," Sixteenth-Century Conference, Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 21, 2005.
- "Patristic Scholarship in Early Eighteenth-Century England: The Publication and Translations of Joseph Bingham's *Origines Ecclesiasticae*," American Society of Church History Conference, Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 8, 2006.
- "Private Baptism in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century England: Prescription, Practice, and Problem," Icons and Iconoclasts: The Long Seventeenth-Century Conference, King's College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, July 21, 2006.
- "Stories Baptismal Registers Told: Non-Emergency Private Baptism in Post-Reformation England," Reformation Studies Colloquium, University of York, England, Apr. 3-5, 2008.
- "A Visual Aid for Our Faith: Baptism as a Visible Sign of God's Invisible Grace," Trinity Christian College, Tenure Lecture, Mar. 31, 2009.
- "Elements of Calvin's Theology and Practice in the Reformed Churches in Java in the Seventeenth Century," Calvin Studies Society Colloquium, Grand Rapids, Mich., Apr. 18, 2009.
- "Calvin in Late-Stuart England: Joseph Bingham's Use of Calvin's View of Baptism as a Voice of Authority against the Non-Conformists," Calvin and His Influence, 1509-2009, Geneva, Switzerland, May 27, 2009.
- "The Genevan Psalter in Javanese," Conference on Reformed Mission in an Age of World Christianity, Grand Rapids, Mich., June 15-17, 2010.
- "The Place of Catechism in the Establishment of Dutch Reformed Churches in the East Indies in the Early Seventeenth Century," Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, Montreal, Que., Oct. 15-17, 2010.
- "Baptism in the Dutch Reformed Churches in the East Indies in the Early Seventeenth Century," Reformation Studies Colloquium, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, Sept. 11-14, 2010.
- "The Translation of the Genevan Psalter into Javanese," Forum on Music and Christian Scholarship Conference, Wheaton College, Ill., Mar. 18, 2011.
- "Proclamation, Polemics, and Propaganda: The Role of Printed Sermons in the Establishment of Reformed Churches in the East Indies in the Seventeenth Century," Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference in Fort Worth, Tex., Oct. 27-30, 2011.

- "Reformed Education and Catechism in the East Indies," Reformation Studies Colloquium, University of Durham, Sept. 2-5, 2012 (paper accepted and scheduled for presentation, but I was unable to attend due to problem with the visa to enter the UK).
- "*Christe qui lux es et dies* in Seventeenth-Century Malay," Forum on Music and Christian Scholarship Conference, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Feb. 14-16, 2013.
- "Singing a Medieval Hymn in the Dutch East Indies," Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Oct. 24-27, 2013.
- "The Evolution of a Christian Text from Seventeenth-Century Malay to Modern-Day Indonesian: A Historical Linguistics Study from the Perspective of Transformational-Generative Model," at the International Linguistics Conference III, Diponegoro State University, Semarang, Indonesia, July 2-4, 2013.
- "Pronouns in Seventeenth-Century Malay: A Historical Linguistics Study of Educational Texts Published by the VOC for Children in the East Indies," invited as plenary speaker at the International Linguistics Conference, Language Maintenance and Shift IV (LAMAS IV), Diponegoro State University, Semarang, Indonesia, 18 Nov., 2014.
- "Singing the Metrical Psalms in Seventeenth-Century Malay," 22nd International Congress of Historical Sciences, Shandong University, Jinan, China, Aug. 23-29, 2015.
- "Singing Psalm 100 in the Dutch East Indies in the Seventeenth Century," Sixteenth-Century Study Conference, Bruges, Belgium, Aug. 18-21, 2016.
- "The Early Establishment of Calvinism in South-East Asia: Cultural Encounters and the Shaping of Religious Language for God," The First Conference on Southeast Asian Maritime World (ICONSEAMO), Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia, 16-17 Nov. 2016.
- "Islamic Influence in the Establishment of Reformed Protestantism in the Dutch East Indies in the Early Seventeenth Century," International Conference on Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, a commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, Nuremberg, Germany, 18-21 July 2017.
- The Hymns of Petrus Dathenus," Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 26-29, 2017.
- "Schubert's Oratorio *Lazarus* in Its Theological Context," Society for Christian Scholarship in Music, Wake Forest, N.C., Feb. 8-10, 2018.
- "The Role of Unordained Church Workers in the Spread of Reformed Protestantism in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch East Indies," Evangelical Missiological Society Conference, Dallas, Tex., Oct. 12-14, 2018.
- "Church Discipline in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch Reformed Church in the East Indies: Church Orders, Sermons, and Practice," Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, Albuquerque, N.Mex., Nov. 1-4, 2018.
- "Teaching Schoolchildren to Sing Metrical Psalms in Malay: Dutch Reformed Church and Its Expansion in the Seventeenth-Century East Indies," Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 18-20, 2019.
- "Baptismal Issues in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch East Indies," Meeter Center online symposium, Sept. 24, 2020.

"Low-Level Church Workers in the Spread of Reformed Protestantism in the Time of the Dutch East India Company (VOC)," International Online Symposium of Leiden University, the Netherlands and Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, Oct. 12-13, 2020.

"Psalms in Oppositions: Early Seventeenth-Century Dutch Anabaptist Psalms against Their Reformed Counterparts," Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, San Diego, Calif., Oct. 30, 2021.

Invited Special Lectures and Workshops

"Language, Translation, and Interpretation: A Study of the History of the Translations of the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments into Malay in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch East Indies," General Lecture (*Studium Generale*), English Department, Soegijapranata Catholic University, Semarang, Indonesia, Nov. 20, 2014.

"Historical Linguistics Research," General Lecture (*Studium Generale*), English Department, Universitas Jendral Soedirman, Purwokerto, Indonesia, Dec. 19, 2014.

Workshop on "Writing Articles for Peer-Review Publications," Universitas Jendral Soedirman (Unsoed), Purwokerto, Central Java, 11 and 13 Aug. 2015.

"Loan Words as Shapers of Identity in Seventeenth-Century Malay: A Historical Linguistics Study of Christian Songs Published by the VOC," International Linguistics Conference, Language Maintenance and Shift V (LAMAS V), Diponegoro State University, Semarang, Indonesia, August 2-3, 2015.

"From Geneva to South-East Asia: Singing the Metrical Psalms and Ecclesiastical Songs in the Dutch East Indies in the Early Seventeenth Century," fall 2015 annual lectureship, Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich., 14 Oct. 2015.

"Formal Language to Address God in Christian Prayers: A Sociology of Language Study," General Lecture (*Studium Generale*), Department of Sociology, Jendral Soedirman University, Purwokerto, Indonesia, June 9, 2016.

Workshop on "Peer-Review Publication and its Challenges," Faculty Development Event, Jendral Soedirman University, Purwokerto, Indonesia, July 25, 2016.

"Protestantism in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch East Indies: Cultural Encounters, Struggles, and Progress, Wheaton College Graduate Students Conference, Wheaton, Ill., Apr. 21, 2018.

"Method and Model of Analysis in Comparative Linguistics Research," online *studium generale*, Masters of Linguistics Program, Diponegoro State University, Semarang, Indonesia, Sept. 5, 2020.

"Comparative and Historical Linguistics Studies," online *stadium generale*, English Department, Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia, June 22, 2021.

Grants Received

- Trinity Christian College Alumni Summer Research Grant (June – July 2002)
 - Research topic: "Trinitarian Controversy at Oxford in the 1690s." Research project conducted at the Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif.

- Calvin College Seminar for Christian Scholarship (June – July 2003)
Seminar topic: “Prospect of Historic Liturgy in Postmodern Age”
Seminar director: Dr. Bryan Spinks
- Trinity Christian College Faculty Initiative for Professional Development Grant (Aug. 2003)
 - Research topic: “The Theology of J.S. Bach as Reflected in his Cantata 150”
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Research Grant: “John Calvin and the Transformation of Religious Culture in Geneva, France, and Beyond,” Calvin College, June 28 – July 30, 2004.
 - Seminar directors: Dr. Karin Maag and Dr. Ray Mentzer
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (July – Aug. 2005)
 - Research topic: “Private Baptism in England Following the Publication of the 1662 Edition of the Book of Common Prayer”
 - Research project conducted at the Newberry Library, Chicago
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (July – Aug. 2006)
 - Research topic: “Private Baptism in England in the Late Seventeenth Century”
 - Research project conducted at the British Library and Guildhall Library, London, England
- Trinity Christian College Interim Research Funds (January 2007)
 - Research topic: “Private Baptism in England in the Late Seventeenth Century”
 - Research project conducted at the Guildhall Library and the British Library, London, England.
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (Summer 2008)
 - Research Topic: “The Influence of Calvinistic Theology in the Establishment of Reformed Churches in Java in the Early Seventeenth Century”
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (Summer 2009)
 - Research Topic: “The Place of Catechism in the Establishment of Reformed Churches in Java in the Early Seventeenth Century”
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (Summer 2010)
 - Research Topic: “Baptism in the Establishment of Reformed Churches in Java in the Early Seventeenth Century”
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (Summer 2011)
 - Research Topic: “Education in the Establishment of Reformed Churches in the East Indies in the Early Seventeenth Century”
 - Research Conducted at the University of Leiden, Free University Amsterdam and Apeldoorn, the Netherlands
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (Summer 2012)
 - Research Topic: Translation of the Bible into Malay in the Early Seventeenth Century
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (Summer 2013)
 - Research Topic: The Issue of Baptism of the Children of Slaves in the East Indies at the Synod of Dordt 1618-19
- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (Summer 2017)
 - Research Topic: The Hymns of Petrus Dathenus in the Dutch Reformed Church in the Sixteenth Century
- Dabar Conference Incentive Grant funded by the Creation Project: An initiative of the Henry Center at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School,

supported by the John Templeton Foundation, for a course development on Christian faith and science (Fall 2020)

- Trinity Christian College Summer Research Grant (2021)
 - Research Topic: Javanese Accounts of the Interactions between the Dutch and the Javanese People in the Seventeenth Century
- Free University of Amsterdam Research Grant (May 2022)
 - Research Topic: Itinerant Preachers and Migration in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch East Indies

Other

- Completed paleography training to read sixteenth- and seventeenth-century manuscripts, Meeter Center for Calvin Studies (Summer 1999 and 2001)
- Grade 5 Music Theory Certificate, Associated Board of Royal School of Music (ABRSM), UK, Feb. 2012, with distinction
- Grade 7 Piano Certificate, Associated Board of Royal School of Music (ABRSM), UK, May 2013
- Grade 8 Piano Performance Certificate (highest grade), Associated Board of Royal School of Music (ABRSM), UK, May 2021, with merit
- Trinity Christian College Professor of the Year Award, 2020

Appendix B

Curriculum Vitae: Dr. Wilson de Angelo Cunha

Education

Ph.D., Leiden University, Old Testament, Institute for Religious Studies, School of Humanities, 2011

Th.M., Calvin Theological Seminary, Old Testament, 2006

B.Th., José Manoel da Conceição Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 2002

Teaching Experience

Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, LeTourneau University

- HEBR 1113, Elementary Hebrew I
- HEBR 1123, Elementary Hebrew II
- BIBL 1043, Biblical Foundations for Living
- BIBL 1033, Biblical Literature (also online)
- BIBL 3033, Old Testament Backgrounds
- BIBL 3043, Introduction to Biblical Interpretation
- BIBL 3103, Pentateuch (also online)
- BIBL 3203, Historical Books
- BIBL 3303, Psalms and Wisdom Literature (also online)
- BIBL 3413, Pre-Exilic Prophets
- BIBL 3423, Exilic and Post-Exilic Prophets
- BIBL 3433, Prophetic Books
- BIBL 4993, ST: Genesis
- BIBL 3503, Life and Teachings of Christ (online)
- BIBL 3653, Romans (online)
- BIBL 3623, Paul's Prison Letters (online)
- BIBL 4953, ST: Psalms

- BIBL 4963, ST: Backgrounds to the Old Testament
- BIBL 4973, ST: Prophets
- BIBL 4963, ST: Isaiah
- HNRS 3551, Seeing the Bible through Ancient Art: Iconography and the Old Testament
- HNRS 3311, Creation and Cosmology: An Interdisciplinary Approach (cotaught with Steve Ball, Ph.D., Professor of Physics)

Additional Teaching Experience

Adjunct: Calvin Theological Seminary; The Psalms and Wisdom Literature, 2020

Adjunct: Calvin Theological Seminary; Old Testament Prophets, 2016

Doctoral Researcher: Leiden University; The Hebrew Bible and Its Reception, 2010

Teaching Assistant: Calvin Theological Seminary; Courses: Biblical Hebrew and Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis, 2005-2006

Teaching Assistant: José Manoel da Conceição Presbyterian Theological Seminary; Courses: Biblical Hebrew and Exegesis of Genesis, 2001-2002

Institutional Experience

Past President of the Teaching Faculty Organization, 2021-2022

LETU's Three Year Strategic Planning Committee, 2020-2021

Committee on Committees, 2020-2021

Student Recruitment Committee, 2020-2021

President-Elect of the Teaching Faculty Organization, 2020-2021

Chair of the Interpersonal Affairs Committee, a subcommittee of the Teaching Faculty Organization, 2019-2020

Assessment and Continuous Improvement Committee, 2019-2020

Assessment and Continuous Improvement Committee, 2018-2019

Chair of the Christian Ministry/Biblical Studies Search Committee, 2017-2018

Teaching Faculty Organization, executive council member and secretary, 2017-2019

Engineering Search Committee, 2016-2017

Learning Resources Committee, 2016-2017

Student Application and Service Experience Task Force, 2015-2016

Learning Resources Committee, 2015-2016

Academic Integrity Committee, 2014-2015

Student Housing Committee, 2013-2014

Human Resources Committee, 2012-2013

Chemistry Search Committee, 2011-2012

Academic Grants

Office of the President/Provost's Office's Sabbatical Grant, spring 2019

Thesis Supervisor/Reader

Second reader of "Angry God, Loving Jesus? Finding Marcion in Contemporary Theology" by Julie Marie Castin, submitted to Tyndale Theological Seminary as a requirement for the Master of Evangelical Theology, 2018.

Publications – Books

- Cunha, Wilson de Angelo. *Genesis: A Commentary* (Kregel Exegetical Library series; Kregel, under contract), 2027.
- Cunha, Wilson de Angelo and Andrew Abernethy. *Isaiah and Intertextuality* (Forschungen zum Alten Testament. 2 Reihe; Tübingen: Morh & Siebeck, under contract), 2022.
- Cunha, Wilson de Angelo and Christian Brially de Medeiros. “*Cor Meum Tibi Offero Domine Prompte et Sincere*” – *O Meu Coração a Ti Ofereço, Senhor, prontamente e sinceramente. Estudos em Honra ao Rev. Hermisten Maia Pereira da Costa por Ocasião dos seus 65 anos* (Brasília: Monergismo), 2021.
- Cunha, Wilson de Angelo. *The Book of Isaiah: A Thematic Approach* (Pickwick Publications), 2021.
- Cunha, Wilson de Angelo. *LXX Isaiah 24:1-26:6 as Interpretation and Translation: A Methodological Discussion* (Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies series 62; Atlanta: SBL Press), 2014.

Publications – Articles/Book Chapters

- “Isaiah 39 and the Human Trust Motif in First Isaiah.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* (provisionally accepted), 2021.
- “Fé, Ciência e Acomodação Divina em João Calvino” in Wilson de Angelo Cunha and Christian Brially de Medeiros “*Cor Meum Tibi Offero Domine Prompte et Sincere*” – *O Meu Coração a Ti Ofereço, Senhor, prontamente e sinceramente. Estudos em Honra ao Rev. Hermisten Maia Pereira da Costa por Ocasião dos seus 65 anos* (Brasília: Monergismo), 2021.
- “Creation, Kinship, and the Defeat of Evil: A Reflection on Psalm 74,” *Revista de Cultura Teológica* 97, 2020.
- “The Nāḥāš in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:4b-3:24): Malevolent or Benevolent?” *Revista de Cultura Teológica* 89, 2017.
- “Kingship and Kingdom: A Discussion of Isaiah 24:21-2; 27:12-13” in *Formation and Intertextuality in Isaiah 24-27* (ed. Todd Hibbard and Paul Kim; Ancient Israel and Its Literature 17; Atlanta: SBL), 2013.
- “LXX Isaiah 25:6-8 and the Issue of Coherence” in *LXX: XIV Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, Helsinki 2010* (ed. Melvin K. H. Peters; Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies 59; Atlanta: SBL), 2013.
- “A Brief Discussion of MT Isaiah 24, 14-16,” *Biblica* 90, 2009.

Book Reviews

- Review of B. Kim, “*Lengthen Your Tent-Cords.*” *The Metaphorical World of Israel’s Household in the Book of Isaiah* (Siphrot: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures, 23; Eisenbrauns, University Park, Pa., 2018). *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXXVII No. 5-6, 2020.
- Review of J.J. Kwon, *Scribal Culture and Intertextuality: Literary and Historical Relationships between Job and Deutero-Isaiah* (Forschungen zum Alten Testament, 2. Reihe, vol. 85; Tübingen: Morh & Siebeck, 2016). *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXXVII No. 5-6, 2020.
- Review of Christoph Levin, *Das Alte Testament* (5th ed.; München: Verlag C. H. Beck, 2018) in the *Review of Biblical Literature* 09/2019.

- Review of Ben Witherington III, *Isaiah Old and New: Exegesis, Intertextuality, and Hermeneutics* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017). *Review of Biblical Literature* 07/2018.
- Review of William D. Barker, *Isaiah's Kingship Polemic* (FAT 2/70; Tübingen: Mohr & Siebeck, 2014). *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXXIII, 2016.
- Review of Arie C. Leder, *Waiting for the Land: The Story Line of the Pentateuch* (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2010). *Calvin Theological Journal* 48/2, 2013.
- Review of J. Stromberg, *An Introduction to the Study of Isaiah* (London: T & T Clark, 2011). *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 56/3, 2013.
- Review of J. Ferry, *Isaïe: "Comme les mots d'un livre scellé..."* (Paris: Cerf. 2008). *Review of Biblical Literature*, 2013.

Nonacademic

- "On Becoming a Christian." *Longview News Journal*, 2021.
- "O pecado da auto-promoção: uma tentação para pastores do século 21." *O Brasil Presbiteriano* 61/781, 2019.
- "O Senhor é o teu pastor." *Servos Ordenados* 10/59, 2018.
- "Faith and Education." *Longview News Journal*, 2017.
- "Orando com os salmos de lament: 'Meu Deus, meu Deus, por que tu me desamparaste?'" *Brasil Presbiteriano* 58/754, 2017.
- "Consumerism and the Christian Worldview." *Longview News Journal*, Religion, 2016.
- "Examining the Church's Prophetic Role." *Longview News Journal*, Religion, 2015.
- "The Bible and the Immigrant." *Longview News Journal*, Religion, 2014.
- "The Persecution of the Church and the Prayer of Lament." *Longview News Journal*, Religion, 2013.

Review of Academic Projects

- Review of Larry D. Bruce, *Unearthing Ancient Israel: The Bible and the Archaeological Evidence of Israel's Origins Reconciled* (Kregel Publications, 2019). Reviewed the book proposal for this project and chapter 1, 2019.
- Review of Brian L. Webster, *The Cambridge Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009). Reviewed this grammar upon request by Cambridge University Press as the publisher decided on the publication of a second edition, 2015.
- Review of Ben Witherington, III and Sandra Richter, tentatively titled *The Bible from the Ground Up: An Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming). Reviewed the outline and six chapters of this introduction to the Bible for Oxford University Press, 2014.

Endorsements

- Arie C. Leder, *Waiting for the Rest That Still Remains: A Biblical Theology of the Former Prophets* (Pickwick), 2020.

Participation in Academic Conferences/Lectures/Address

- "The Annual Presidential Address of the Teaching Faculty Organization to the Board of Trustees at LeTourneau University," 2021.
- "As for the serpent, dust will be its bread: Isa. 65:25 in conversation is Isa. 11:6-9 and Gen. 3:14." SBL Annual Meeting in San Diego, 2019.

- "Creation as Eschatological Hope." Inaugural Lecture at the School of Theology at Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, 2019.
- "The *nahash* of Gen 3: Benevolent or Malevolent?" Masters and Doctoral Seminar at the Pontificia Universidade Catolica de São Paulo, SP, Brazil, 2019.
- "Discovering the Literary Structure of Biblical Texts." Seminario Presbiteriano do Sul, Campinas, SP, Brazil, 2019.
- "John Calvin on the Christian Life." Reformation 500 Conference at LeTourneau University, 2017.
- "Eusebius of Caesarea and the 'Drink of Immortality:' The Reception of LXX Isaiah 25 in Eusebius' Commentary on Isaiah." SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta, 2015.
- "The Nāḥāš in the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:4b-3:24): Malevolent or Benevolent?" SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta, 2015.
- "Genesis and the Age of the Earth." Round table debate on the Bill Nye and Ken Ham Origins Debate, LeTourneau University, 2014.
- "The Foreigner in the Old Testament and Christian Identity." Keynote speaker at the Students Scholars Conference at LeTourneau University, 2013.
- "God's Creation of Adam from 'Clay/Soil:' Does Genesis 2:7 Point to a Particular Model of Creation?" A Dialogue with Dr. Gordon Johnston by Occasion of the Theological Symposium at LeTourneau University, 2013.
- "Between Etiology and Theology: A Discussion of the Garden of Eden Story (Gen. 2:4-3:24)." Lecture delivered at the Sciences Seminar at LeTourneau University, 2012.
- "On Isaiah 27:1, 2-13." SBL Annual Meeting in San Francisco, 2011.
- "LXX Isaiah 25:6-8 and the Issue of Coherence." The International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies. Helsinki, Finland, 2010.
- "The Reception of Isaiah 24:14-16 in LXX Isaiah." SBL Annual Meeting in New Orleans, 2009.
- "The Reception of LXX Isaiah 25 in Eusebius of Caesarea's Commentary on Isaiah." Von der Septuaginta zum Neuen Testament. Textgeschichtliche Erörterungen, Wuppertal, Germany, 2009.

Role in Professional Societies

- "Isaiah and Intertextuality," Cochair, Institute of Biblical Research, Boston, 2020
- "Isaiah and Intertextuality," Cochair, Institute of Biblical Research, San Diego, 2019
- Cofounder and cochair of the "Isaiah" research group for the Institute of Biblical Research, 2019

Translation Projects

- The Genesis Project with the Seed Company. Orally translated "the Story of Genesis" from Genesis. This project is part of the "Chibi Project" and seeks to reach speakers of the Chibi language in Brazil with the gospel, 2016.

Language Skills

Modern

Fluent in Portuguese, English, and some Dutch

Read some German, French, Spanish, Dutch, and Italian

Ancient

Read Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, Greek, and Latin

Taken Akkadian and Ugaritic

Membership in Professional Societies

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)

The International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies (IOSCS)

Institute for Biblical Research (IBR)

Ecclesiastical Affiliation

Ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB), 2003 - present.

Ecclesiastical Experience

LCC Wednesday Bible Study: 1 Corinthians, 2021

LCC Wednesday Bible Study: The Sermon on the Mount, 2020

LCC Adult Sunday school: The Book of Matthew, 2018

LCC Adult Sunday school: The Biblical Story, 2017

LCC Adult Sunday school committee: developing an adult Sunday school curriculum, 2017

Longview Christian Church (LCC) Adult Sunday school: The Gospel of Matthew, 2016

EPCL Summer Adult Sunday school: A Theology of Community, 2015

EPCL Adult Sunday school: The Book of Revelation, 2015

EPCL Adult Sunday school: The Sermon on the Mount, 2015

EPCL Elder and Deacon Search Committee, 2013

Ruling Elder at Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Longview (EPCL), Tex., 2012-2014

Associate Minister at St. James Anglican Church in Voorschoten, the Netherlands, 2009-2010

Associate Pastor at Vila Diva Presbyterian Church, São Paulo, Brazil, 2003-2004

Internship at Vila Diva Presbyterian Church, São Paulo, Brazil, 2002

Internship at Jardim Eliane Presbyterian Congregation, São Paulo, Brazil, 2001-2002

Civic Activities

Kids soccer coach for Greater Longview Soccer Association, 2015-2020

STANDING COMMITTEES

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 for candidacy the twenty-three persons listed below. These include persons who graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary and from other accredited seminaries. Graduates from 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 is presented for consideration of these candidates:

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).

Sheri L. Admiraal
Brad D. B. Bootsma
Kristy L. Bootsma
Tricia L. Bosma
Stewart J. De Jong
Mark D. Elffers
Ryan L. Farrell
Matthew D. Guichelaar
Rebecca G. Hall
Carol E. Hulin
Minho Jake Jeong
Jelle H. Koersen

Aleah M. Marsden
Jacob A. Patton
Mario R. Perez, Jr.
Micah P. Ringelberg
Nicole M. Romero
Joseph J. Steenholdt
Zachary J. Toth
Jodi F. VanWingerden
Wendy J. Werkman
Benjamin H. Wimmers
Anthony Vander Schaaf

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-one persons for approval of candidacy extension:

Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi
Brad S. Diekema
Joshua L. Grimes
Timothy Joo
Kennedy Muli Kailiti
Eunice Kim
Jooheyng "David" Kim
Hannah Ryou Lee

Daniel Meyers
Loice Mueni Minito
Matthew Mulder
Paul Seonmok Park
William S. Roelofs
Kent A. Sanders
Ivan K. Santoso
Lynn Song

C. Reinstatement of candidacy

Klaas Walhout was first a candidate in 2019. Due to his increased involvement with a local Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) church where he lived in Philadelphia, he decided to suspend his candidacy in the CRC and pursue ordination through that denomination. However, over the past year he relocated to his hometown in Grand Rapids, Michigan, resuming connection with a CRC congregation and working in a position of hospital chaplaincy. Klaas desires to be reinstated as a candidate in order to become ordained into that position as a minister of the Word in the CRCNA. We are pleased to affirm his request for reinstatement of candidacy, and we recommend that synod approve this request.

Kiseok (Daniel) Kang was first a candidate in 2019. He decided to suspend his candidacy for personal reasons which are now resolved. He desires to now reinstate his candidacy. We are pleased to affirm his request for reinstatement of candidacy, and we recommend that synod approve this request.

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, E directs the Candidacy Committee to be intimately involved in this process and to submit for synod’s review the names of those approved for the Article 8 process. The Candidacy Committee has concurred on the 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
7-13-21	Dongsoo Shin	Pacific Northwest	Presbyterian Church in Korea
7-31-21	Sungwoo Park	B.C North-West	Presbyterian Church in Korea
8-25-21	Gilbert Varela	Atlantic Northeast	Presbyterian Church of Mexico
8-31-21	Sooho Lee	Pacific Northwest	Presbyterian Church in Korea
9-1-21	Inho Jang	Ko-Am	Presbyterian Church in Korea
9-3-21	Gerhardt Venter	Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Dutch Reformed Church of Africa South Africa
9-8-21	Nate Meldrim	Georgetown	Reformed Church in America
9-14-21	Hunjoon Park	Hanmi	Presbyterian Church in Korea
9-21-21	Young Mun Koh	Ko-Am	Presbyterian Church in Korea
9-22-21	Jeremy Rhodes	Georgetown	Church of Christ
10-6-21	Marno Retief	Lake Superior	Apostolic Faith Mission of S. Africa
10-7-21	Jinseok Park	Greater Los Angeles	Presbyterian Church in Korea
10-14-21	Insoo Oh	Hudson	Korean American Presbyterian
10-22-21	Changho Ahn	Kalamazoo	Southern Baptist Convention
2-17-22	Jason Truell	B.C. South-East	Presbyterian Church in America

III. Modification of candidacy requirements

Over the course of this past year, Calvin Theological Seminary has engaged in a significant process of research and planning that has led to a revision of its M.Div. curriculum (see Calvin Theological Seminary report)

that will take effect in fall 2022. The Candidacy Committee considered these modifications in relation to its experience with needs of candidates, churches, and classes over the past decade, also taking into account the value of keeping candidacy requirements as closely in sync with the seminary's M.Div. requirements as possible so that the process will be clear and understandable for those seeking candidacy. With these considerations in mind, the Candidacy Committee has decided to make the following revisions to the current candidacy requirements:

A. Biblical language

Calvin Theological Seminary will offer two tracks for biblical language study. Track 1 (the traditional track) will continue to include six credits of Greek and six credits of Hebrew. Persons who intend to pursue further study after completing their M.Div. degree will be encouraged to take this track. However, for persons whose intent is to use biblical languages regularly for exegesis in ministry (which includes most of our candidates), an alternative track will be offered that includes three credits of "Hebrew grammar and digital tools" and three credits of "Greek grammar and tools" instead of the traditional six credits in each language.

The stated rationale for offering this second track to persons who are pursuing a career in church ministry includes the Calvin Theological Seminary faculty's well-researched determination that 120 hours of biblical language grammar and digital tools is sufficient to prepare someone to exegete Scripture successfully, and that this plan provides for the diverse vocational goals of candidates. In addition, the Candidacy Committee notes that those who enter our programs toward candidacy are increasingly bivocational and/or entering ministry as a second career, so flexibility, where appropriate, lessens risk of burnout and mental-health issues throughout a student's preparation for ministry. Further, persons who pursue candidacy in the CRCNA long after having completed a Masters of Divinity degree at one of the growing number of seminaries that require only one semester of each language tend to find it inordinately challenging to recall their previous learnings and to re-engage an additional semester of language study. We also note the practical consideration that most pastors today rely on digital tools for their weekly sermon exegesis, not their own recall of memorized vocabulary. This also supports our conclusion that a good knowledge of Hebrew and Greek grammar constructs and a strong proficiency in digital tools yields an appropriate level of proficiency for candidacy.

For this reason, the Candidacy Committee proposes the following change to the candidacy requirement: Three credits of Hebrew "grammar and tools" and three credits of Greek "grammar and tools" (or their equivalent at another seminary for EPMC participants) will be the minimum requirement.

B. Preaching

The Candidacy Committee is pleased with the new competency-based approach that Calvin Theological Seminary is taking toward preparing students to preach. Each Calvin Theological Seminary M.Div. student will be required to take a foundational three-credit preaching course. Then, depending on the student's competency in this class, additional one-credit courses will be either required or recommended, with consideration to their vocational goals (each one-credit course will cover a specific topic, such as oratory and delivery,

illustrations, the form of a sermon, and effective methods of communication). A student will be able to earn a “concentration in preaching” only by achieving competency through the assigned classes, and CTS desires that this concentration of preaching be noted in the CRC’s announcement of candidacy.

The rationale provided for this change is, again, the diversity of ministry experiences, skills, and vocational interests among CTS students, along with the benefits of customizing programs to fit such variety. The Candidacy Committee appreciates attention to competency in preaching in comparison to credits earned, and the committee believes that this change will increase the level of effective preaching in the CRCNA, benefiting both candidate and church tremendously.

The Candidacy Committee therefore proposes the following change to the candidacy requirement:

For Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) M.Div. students, the foundational three-credit preaching course would be the minimum requirement for candidacy. EPMC participants would submit sermons for evaluation upon enrollment, and an assessment would be made by the CTS preaching faculty as to whether the foundational three-credit preaching course should be required for candidacy.

A “preaching concentration” will be noted for all students (CTS and EPMC) who have successfully completed all courses required or recommended for them by the preaching faculty at CTS. In addition, since the competency of all students’ preaching will be attested to by CTS preaching faculty through this process, the candidacy requirement that a student also preach four different times in three different contexts will be reduced to two times in two different contexts.

IV. Correction to Candidacy Report to Synod 2022

It was noted, after the publication of the Candidacy Committee’s report in the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, that an oversight was made in failing to include Rev. Andrew Beunk’s name in the list of current Candidacy Committee members. Rev. Beunk began his three-year term on the committee in June 2021.

V. Recommendations

- A. That synod declare those 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 approve the reinstatement of candidacy of Klaas Walhout and of Kiseok (Daniel) Kang as described in section I, C.
- D. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee in declaration of need for those listed in section II for affiliation under Church Order Article 8.
- E. That synod take note of the modifications the Candidacy Committee has made to candidacy requirements, explained in section III.

Candidacy Committee
 Susan E. LaClear, director

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) presents this supplement of additional matters related to ecumenical relationships and interfaith interactions.

I. Committee membership update

Rev. Michael Wagenman resigned from the committee in April, creating a temporary vacancy. The EIRC thanks him for his three years of service and passion for ecumenical and interfaith relations. Because the vacancy could not be filled in time for Synod 2022, the EIRC requests that synod, by way of exception, ask the Council of Delegates to appoint a new member in October to fill this vacancy.

II. Appointed representatives and observers update

1. Steven Timmermans has requested to step down from the board of the World Reformed Fellowship. A new representative of the CRCNA will be appointed in the near future.
2. Two additional representatives have been identified to join Ronald Feenstra at the United States Roman Catholic-Reformed Dialogue: Matthew Lundberg and Clair Mesick.
3. William Koopmans will serve as an observer at the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany, from August 31 through September 8, 2022.

III. Recommendation

That synod, by way of exception, ask the Council of Delegates to appoint a new member at the October meeting to fill the vacancy on the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee
William T. Koopmans, chair
Colin P. Watson, Sr., executive director (ex officio)

OVERTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PERSONAL APPEAL

Overture 57: Revise Definition of and Stance on *Homosexuality*

I. Overture

Classis Southeast U.S. overtures synod to revise¹ the definition of *homosexuality* to the following: *homosexuality*: a condition of personal identity, stemming from the desires of the same sinful nature that all people inherit through original sin, in which a person is sexually oriented (that is, possesses a pattern of romantic and /or sexual attraction) toward persons of the same sex.

We further overture synod to revise the current stance on *homosexuality* as follows: Homosexuality, like all conditions of the fallen human nature where human desires and inclinations, tainted by original sin, incline someone to act against God's will, is a condition of the sinful human nature and makes one guilty of sin before God. But, praise be to God, it is also, along with all conditions of the fallen nature, covered by Christ's blood for all who believe in him. As such, there is no counting of sin for believers in Christ, who, while they may have inherited a homosexual attraction, desire to live not in accord with that attraction but in accordance with the Spirit that is now in them, and therefore, homosexual believers, along with all those in Christ, are considered righteous.

Following are grounds for the above overture:

II. Introduction

The historic Christian church since its inception has committed itself to theological precision not only in its understanding of biblical truths but in the precise language it has used to communicate these truths. In this vein, it is necessary for the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) to scrutinize its past definitions and positions on homosexuality, especially in light of its current efforts to examine human sexuality from a biblical perspective. The biblical, historical, and confessional grounds provide the basis for these proposed changes, and the practical theological considerations demonstrate the unity and love within the body that these changes actually promote.

III. Background

Page 613 of the *Acts of Synod 1973*, Supplement Report 42, states the homosexual "is not responsible insofar for his resulting homosexuality." The 2020 Human Sexuality Report (HSR) quotes the following from the 1973 report and goes on to add, "In other words, *there is no sin* in being attracted

¹ Revise from the former definition contained in the *Acts of Synod 1973* as follows: "Homosexuality is a condition of personal identity in which the person is sexually oriented toward persons of the same sex."

to the same sex” (emphases added). Page 616 of the 1973 report also states, “to lay blame on the homosexual for his condition can be cruel and unjust.” This imprecise phraseology has caused profound confusion within the CRC. It may cause some to believe that sexual disorders may not be part of the fallen sinful nature. The current definition of *homosexuality* as adopted by the CRC as well as the modified definition proposed herein indicate that homosexuality is a condition in which a person is sexually oriented toward persons of the same sex. According to the American Psychological Association, “Sexual orientation refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions to men, women or both sexes.”² The HSR correctly, then, makes the connection between the definition of *homosexuality* and “being attracted to the same sex.” An attraction, in turn, is by definition a desire toward something, and the Bible, along with many writings of the historic church, indicates that it is humankind’s very desires themselves that are sinful, not simply the actions stemming from those desires.

IV. Biblical grounds

A careful look at the creation and fall stories in Genesis demonstrates that the root of the problem in the fall was not foremost that Adam’s actions were evil but that his desires became so—the ensuing actions were the necessary outcome of a tainted desire. In Genesis 3:6 Eve first saw the tree was to be desired (from the Hebrew root word **וָיָהֲמָה**) to make one wise, and as a result she acted by taking and eating the fruit. At the core, it was her desires that were turned evil—misaligned with God’s perfect will.

The next time that a derivative of this same Hebrew root word (**וָיָהֲמָה**) is used in Scripture is in the tenth commandment (generally translated “covet”). Various theologians³ have commented that this commandment implies far more than a prohibition on desiring other people’s possessions. Rather, it serves as an inclusion, or bookend, with the first commandment to cover all the other commandments, thereby making the case that having no other gods but the one true God necessarily means having desires that align perfectly with his. All other desires are sin.

Our Lord teaches us this truth regarding the sin of desire in Matthew 5:28 when he explains that “anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” He hereby contends that the human condition, being steeped in evil desire, is sinful because of its automatic attraction power. These desires are an uncontrollable characteristic of being human. In this case, the heterosexual orientation/condition as Jesus explained is just as skewed by the fall of humankind.

Paul expands on this idea throughout many of his letters. Speaking in Romans 1 about the natural evil desires (**ἐπιθυμίας**, which is the Greek translation of **וָיָהֲמָה** in the tenth commandment as used in the Septuagint [LXX] and the same root as the verb used by Jesus in Matthew 5:28, often

² Cited 19 February 2021; apa.org/topics/lgbtq/orientation.

³ Calvin’s Commentary on Ex. 20:17 states, “This commandment extends to those that have preceded it.” God’s “condemnation of lusts . . . not only imposed obedience on our hands and feet, but also put restraint upon our minds, lest they should desire to do what is unlawful.” Keil & Delitzsch says that the “tenth commandment is directed as a root against desiring from which every sin against a neighbor springs.” Hodge calls it a comprehensive command that “forbids a state of the heart.”

translated “lustfully”) that all humans have inherited from Adam, Paul explains that while “they claimed to be wise, [humankind] became fools” (v. 22, NIV; cf. Genesis 3:6 when Eve professed that the tree would make her wise, she became a fool) and as a result “they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for” created things (v. 23; cf. the first and second commandment). Therefore “God gave them over in the sinful desires [ἐπιθυμίας] of their hearts” (v. 24; cf. the tenth commandment).

Paul tells the Colossians to “put to death” (Col. 3:5) these evil desires (ἐπιθυμίας) that all people possess in their “earthly nature”; these desires include, among other things, many sexual desires. Furthermore, in Romans 5, Paul states, “Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin” (v. 12), and he goes on to explain that “many died by the trespass of the one man” and “one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people” (vv. 15, 18). If God has condemned all people due to their condition found in their inherited sinful nature, then he has determined that they are all guilty. They are guilty not just of the evil they do but of their sinful desires stemming from the sinful nature with which they are born. In other words, to separate the inclination toward sin (the condition) apart from acting on sin (the action) has no biblical precedent.

V. Historical grounds

This idea of inherited guilt has been the historic understanding of many theologians throughout the centuries and continues to be the understanding of those in the Reformed tradition. Augustine states, “That, therefore, which is born of the desires of the flesh is not of God. The guilt of this desire, regeneration alone remits.”⁴ Clearly, he demonstrates that the desires themselves make people guilty, not simply acting on them.

Calvin points to Galatians 5:19 to conclude that all humans inherit a corruption from Adam; it is this corruption itself that is called sin, “while the works which proceed from it, such as adultery, fornication, theft, hatred, murder, revellings, [Paul] terms the fruits of sin.”⁵ Calvin goes on to explain that “those who term [original sin] concupiscence [i.e., strong desire, especially sexual desire, from the Latin *concupiscentia*, used in the Vulgate for Greek ἐπιθυμία] use a word not very inappropriate, provided it were added . . . that everything which is in man, from the intellect to the will . . . is defiled . . . with this concupiscence; or to express it more briefly, that the whole man is in himself nothing else than concupiscence.”⁶ In other words, the original sin pervading all human beings’ intellect and will can in essence be summed up as evil desire. These desires are not merely part of being evil, they are the heart of human corruption. Calvin goes on to say that human beings are “merely on account of such corruption, deservedly condemned by God. This is not liability for another’s fault. For we, who are in ourselves innocent and blameless, are bearing his guilt.”⁷ Calvin demonstrates here the difficulty and balance that is needed in precisely explaining that humans are not to blame for the specific acts of Adam yet at the same time are guilty for these

⁴ St. Augustine of Hippo, *The Retractions*, “On Marriage and Concupiscence.”

⁵ John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. Henry Beveridge, 2.1.8, p. 218; ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes.html.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

inherited desires—finally concluding with Augustine that although original sin is “another’s sin,” it is indeed “each individual’s own sin.”⁸

Calvin further points out that human beings do not merely have some evil desires but have a nature or condition of evil desire in which they all stand condemned. Therefore, any attempt to parse the concept of desire from that of inclination or nature changes nothing, since both bear the guilt of sin. It needs to be considered, then, how this is applied to those redeemed in Christ yet still possessing attractions that tempt them to sin. Anselm perhaps can be of some assistance when he parses the difference between what he terms the “essence of the appetites” versus the “rational will which complies inordinately with them.”⁹ He echoes the statements of Paul in Romans 7 who, speaking of the war waged within himself, explains, “Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me” (v. 21). It needs to be noted what Paul, Augustine, Anselm, and Calvin do not do; they do not explain that those desires or inclinations placed there by the fall are not sin. Rather, calling those inclinations evil, Paul points to God who delivers him through Christ so that he no longer stands condemned since he is in Christ. So, these inclinations of the flesh are evil, but, in Christ, the true desire of the believer is to delight in the law of God. Because these inclinations of the flesh themselves are sin, all who are in Christ must war against them—they must hate them and not consider them “the way God made me” as if God were the author of sin or the impetus of the sinful nature.

VI. Confessional grounds

The Belgic Confession, in Article 15, states that original sin is “enough to condemn the human race,” and the Canons of Dort state that Adam “brought forth corrupt children” and “all people are born children of wrath,” indicating a state of being guilty at birth.

The Heidelberg Catechism, in Answer 7, explains that “we are corrupt from conception on” and, in Answer 10, says that “[God] is terribly angry about the sins we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit,” which “increase our guilt every day.” This indicates that people are born with a sinful condition that bears with it guilt even before they personally commit sins. The Heidelberg, in answering what God’s will is in the tenth commandment, states “that not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any one of God’s commandments should ever arise in my heart.”¹⁰ The authors of the Heidelberg clearly understood that even the slightest desire that is contrary to a commandment of God is against his will and is therefore, by definition, sinful.¹¹ Modern Reformed theologians continue to uphold this historical biblical understanding of inherited guilt. Berkhof in his *Systematic Theology* states, “The Western Church reached their culmination in Augustinianism which stressed the fact that humankind is both guilty and polluted in Adam. The Reformers shared the views of Augustine.”¹² He goes on to

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Anselm of Canterbury, *The Virgin Conception and Original Sin*, chap. 4.

¹⁰ See Heidelberg Catechism, Q. and A. 113.

¹¹ “Sin, then is any transgression in deed, or word, or desire, of the eternal law.” Saint Augustine, *In Reply to Faustus the Manichæan*, Book XXII, Para. 27; ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf104/npnf104.iv.ix.xxiv.html.

¹² Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1979), p. 240.

conclude that “Adam sinned not only as the father of the human race, but also as the representative head of all his descendants; and therefore the guilt of his sin is placed to their account, so that they are all liable to the punishment of death. It is primarily in that sense that Adam’s sin is the sin of all. It is not sin considered merely as pollution, but sin as guilt that carries punishment with it.”

James K.A. Smith in *You Are What You Love* states, “You are what you love because you live toward what you want.”¹³ He goes on to explain that “love, as our most fundamental orientation to the world, is . . . a baseline inclination, a default orientation that generates the choices we make.” In other words, what people desire is what they love, and their actions spring from this desire. Smith recognizes here that the root of bad behavior is a fallen condition of sinful desire.

This fallen condition is the plight of all human beings. It is responsible for all human desires that orient people away from the will of God, and homosexual desires are no less a part of this condition.

VII. Practical theology grounds

Understanding this issue correctly goes beyond just a pursuit of theological precision or even a dedication to holiness sparked by love for God—although it is certainly that. Understanding that homosexual desires are sinful is also paramount in order to avoid undermining both the unity of Christ’s body and the gravity of his gospel.

Stating that homosexual acts are sinful while maintaining that the homosexual inclinations or desires are not tells homosexual brothers and sisters that their sin and their very status before God is somehow different than that of other believers. The sexual desires of all believers suffer from the taint of original sin. Before any sinful act takes place, all heterosexual believers are pervasively and radically inclined to want sexual things contrary to God’s will. They need more than just to avoid acting on these desires; they need to be washed in their inner being. It is remiss to tell homosexual believers that they are different—to tell them that when it comes to their sexual desires they merely need a behavioral adjustment and not a transformational cleansing from within. It is to rob our homosexual brothers and sisters of the unity found in this shared redemption experience in which members are built up by encouraging one another to take each of their desires captive.

Further, it is to curtail the complete joy of the gospel. Failing to see the gravity of the sinful nature fails to see the *gravitas* of the crucified Savior. It is then the most loving response to convey to our homosexual members that they are just like all other believers, stained from deep within to the core of all their desires and with the whole church are made righteous through faith and fully share in the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

VIII. Conclusion

Therefore, it is problematic and will inevitably be largely misleading to state “there is no sin in being attracted to the same sex.” It is biblical and loving pastoral advice to warn against showing partiality, calling out particular sins over others, and leveling greater accusation of blame for the fallen

¹³ James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Brazos, 2016), p. 13.

human state on any one particular group. Conversely, however, it is patronizing and strains theological precision to exclude any particular sinful desire or inclination from being part of the fallen condition. Rather, the church might be well to state that, like all human desires, human sexual desires have been tainted by the condition of original sin inherited from Adam. Homosexuality is merely one result of this. Therefore, all these tainted desires that incline someone to act against God's desires—including homosexuality—are conditions of the sinful human nature and are thus in themselves sin and deserving of death. However, even though all believers continue to struggle with this sinful nature,¹⁴ the gospel reminds us that the sins of all these evil desires are covered by Christ's blood for all who believe. As such, there is no counting of sin for believers in Christ, who, while they may have inherited a homosexual attraction, desire to live not in accordance with that attraction but in accordance with the Spirit that is now in them, and therefore, homosexual believers, along with all those in Christ, are considered righteous.

Classis Southeast U.S.

Viviana Cassis, stated clerk

¹⁴ See Romans 7:15-25.

Communication 10: Council of Fellowship CRC, Brighton, Ontario

We, the council of Fellowship CRC of Brighton, Ontario, wish to commend and thank those who worked diligently to author the Human Sexuality Report. We appreciate the pastoral sensitivity, the theological rigor, and the confessional wisdom found in the report.

We, the council of Fellowship CRC, wish to express our opposition to the overture that our classis (Classis Quinte) sent to synod regarding Recommendation D of the Human Sexuality Report (HSR). We do not stand in solidarity with Classis Quinte on this overture against Recommendation D. We find Classis Quinte's overture opposing Recommendation D of the HSR concerning on three grounds.

1. The grounds of the overture are vague, lacking clear biblical foundation for the claims. The grounds ambiguously challenge perceived concepts of the report without citing where these concepts are found in the report.
2. After months of consideration and study, in June 2021 the council of Fellowship CRC accepted the HSR as written (including Recommendation D).
3. The support of Classis Quinte on this overture was concerningly weak: 43 percent in favor, 41 percent opposed, 16 percent abstained.

We the council of Fellowship CRC hope this communication will add one church's perspective from Classis Quinte—the classis from which the overture against Recommendation D originated.

Fellowship CRC, Brighton, Ontario
Greg Harnden, clerk of council

Communication 11: Council of Covenant CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa

As a congregation that agrees with the synodical report's definition of *marriage*, we want to emphasize pastoral implications in Matthew 19 that give us hope for the unified combination of grace and truth that we see in Acts 15, for which we can find further resources in Romans 14-15.

1. We agree with the report's definition of *marriage*, and we also discern communal (not merely individual) radicality with respect to the discipleship Jesus teaches in Matthew 19, alongside his preceding discourse in Matthew 18.

- a. Jesus' creational teachings in Matthew 19 do not abolish but rather fulfill Moses' pastoral permission, as referred to in the same passage. (See Matt. 19:8 in relation to Matt. 5:17.)
 - b. Jesus' community discourse in Matthew 18 calls us to a community that warns against scandal and also practices radical forgiveness and generous mercy. (See Matt. 18:21-35.)
 - c. Jesus' blessing of the children in Matthew 19 points us to the kind of parental embrace and pleading we see in Jesus' parable of the loving and longing father with both a prodigal son and an elder son (Luke 15:11-32). As followers of Jesus, we seek to teach God's commands as Jesus did: in ways that do good, not harm; in ways that save lives rather than destroy them (Luke 6:6-11). We do not want to tie heavy loads on people without being "willing to lift a finger to move them" (Matt. 23:4). Instead, we long to gather all God's children "as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" (Matt. 23:37).
2. We pray that synodical delegates and all members of the Christian Reformed Church will listen to both one another and our Lord so that we arrive at a message that "has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28). In this way we can hope "to impose on [one another] no further burden than these essentials" (Acts 15:28), which edify the church in our time.
 - a. We note that the council in Acts 15 avoided "a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear" (Act 15:10).
 - b. We note further the council delegates emphasizing "that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will" (Acts 15:11).
 - c. We note that when the council's fellow disciples received the letter-report, "when its members read it, they rejoiced at the exhortation" (Acts 15:31).
 3. We find resources for the unifying combination of both grace and truth [both love and holiness, etc.] in Paul's culmination of his epistle to the Romans, in which he passes on the teaching that we "welcome/ accept one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed/ accepted [us], for the glory of God" (Rom. 15:7).
 - a. Paul identifies groups that disagree with each other with the provocative labels "weak" and "strong." Paul clearly identifies with the strong and at the same time calls both groups not to despise or pass judgment on fellow believers with different beliefs. Paul asks, "Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another?" (Rom. 14:4; cf. Rom. 14:10-12 and also Rom. 2:1 for how passing judgment can lead us to condemn ourselves).
 - b. If both groups identify their own views as strong, Paul tells us "to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor" (Rom. 15:1-2).

- c. Accepting-welcoming may not please those who argue for separation from one perspective or affirmation from another perspective. We do not expect unity based on Romans 15:7 welcome/acceptance to happen easily. So we trust in the Christ who, by becoming a servant to the circumcised thereby fulfilled the promise to the patriarchs “in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy” (Rom. 15:8-9; see Rom. 12:3, et al). As people who have our own weaknesses, we trust in the God of sufficient grace (2 Cor. 12:9), whom we worship as “the God of hope [who] fills [us] with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (See Rom. 15:8-13.)

Council of Covenant CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa
Ethan Brue, clerk of council

Communication 12: Classis Yellowstone

Classis Yellowstone is sending this communication to express our deep concern over the actions of Neland Avenue CRC (Neland), in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in their decision to ordain as deacon an individual in a same-sex relationship. Several overtures have been written, and we decided not to add to that list, and yet we deemed it worthwhile for us to add our voice to the desire to see the CRCNA take action regarding this matter. To do nothing is to approve of it. We believe it has been demonstrated that synod has the authority to take disciplinary action in this matter that concerns the CRCNA as a whole (cf. Ground 4 in Overture 5 in the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, p. 456). Furthermore, as indicated in Ground 5 of Overture 6 (*Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, p. 458), Classis Grand Rapids East has declined to act in response to the actions of Neland, and therefore this is a matter that synod can and must address. Neland has communicated with other churches and classes (for instance, in correspondence published as appendices in Overture 7 in the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, pp. 460-68) that their actions are a result of a long journey of searching the Scriptures led by the Holy Spirit. While we believe that to be true, the end result of the Spirit's leading cannot be contrary to Scripture. The Bible consistently teaches that homosexual behavior is contrary to God's will (cf. Human Sexuality Report, section XII, pp. 408-25). There are methods in place within the CRCNA to challenge an understanding of Scripture or a decision of the church, but Neland did not utilize those methods. By failing to use the means established and acting out of accord with the CRCNA's confessional understanding of Scripture and what it reveals regarding homosexuality, they have broken covenant with the CRCNA. For that reason, synod must take action. Therefore, we urge synod to listen to Overtures 4-9 (*Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, pp. 454-77) and take action to discipline or disaffiliate Neland.

While we recognize that this communication may be interpreted as mean-spirited against a congregation seeking to follow the Lord, we would like to emphasize that this communication is given in love—love for the Lord and his Word, love for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Neland, and love for the CRCNA. Sometimes love demands that there be discipline, as even the Lord himself said and does (Heb. 12:5-6). We have a strong desire to see the

CRCNA and all of its churches flourish, and we believe that for that to happen we must remain true in our devotion to the Lord and in our fidelity to his Word. It is out of that strong desire for the well-being of Neland and the CRCNA that we send this communication urging synod to act in accord with Overtures 4-9.

Classis Yellowstone
Del VanDenBerg, stated clerk

1. Rev. Dr. D. Roorda

FINANCIAL REPORT



THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
CONSOLIDATED BUDGET SUMMARY (in 000s of U.S.\$)
FISCAL YEAR ENDING IN 2023

	Ministry Share	Gift Income	Other Income	Total Income	Program Services	Support Services	Total Expenses	Planned Net Revenue (Expense)
Calvin Theological Seminary	1,731 25.9%	1,800 26.9%	3,150 47.1%	6,681 100.0%	4,847 69.6%	2,115 30.4%	6,962 100.0%	(281)
Calvin University	1,500 2.0%	3,435 4.5%	71,629 93.6%	76,564 100.0%	60,500 75.1%	20,064 24.9%	80,564 100.0%	(4,000)
Congregational Ministries	5,587 73.1%	916 12.0%	1,143 14.9%	7,646 100.0%	6,439 84.1%	1,219 15.9%	7,658 100.0%	(12)
Office of General Secretary	3,100 73.4%	959 22.7%	166 3.9%	4,225 100.0%	1,535 36.3%	2,698 63.7%	4,233 100.0%	(8)
Loan Fund	- 0.0%	- 0.0%	750 100.0%	750 100.0%	338 47.1%	380 52.9%	718 100.0%	32
Raise Up Global Ministries	249 13.5%	682 36.8%	920 48.7%	1,851 100.0%	1,314 71.1%	534 28.9%	1,848 100.0%	3
ReFrame Ministries	1,990 27.4%	3,714 51.1%	1,561 21.5%	7,265 100.0%	5,883 70.2%	2,495 29.8%	8,378 100.0%	(1,113)
Resonate Global Mission	3,616 21.8%	10,381 62.5%	2,604 15.7%	16,601 100.0%	18,112 87.7%	2,542 12.3%	20,654 100.0%	(4,053)
Special Assistance Funds	- #DIV/0!	- #DIV/0!	- #DIV/0!	- #DIV/0!	190 100.0%	- 0.0%	190 100.0%	(190)
World Renew	- 0.0%	28,679 84.1%	5,409 15.9%	34,088 100.0%	30,112 78.1%	8,420 21.9%	38,532 100.0%	(4,444)
Total	17,773 11.4%	50,566 32.48%	87,332 56.10%	155,671 100.0%	129,270 76.2%	40,467 23.8%	169,737 100.0%	-14,066
Central Services*	- 0.0%	- 0.0%	7,812 100.0%	7,812 100.0%	- 0.0%	7,812 100.0%	7,812 100.0%	-

These costs are allocated to the above ministries.

REPORT OF SYNOD 2022

SYNOD 2022

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Calvin University Chapel, Grand Rapids, Michigan
June 12, 2022
5:00 p.m.

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

God Calls Us to Worship

Welcome: God's Greeting

*Songs of Praise

"Glorious Day"

"Goodness of God"

"Same God"

Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Assurance

God Comes to Us through His Word

Message: "Gimme Surrender"

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-11; Proverbs 30:8-9

God Comes to Us through the Sacrament

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Songs during distribution of the elements

"I Surrender All"

"Taste and See"

We Respond with Offerings and Dedication

Offering: CRC Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy ministries (the Antiracism and Intercultural Conciliation Office, the Centre for Public Dialogue, Disability Concerns, Indigenous Ministries, Office of Social Justice, Race Relations, Safe Church Ministry, World Renew)

*Blessing

Postlude

Preacher:	Rev. Dirk M. vanEyck
Liturgist for the Lord's Prayer:	Rev. José Rayas
Liturgist for Communion:	Rev. Elaine May
Pianist for Communion:	Rev. Gregg DeMey
Worship Director:	Mr. Zachariah Johnson
Praise Team:	Ms. Laura Bedinger (keys)
	Mr. Rishaun Green (drums)
	Ms. Karley Michmerhuizen (vocals)
	Mr. Rick Rico (bass)
	Mr. Jon VanOyen (guitar)
Production:	Ms. Bethany Johnson (graphics)
	Mr. Nick Mersman (audio)

MINUTES OF SYNOD 2022

WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 25, 2022 First Session

ARTICLE 1

Synod 2022 convenes at 6:00 p.m. (EDT) via videoconference. Dee Recker, director of synodical services, provides announcements regarding the use of interpretation and technology. President pro tem Rev. Dirk M. vanEyck welcomes delegates, advisers, guests, and staff to Synod 2022 on behalf of Encounter Church, Kentwood, Michigan.

The president pro tem leads in an opening prayer for the gathering of synodical delegates and advisers. By way of video recording, the Encounter Church worship team (Mr. Samuel Couch, Mr. Rishaun Green, Ms. Eliza Henry, Mr. Zach Johnson, Ms. Jenna VanOyen, and Mr. Jonathan VanOyen) sings "Same God." Rev. vanEyck provides a message on John 17:20-21, sharing that Jesus spent time in his ministry to pray for us because he knew that we would be tempted not to get along. Rev. vanEyck reminds synod delegates and advisers that they can do so much more together than apart (even with different perspectives) to spread the gospel. "In a divided world, unity demonstrates the power of the resurrection." Rev. vanEyck leads in prayer.

Jon Hoekema, prayer shepherd for the CRCNA Year of Prayer, invites delegates to a time of prayer in small groups via Zoom breakout rooms.

ARTICLE 2

The president pro tem asks the executive director, Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr., to call the roll of delegates listed on the credentials of the forty-nine classes:

DELEGATES TO SYNOD 2022

Classis	Delegates
Alberta North	
Minister	Richard J. deLange
Elder	Alice G. Joosse
Deacon	Nathan M. Gold
Other	Peter Rockhold
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	
Minister	Matthew D. Vanden Heuvel
Elder	Albert J. Cramer
Deacon	Geoffrey W. Vanderburg
Other	S. George Koopmans

Arizona	
Minister	Anthony R. DeKorte
Elder	Mark Jansen
Deacon	Vacant
Other	José Rayas
Atlantic Northeast	
Minister	Joel D. Vande Werken
Elder	Steven Zielinski
Deacon	Vacant
Other	Michael R. Saville
B.C. North-West	
Minister	Samuel Lee
Elder	Irene Y. Kraay
Deacon	Elizabeth A. Gysbers
Other	Willem J. Delleman
B.C. South-East	
Minister	Jason D. Crossen
Elder	Janice E. Kostelyk
Deacon	Jeannette I. Huisman
Other	Daryl J. DeKlerk
California South	
Minister	John Harold Caicedo
Elder	Glenda J. VanderKam
Deacon	Eudell Vis
Other	Donald C. Porter
Central California	
Minister	Paul H. Vander Klay
Elder	Zachary J. Dewey
Deacon	Luann D. Sankey
Other	David E. Vander Meulen
Central Plains	
Minister	Richard J. Admiraal
Elder	Steven J. Holwerda
Deacon	Migael L. Randall
Other	Aaron J. Gunsaulus
Chicago South	
Minister	Michael J. Kooy
Elder	Sally J. Larsen
Deacon	Jim C. Bolhuis
Other	Derek Buikema
Columbia	
Minister	William S. Wilton
Elder	Ralph N. Akin
Deacon	Doug Vande Griend
Other	Robert J. Toornstra
Eastern Canada	
Minister	Daniel Hoogland
Elder	Ron Hosmar
Deacon	Scott D. Bandy
Other	Craig L. Hoekema
Georgetown	
Minister	Curtis A. Walters
Elder	Douglas D. Holtrop
Deacon	Linda J. Witte
Other	Cory J. Nederveld

Grand Rapids East

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Rebecca L. Jordan Heys
Larry L. Louters
Donna R. Anema
Patricia L. Borgdorff

Grand Rapids North

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Moon B. Kim
Ronald L. Karelse
Shannon L. Rop
Benjamin L. Gandy

Grand Rapids South

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Michael W. Hoogeboom
Don Dekker
Scott M. Hekstra
Joshua S. Van Drunen

Grandville

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Robert Huisman
Shaun M. O'Brien
Bradley S. Diekema
Cedric W. Parsels

Greater Los Angeles

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Joel D. Van Soelen
C. Brian Hibma
Dick Van Eck, Jr.
Mirtha M. Villafane

Hackensack

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Edward Wayne Coleman
Karen J. Walker
Joe Sanderlin
Frederick L. Harvey II

Hamilton

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Kenneth F. Benjamins
Mark Vandervliet
Marcia L. Hosmar
Anthony Elenbaas

Hanmi

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Sang Myeun Moon
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Heartland

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Jesse L. Walhof
Michael V. Krommendyk
Darin Dykstra
John C. Klompier

Holland

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Darwin K. Glassford
James C. Schippers
Dwayne L. Nienhuis
Benjamin J. Petroelje

Hudson

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

KwangBae Lee
Vacant
Vacant
Timothy J. McHugh

Huron	
Minister	Andrew J. Vis
Elder	Steve E. Vogel
Deacon	Vacant
Other	John A. Vanderstoep
Iakota	
Minister	John R. Lee
Elder	Tim J. Klein
Deacon	Trevor M. Mouw
Other	Kurt A. Monroe
Illiana	
Minister	James C. Hollendonner
Elder	Arlyn J. Van Ek
Deacon	Gary L. Siegersma
Other	Blake I. Campbell
Kalamazoo	
Minister	Simon A. Tuin
Elder	Seth Koerner
Deacon	Nancy G. Dyksterhouse
Other	Todd L. Eckstein
Ko-Am	
Minister	Sungjin Kim
Elder	Vacant
Deacon	Soon O. Yi
Other	Daniel D. Yi
Lake Erie	
Minister	John JungUn Park
Elder	Mary A. Rupke
Deacon	Vacant
Other	Steven M. Jensen
Lake Superior	
Minister	Benjamin C. Verkerk
Elder	Rob Braun
Deacon	Marilyn A. Stulen
Other	Daniel De Graff
Minnkota	
Minister	Roger W. Sparks
Elder	Erick C. Van Dyken
Deacon	Marshall R. Pater
Other	Chad E. Werkhoven
Muskegon	
Minister	Jeffrey Hough
Elder	Robert R. Broekema
Deacon	Heidi Sytsema
Other	Kenneth T. Krause
Niagara	
Minister	Steven J. deBoer
Elder	Leo Van Tuyl
Deacon	Ingrid A. Beck
Other	Michael J. Van Dyk
North Cascades	
Minister	Ben E. deRegt
Elder	Michael T. Jager
Deacon	Drake Likkel
Other	Mark L. Wagenaar

Northcentral Iowa

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Tyler R. Helfers
Paul Kleinwolterink
Vacant
Seongjun Kim

Northern Illinois

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Gregg M. DeMey
Bonnie L. Zigterman
Jennifer Stolzenbach
Eric D. Schlukebir

Northern Michigan

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

John P. Kostelyk
Mark A. Ebels
Robert M. Ebels
Todd Kuperus

Ontario Southwest

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Peter A. Hoytema
Jenny Douma
Kyle W. Nutma
Lynette A. van de Hoef Meyers

Pacific Northwest

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Matthew J. Borst
Tamara Kuklenski
Eric Lamfers
Douglas E. Fakkema

Quinte

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Daniel G. Brown
Leo B. Jonker
Vacant
Ronald P. Rupke

Red Mesa

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

David J. Dykstra
Evelyn H. Bennally
Vacant
Debra L. Chee

Rocky Mountain

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Dominic J. Palacios
Barbara J. Bulthuis
Donn Hansum
Andrew R. Sytsma

Southeast U.S.

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Christopher N. Cassis
James Dykstra
Jeff Huntley
Scott A. Vander Ploeg

Thornapple Valley

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

David J. Bosscher
Mark L. Houskamp
Ken Stienstra
Robert C. Van Zanen

Toronto

Minister
Elder
Deacon
Other

Samuel Cooper
Jake Veenstra
David Nightingale
Janet deWinter

Wisconsin	
Minister	Jason S. Ruis
Elder	Ben Verhulst
Deacon	Geoff Bazuin
Other	Josh Van Engen
Yellowstone	
Minister	Steve Bussis
Elder	Reuben C. Sinnema
Deacon	Jake H. Van Dam
Other	Timothy A. Kuperus
Zeeland	
Minister	Stephen F. Terpstra
Elder	Robert W. Brower
Deacon	Shane A. Langeland
Other	Aaron J. Vriesman

The roll indicates that the following delegates are absent with notice: Albert J. Cramer (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Migael L. Randall (Central Plains), Ron Hosmar (Eastern Canada), Dwayne L. Nienhuis (Holland), Sungjin Kim (Ko-Am), John JungUn Park (Lake Erie), Kyle W. Nutma (Ontario Southwest), Dominic J. Palacios (Rocky Mountain), and Christopher N. Cassis (Southeast U.S.).

The president pro tem declares that a quorum of the membership is present and that the assembly of Synod 2022 is duly constituted.

ARTICLE 3

The executive director welcomes and introduces the ethnic adviser who is present: Rev. Hyung-Jun Kim. Rev. John M. Sideco and Ms. Darlene Silversmith are absent with notice.

The executive director also welcomes and individually introduces to synod the young adult representatives who are present: Ms. Rebecca J.A. Bokma, Mr. Daniel Choi, Mr. William K. Krahnke, and Ms. Hope D. Zigterman. Ms. Leah Sweetman and Mr. David VanKokkumburg are absent with notice.

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces the faculty advisers who are present: Rev. Kathy S. Smith, Dr. Matthew J. Tuininga, Dr. Mary Vanden Berg, and Dr. Jeff A.D. Weima. Dr. John D. Witvliet is absent with notice.

The executive director welcomes Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. Michael K. Le Roy, president of Calvin University, is absent with notice.

The executive director notes that ecumenical guests, staff consultants, and support staff to synod will be introduced during the opening session on June 10, 2022.

ARTICLE 4

After participating in a practice election, the assembly proceeds to elect officers. The following are elected:

President: José Rayas
Vice President: Derek Buikema
First Clerk: Aaron J. Vriesman
Second Clerk: Luann D. Sankey

ARTICLE 5

Rev. vanEyck, president pro tem, welcomes the officers and congratulates them.

President José Rayas expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. Dirk vanEyck for his participation in the opening of synod.

On behalf of himself and the other officers, the president thanks synod for the confidence it has placed in them to lead synod, as synod has been brought together to do God's will. He reminds delegates that while the church has suffered much throughout the past few years from the pandemic and from being apart, it has also seen God's mercy. President Rayas asks for prayer for the officers of synod in the coming weeks.

ARTICLE 6

The president proceeds with the reading of the Public Declaration of Agreement with the Beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The delegates respond with an electronic "yes" vote to express their agreement.

ARTICLE 7

The executive director presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 2022:

Committee 1—Synodical Services and Structure

Chair: Joel D. Vande Werken; **reporter:** Peter A. Hoytema; **ministers:** Richard J. Admiraal, Edward W. Coleman, Steven J. deBoer, Richard J. deLange, Cory J. Nederveld, Simon Tuin, Paul H. VanderKlay, John A. Vanderstoep, Aaron Vriesman; **elders:** Evelyn H. Bennally, Robert R. Broekema, Don Dekker, Michael T. Jager, Steven M. Jensen, Paul D. Kleinwolterink, Eric C. Van Dyken, Ben Verhulst; **deacons:** Donna R. Anema, Scott D. Bandy, Jeannette I. Huisman, Jeffrey Huntley, Dwayne L. Nienhuis; **ethnic adviser:** Darlene Silversmith; **faculty adviser:** Jeffrey A.D. Weima.

Committee 2—Church Order and Related Matters

Chair: Joshua S. VanDrunen; **reporter:** Kenneth F. Benjamins; **ministers:** Daniel G. Brown, Ben E. deRegt, David J. Dykstra, Todd L. Eckstein, Aaron J. Gunsaulus, James C. Hollendoner, Seongjun Kim, Michael J. Van Dyk, Josh Van Engen, Jesse L. Walhof; **elders:** Robert R. Braun, James Dykstra, Robert M. Ebels, Ronald L. Karelse, Tamara Kuklenski, Shaun M. O'Brien, Jake Veenstra; **deacons:** Shane A. Langeland, Jennifer Stolzenbach, Geoffrey W. Vanderburg, Eudell Vis, Linda J. Witte; **young adult representative:** Daniel Choi; **faculty adviser:** Kathy S. Smith.

Committee 3—Education and Candidacy

Chair: Rebecca L. Jordan Heys; **reporter:** Anthony Elenbaas; **ministers:** Debra L. Chee, Daryl J. DeKlerk, Craig L. Hoekema, Moon B. Kim, Samuel Lee, Jason S. Ruis, Michael R. Saville, David E. Vander Meulen, Chad E. Werkhoven, Dominic J. Palacios, Curtis A. Walters; **elders:** Robert W. Brower, Janet deWinter, Brian Hibma, Steven J. Holwerda, Michael V. Krommendyk, Reuben C. Sinnema, Bonnie L. Zigterman; **deacons:** Nancy G. Dyksterhouse, Scott M. Hekstra, Drake Likkel, Trevor M. Mouw, Gary L. Siegersma; **ethnic**

adviser: Hyung-Jun Kim; **young adult representative:** Willy K. Krahneke; **staff consultant:** Susan E. LaClear.

Committee 4—Congregational Ministries

Chair: Willem J. Delleman; **reporter:** Michael J. Kooy; **ministers:** David J. Bosscher, Daniel Hoogland, Sungjin Kim, John P. Kostelyk, Sang Myeun Moon, Cedric W. Parsels, Matthew D. Vanden Heuvel, Mirtha M. Villafane, Andrew J. Vis; **elders:** Zachary J. Dewey, Douglas D. Holtrop, Mark D. Jansen, Tim J. Klein, Larry L. Louters, Arlyn J. Van Ek, Karen J. Walker; **deacons:** Darin Dykstra, Donn Hansum, Marcia L. Hosmar, Doug Vande Griend; **young adult representative:** Hope D. Zigterman; **staff consultant:** Albert Postma.

Committee 5—Global Mission and Denominational Unity

Chair: Stephen F. Terpstra; **reporter:** Robert J. Toornstra; **ministers:** Christopher N. Cassis, Benjamin L. Gandy, Darwin K. Glassford, Jeffery A. Hough, José Rayas, Eric Schlukebir, Daniel D. Yi; **elders:** Jenny Douma, Mark L. Houskamp, Alice G. Joosse, Irene Y. Kraay, Sally J. Larsen, Ronald P. Rupke; **deacons:** Ingrid A. Beck, Mark A. Ebels, Eric Lamfers, David Nightingale, Joe Sanderlin, Marilyn A. Stulen; **young adult representative:** Leah Sweetman; **faculty adviser:** Matthew J. Tuininga; **staff consultants:** Joel Huysen, Kurt D. Selles.

Committee 6—Financial Matters

Chair: Scott Vander Ploeg; **reporter:** John R. Lee; **ministers:** Derek Buikema, Steve Bussis, Jason D. Crossen, Daniel De Graff, Frederick L. Harvey II, John C. Klompier, Kenneth T. Krause, Donald C. Porter, Roger W. Sparks, Robert C. Van Zanen; **elders:** Barbara J. Bulthuis, Ron Hosmar, James C. Schippers, Leo Van Tuyl; **deacons:** Geoffrey D. Bazuin, Nathan M. Gold, Elizabeth A. Gysbers, Luann D. Sankey, Dick L. Van Eck, Jr., James Vanderleeuw; **staff consultant:** John H. Bolt.

Committee 7—Interdenominational Matters and Heresy

Chair: Andrew R. Sytsma; **reporter:** Anthony R. DeKorte; **ministers:** Matthew Borst, John Harold Caicedo, Sam Cooper, Michael W. Hooeboom, George Koopmans, Todd Kuperus, KwangBae Lee, Kurt A. Monroe, Benjamin J. Petroelje, William S. Wilton; **elders:** Patricia L. Borgdorff, Leo B. Jonker, Mary A. Rupke, Mark Vandervliet, Steve Vogel, Stephen J. Zielinski; **deacons:** Jim C. Bolhuis, Bradley S. Diekema, Kyle W. Nutma, Marshall R. Pater, Jake H. Van Dam, Soon O. Yi; **ethnic adviser:** John M. Sideco; **faculty adviser:** Mary Vanden Berg; **young adult representative:** Rebecca J.A. Bokma.

Committee 8—Human Sexuality

Chair: Tim Kuperus; **reporter:** Douglas E. Fakkema; **ministers:** Blake I. Campbell, Gregg M. DeMey, Tyler R. Helfers, Robert Huisman, Timothy J. McHugh, John Park, Peter Rockhold, Lynette van de Hoef Meyers, Joel D. Van Soelen, Benjamin C. Verkerk; **elders:** Ralph N. Akin, Albert J. Cramer, Seth Koerner, Janice E. Kostelyk, Glenda J. VanderKam, Mark L. Wagenaar; **deacons:** Migael L. Randall, Shannon L. Rop, Kenneth Stienstra, Heidi J. Sytsema; **faculty adviser:** John D. Witvliet; **young adult representative:** David VanDokkumburg; **staff consultant:** Colin P. Watson, Sr.

The president presents the following on behalf of the officers of synod:
That synod approve the Program Committee Report as amended.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 8

The executive director calls attention to the *Agenda for Synod* Supplement and an alphabetical list of delegates and advisers that are posted on the synod website.

ARTICLE 9

The president of synod, José Rayas, leads in closing prayer. Synod adjourns at 9:31 p.m. Synod will reconvene Friday, June 10, at 8:15 a.m. on the campus of Calvin University, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

FRIDAY MORNING, June 10, 2022

Second Session

ARTICLE 10

The praise team (vocalists: Rebecca Bokma, Ron Rupke; vocalist/flute: Shannon Rop; piano: Katie Roelofs; drums: Anthony Elenbaas; guitar: Rob Braun and Jason Ruis; bass: Seth Koerner; organ: Stephen Terpstra) leads delegates in worship with singing, “Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah” and “Goodness of God.” Rev. Joyce Borger, director of Worship Ministries, welcomes delegates and shares that during synod worship times they will reflect on different sections of the Lord’s Prayer. She reminds the delegates that the Holy Spirit is present. Delegates respond by singing “Come, Holy Spirit.”

The Christ candle is lit to remind everyone that God is present: “God invites us to worship, God is present in the work of the synodical agenda, and God is here in the midst of our conversations on the floor, in our study committees, and in our private conversations.” Delegates respond by singing “Holy, Holy, Holy.” A video from Worship Ministries about prayer is shown. Delegates pray the Lord’s Prayer and pass the peace of Christ.

The praise team leads in singing “Many and Great.” The opening words of the Lord’s Prayer show that God is near but also radically far: “when we begin to understand the fullness of God, when we begin to live into that mysterious paradox, we begin to hallow God’s name.” Delegates recite Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 122 and respond by singing again “Many and Great.”

Rev. John M. Sideco (ethnic adviser) reads Philippians 4:4-9 and invites delegates and advisers to share with each other what the Holy Spirit has revealed about God’s nearness, hallowing God’s name, God’s holiness. Delegates spend time in small group prayer.

Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr., executive director, offers prayer, thanking God for his mercy, remembering especially the community of Grand Rapids, Michigan, which is hurting from the recent shooting of Patrick Lyoya by a police officer. Mr. Watson prays for the local community, for Patrick Lyoya’s family, and for officer Christopher Schurr’s family.

Mr. Watson offers the blessing, and the praise team leads in singing “Let Us Be Known by Our Love” in Spanish and English.

President José Rayas thanks the Worship Planning Committee for leading synod in worship. He welcomes delegates and advisers to the first in-person synod session in three years. Delegates who were not present at the May 25 convening session rise to express agreement with the forms of unity. President Rayas opens with prayer specifically for Kenneth Benjamins (Hamilton) and himself, whose mothers are in the hospital.

The roll indicates that the following delegates and adviser are absent: Christopher Cassis (Southeast U.S.), Ben E. deRegt (North Cascades), Bob Huisman (Grandville), Leah Sweetman (young adult representative).

In addition, elder delegate Ralph N. Akin (Columbia) is no longer able to attend and participate at synod. Alternate elder delegate Stan Bos (Columbia) replaces him.

Alternate deacon Kenneth M. Brink (Illiana) replaces Gary Siegersma (for June 10 only).

ARTICLE 11

The president introduces Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, who welcomes synod to the Calvin University campus on behalf of Michael Le Roy, president of Calvin University.

The executive director recognizes and introduces the ecumenical guests present throughout the week: Rev. Laura Osborne, coordinator for inter-religious relations for the Reformed Church in America; Mr. Mark Rietkerk, ecumenical coordinator for the Netherlands Reformed Church; Mr. Rinze IJbema, ecumenical coordinator for the Reformed Churches Liberated; Rev. Lala Haja Rasendrasahina, member of the national council of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar; Rev. Dr. William Zulu, general secretary of the Reformed Church in Zambia; Rev. Dr. Clement Mwanza, vice synod moderator of the Reformed Church in Zambia; Mr. Phil Tanis, executive for communications and operations of the World Communion of Reformed Churches; Rev. Philip Vinod Peacock, executive for justice and witness of the World Communion of Reformed Churches; and Mr. Peter Noteboom, general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches.

The executive director introduces the parliamentarian, synod news staff, *Banner* staff, synod office staff, prayer coordinator, IT staff, worship committee convener, transportation coordinator, Calvin University events coordinators, denominational executive staff, Council of Delegates president and vice president, interpreters, standing committee chairs, and directors of agencies and ministries present.

ARTICLE 12

The following schedule is presented for information: morning session, 8:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.; afternoon session, 1:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.; evening session, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; breaks at 9:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 13

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

Confidentiality of the executive sessions of synod

The Council of Delegates calls the matter of confidentiality to the attention of Synod 2022 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).

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 14

The officers of synod announce the following appointments:

Testimonial Banquet Committee:

Deacon delegate Elizabeth A. Gysbers
Elder delegate Frederic L. Harvey II
Deacon delegate Shannon L. Rop

Minutes Review Committee:

Elder delegate Janet deWinter
Rev. Cedric W. Parsels

Worship Planning Committee:
Elder delegate Robert R. Braun
Rev. Jason D. Crossen

Sergeant at Arms:
Rev. Daryl J. DeKlerk

Hospitality Committee:
Ms. Emily Brink
Rev. William T. Koopmans
Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr.

ARTICLE 15

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, CRC agencies, educational institutions, standing committees, task forces, and study committees of synod contained within the reports to synod are granted.
- B. That synod approve the following requests for special offerings contained within the report to Synod 2022:
 1. That synod, along with the Council of Delegates, encourage all Christian Reformed congregations to recognize the following Sundays as significant opportunities to pray for and to receive an offering for Resonate Global Mission: Easter, Pentecost, and the second and third Sundays in September.
 2. 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.

—Adopted

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

Classis Minnkota: “The following delegates and alternates from Classis Minnkota protest the seating of women delegates to synod for reasons of conscience: Brian Kornelis, Scott Muilenburg, Eric Van Dyken, Brian Busker, Marshall Pater, Chad Werkhoven, Roger Sparks. They wish to make clear that their protest is not against women or against using the gifts of women, but they wish to uphold their understanding of Scripture’s teaching regarding the roles of women and men. The [Classis Minnkota] communication sent to this year’s synod offers a fuller explanation of their convictions.”

—Noted

- D. If delegates want any matter removed from the consent agenda, they should bring the specific matter (noted with page numbers) to the attention of the officers immediately. The vote to receive the consent agenda will take place Saturday morning.

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

F. The officers have decided that, as recommended by the Program Committee of synod, synod will enter a "special closed session" during the deliberations of matters addressing human sexuality, including the Neland Avenue CRC matter—*no guests/observers* will be present during the deliberations so that the delegates may be free to speak up. This also limits undue influence on the deliberations through email/text/social media.

G. Synod will be implementing a 20-minute delay on all synod livestreaming, with the exception of the Sunday Synodical Service of Prayer and Praise.

ARTICLE 16

The executive director draws the attention of delegates to the announcements received in their check-in packet.

ARTICLE 17

The executive director introduces Rev. Amanda Benckhuysen and Rev. Reginald Smith, who lead the assembly in a power and privilege training, as adopted by Synod 2019.

ARTICLE 18

President José Rayas leads in closing prayer. Synod recesses at 9:58 a.m. so that the advisory committees may do their work. The assembly will reconvene at 8:15 a.m. Saturday morning in the Covenant Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

SATURDAY MORNING, June 11, 2022

Third Session

ARTICLE 19

The praise team (vocalists: Rebecca Bokma, Robert W. Brower; vocalist/guitar: Daniel G. Brown; piano: Katie Roelofs; drums: Aaron J. Gunsaulus; guitar: Jason D. Crossen, Timothy J. McHugh) leads delegates in worship with singing "Instrument of Peace" and "How Great Is Our God."

The Christ candle is lit as a reminder that God is present; synod is invited to reflect on the Lord's Prayer statements "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Rev. Lesli van Milligen invites delegates and advisers to spend time in curiosity and wonder, experiencing Scripture as a child does. She reads Matthew 13:31-32, the parable of the mustard seed, and leads delegates in a time of wondering. Delegates respond by singing "Speak, O Lord."

Rev. van Milligen reminds delegates that parables are precious and invites participants to go deeper into Christ's teaching. She reads Matthew 13:31-32 again, illustrating the parable with a flannel board. Delegates participate in a time of wondering and respond again by singing "Speak, O Lord."

Rev. KwangBae Lee offers thanks for the many ways that the Christian Reformed Church in North America has been building the kingdom. He offers the charge and blessing in Korean. Delegates respond by singing “Build Your Kingdom Here.”

President José Rayas offers thanksgiving for the improved health of Hamilton delegate Kenneth Benjamins’ mother and his own mother. He thanks the delegates for their continued prayers.

The roll indicates that the following delegate and advisers are absent: Hyung-Jun Kim (ethnic adviser), Reuben D. Sinnema (Yellowstone), and Leah Sweetman (young adult representative).

ARTICLE 20

The president presents the following on behalf of the officers:

That synod receive as information all agenda items designated as “consent agenda” by the Program Committee of synod (COD Supplement section I, F).

— *Adopted*

ARTICLE 21

The executive director presents the ballot for denominational board and committee elections, and the delegates vote electronically. The ballot results (boards and committees lists) 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* 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 22

The morning session recesses at 9:06 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees. Rev. Derek Buikema, vice president, leads in closing prayer, remembering Red Mesa delegate Debra L. Chee’s father, who is passing away. The assembly will reconvene Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. in the Covenant Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, June 12, 2022

Fourth Session

ARTICLE 23

The afternoon session convenes at 1:34 p.m. Second clerk Luann D. Sankey leads in opening prayer.

The roll indicates that the following delegates and advisers are absent: Steve Bussis (Yellowstone), John Harold Caicedo (California South), Debra L. Chee (Red Mesa), Albert J. Cramer (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Jason D. Crossen (B.C. South-East), James Dykstra (Southeast U.S.), Michael W. Hoogeboom (Grand Rapids South), Seth Koerner (Kalamazoo), Janice E. Kostelyk (B.C. South-East), KwangBae Lee (Hudson), Sang Myeun Moon

(Hanmi), John JungUn Park (Lake Erie), Cedric W. Parsels (Grandville), Leah Sweetman (young adult representative), Simon A. Tuin (Kalamazoo), Arlyn J. Van Ek (Illiana), Josh Van Engen (Wisconsin), David VanKokkumburg (young adult representative), Benjamin C. Verkerk (Lake Superior), Mirtha M. Villafane (Greater Los Angeles), Jeff A.D. Weima (faculty adviser), and Chad E. Werkhoven (Minnkota).

Elder delegate Douglas D. Holtrop (Georgetown) is no longer able to attend and participate at synod.

ARTICLE 24

The executive director introduces and again welcomes the ecumenical guests present throughout the week: Rev. Laura Osborne, coordinator for interreligious relations for the Reformed Church in America; Mr. Mark Rietkerk, ecumenical coordinator for the Netherlands Reformed Church; Mr. Rinze Ijbema, ecumenical coordinator for the Reformed Churches Liberated; Rev. Lala Haja Rasendrasahina, member of the national council of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar; Rev. Dr. William Zulu, general secretary of the Reformed Church in Zambia; Rev. Dr. Clement Mwanza, vice synod moderator of the Reformed Church in Zambia; Mr. Phil Tanis, executive for communications and operations of the World Communion of Reformed Churches; Rev. Philip Vinod Peacock, executive for justice and witness of the World Communion of Reformed Churches; and Mr. Peter Noteboom, general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches.

Rev. William T. Koopmans, chair of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, shares that the pulse and heartbeat of ecumenical matters rest in relationships. He expresses joy that these ecumenical guests can be present at Synod 2022.

Rev. Koopmans introduces Peter Noteboom, general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches, who addresses synod. Rev. Derek Buikema, vice president, offers prayer.

Rev. Koopmans introduces Rev. Mark Rietkerk, ecumenical coordinator for the Netherlands Reformed Church, who addresses synod. Rev. José Rayas, president, offers prayer.

Rev. Koopmans introduces Rev. Laura Osborne, coordinator for interreligious relations for the Reformed Church in America, who addresses synod. Rev. Derek Buikema, vice president, offers prayer.

Rev. Koopmans introduces Rev. Philip Vinod Peacock, executive for justice and witness of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, who addresses synod via a prerecorded greeting. Rev. José Rayas, president, offers prayer.

President Rayas thanks Rev. Koopmans and the ecumenical guests for their presentations and the written reports they have submitted.

ARTICLE 25

President Rayas welcomes staff of the CRC Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy congregational ministries. A video is shared regarding the work of the Antiracism and Intercultural Conciliation Office, the Centre for Public Dialogue, Disability Concerns, Indigenous Ministries, Office of Social Justice, Race Relations, and Safe Church Ministry. These ministries strive to protect the dignity and value of each person.

ARTICLE 26

The afternoon session recesses at 2:58 p.m. First clerk Rev. Aaron J. Vriesman leads in closing prayer. Synod will resume Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY EVENING, June 12, 2022

Fifth Session

ARTICLE 27

The evening session convenes at 7:32 p.m.; Rev. John Harold Caicedo (California South) leads in opening prayer. President Rayas offers thanksgiving that Red Mesa delegate Debra L. Chee's father is currently in stable condition and asks for continued prayers for him and for others mentioned previously in prayer.

ARTICLE 28

President Rayas welcomes Carol Bremer-Bennett and Ken Kim, codirectors of World Renew, who address synod. They share that World Renew originated out of the concerns of the Christian Reformed Church during the 1950s: Korean orphans, natural disasters in North America, and floods in the Netherlands. It quickly became obvious that deacons from individual churches could not effectively be diaconal agents for large-scale disasters. The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee was formed in 1962.

A video presentation explains the work of World Renew to live justly, love mercy, and serve Christ in the world. The key impact areas of World Renew include food security, economic livelihoods, and health. This work is accomplished through building up community assets through development, renewing hope and resilience through crisis and disaster response, and reconciling lives through justice work. 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of World Renew's kingdom work on earth.

President Rayas thanks Carol Bremer-Bennet and Ken Kim for World Renew's work around the world and its inspiring impact.

ARTICLE 29

The president introduces Andy de Ruyter, president of the Council of Delegates (COD), who addresses delegates on the work of the COD. He gives recognition to Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice president of the COD.

Mr. de Ruyter shares that the Council of Delegates has felt the absence of synod. The COD functions as synod in the interim and assists in implementing what synod has decided; however, the COD knows that it is not synod. "Life on the COD and life at synod presents you with church challenges and problems that create in you a fear of drowning. If you think you might be in over your head, you are right. This is hard stuff. You need stepping stones to guide you."

Mr. de Ruyter explains that, as a lay leader, he has had to stand on the stepping stones of those who have walked before. The same is true of the Council of Delegates, acting in the interim of synod. He addresses concerns that members have had regarding the special meetings of the Council

of Delegates in the interim of synod for the past two years, including the anticipation of administrative restructuring, the Structure and Leadership Task Force report, and the Revenue Canada regulatory updates. Through it all, the Council of Delegates has experienced the communion of saints, he says: “It is here that we experience our oneness in faith, baptism, and the Lord Jesus Christ. We meet face-to-face, not as Canadians and Americans, but as brothers and sisters, the family of God, the body of Christ. May you be guided by the stepping stones laid out for you by the Spirit.”

ARTICLE 30

Colin P. Watson, Sr., executive director, addresses the delegates on the State of the Church, describing it as hopeful, promising, and at a crossroads. He reminds delegates that over the past few years we have seen many reminders of the brokenness of the world, including racism, mass shootings, and political failures. Synod 2022 convenes amid a lot of anxiety and pressure, with amplified needs concerning the church. However, he says, “we hold tightly to the faith that the power of the Holy Spirit will guide us, hold us, and see us through not only just the coming week but into the future.”

The CRCNA is halfway through a five-year ministry plan called *Our Journey 2025*, which encompasses the following milestones:

- Cultivate practices of prayer and spiritual discipline.
- Listen to the voices of every generation.
- Grow in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome.
- Share the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches.

Each milestone includes many examples of churches living into the gospel, including the Faith Practices project, intentional times of prayer, Generation Spark, intergenerational and youth-led worship, Venezuelan churches and the Consejo Latino, training for commissioned pastors, church planters, the Korean Pastors Conference, the Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander leaders’ retreat, new diaspora leaders working with white CRC churches to build third way ministries, and more.

Mr. Watson also addresses membership decline within the CRCNA. A not-so-surprising conclusion is that a great deal of the decline over the past years has simply been demographic. In the past the CRCNA consisted primarily of Caucasian members who were economically and socially successful. This success led to a declining birthrate and declining intergenerational church attendance, starting in the 1960s. An examination of the data indicates that there is a likelihood that new populations, specifically those of diaspora communities, are adding to the intergenerational numbers of the overall church. CRCNA members are encouraged to embrace these changes in membership and the opportunities to enfold diaspora members and see this change as a gift from God. Embracing these changes will help the CRCNA live into its vision of being a diverse family of healthy congregations, assemblies, and ministries expressing the good news of God’s kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide. There are signs of God’s faithfulness all around.

Mr. Watson concludes by sharing that even at a time of crossroads these verses hold true: “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down,

but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body” (2 Cor. 4:8-10); and “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

President Rayas gives thanks for Mr. Watson, quoting from Jeremiah 29:11.

ARTICLE 31

The evening session adjourns at 8:48 p.m. Rev. Mirtha M. Villafane (Greater Los Angeles) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Monday morning at 8:15 a.m.

MONDAY MORNING, June 13, 2022

Sixth Session

ARTICLE 32

The praise team leads delegates in worship with singing “The Goodness of Jesus” and “Yet Not I, But through Christ in Me.”

The Christ candle is lit to as a reminder that God is present. The call to worship comes from Isaiah 55:1-2. Delegates and advisers respond by singing “Como El Ciervo/Like a Deer.”

Rev. Joyce Borger and deacon delegate Marcia L. Hosmar (Hamilton) lead a responsive reading based on Psalm 103. Delegates respond by singing “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Rev. Albert Postma, transitional executive director-Canada, provides a reflection on the fourth petition of the Lord’s Prayer: “Give us this day our daily bread.” He shares that it can be easy at a time of high anxiety to lose our grounding and forget that God provides for us: “It is God who is the source of everything good.” Delegates spend time reflecting on Psalm 103 and the blessings of God.

Delegates sing “Santo, Santo, Santo, Mi Corazon/Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart” and “Bless the Lord, O My Soul.” Rev. Rebecca L. Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East) leads the prayers of the people, remembering that “Give us this day our daily bread” is an urgent prayer spoken out of overwhelming need.

Rev. Postma closes with a sending and blessing based on 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Delegates conclude the time of worship by singing “Now Thank We All Our God.”

The roll call indicates that all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 33

Advisory Committee 3, Education and Candidacy, Rev. Anthony Elenbaas reporting, presents the following:

I. Calvin Theological Seminary

A. *Materials*

1. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Calvin Theological Seminary Report (sections VII-VIII), pp. 258-61
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement (sections II, C, 3-4, including Appendices A-B)

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. David Morren, chair, and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president

C. Recommendations

1. That synod, upon a successful interview, appoint Dr. Yudha Thianto as professor of history of Christianity and Reformed theology.
— *Adopted*
2. That synod appoint Rev. Curt Walters to interview Dr. Yudha Thianto for 30 minutes, and that delegates, advisers, and young adult representatives of synod be permitted to ask questions for 15 minutes after the main interview.
— *Adopted*
3. That synod, upon a successful interview, appoint Dr. Wilson Cunha as professor of Old Testament.
— *Adopted*
4. That synod appoint Rev. Rebecca L. Jordan Heys to interview Dr. Wilson Cunha for 30 minutes, and that delegates, advisers, and young adult representatives of synod be permitted to ask questions for 15 minutes after the main interview.
— *Adopted*

II. Candidacy Committee

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Candidacy Committee Report (deferred from 2020; sections III-V, including Appendix), pp. 371-79
2. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Candidacy Committee Supplement (deferred from 2020), p. 381
3. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Candidacy Committee Report (deferred from 2021; section III), pp. 382-83
4. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Candidacy Committee Supplement (deferred from 2021), pp. 386-87
5. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Candidacy Committee Report (sections II-III), pp. 269-73
6. Candidacy Committee Supplement (sections I-III, V)

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Susan LaClear, director of Candidacy, and an additional member of the Candidacy Committee, if one is present.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod endorse, via inclusion in the Journey Toward Ordination document, the strategy of requiring the MEPMC in Article 8 cases when it seems debatable that a “sustained and realistic” search effort has been put forth or that the situation is in need of contextualization (2020).
— *Adopted*
2. That synod approve the proposed revisions to Church Order Supplement, Article 24-a as noted below, and that synod also take note of a transitional statement to be included in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook (2021):

Revisions to Church Order Supplement, Article 24-a (noted by *italics* and ~~strikethrough~~)

Commissioned pastors may serve in positions of solo leadership in an established church only in specific circumstances. *Three of these* circumstances were specified before 2019 in Church Order Articles 23-b, 23-c, and 23-d. *A fourth was adopted by Synod 2018.* All four ~~and~~ are now presented and explained in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook (sections IV, I and J). A classis may decide to make such appointments contingent upon implementation of a learning plan leading toward meeting the qualifications for minister of the Word, as described in Church Order Article 24-b. In all cases in which a commissioned pastor serves in a solo leadership position in an emerging or organized church, it is mandatory that such a person, in cooperation with classis, shall develop and complete a contextualized learning plan for denominational orientation, adopted by classis and approved by the Candidacy Committee, as described in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook.

To be added at the end of section IV, I in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook as a transition to section IV, J:

To summarize, there are three scenarios, formerly noted in the Church Order and still valid, by which a commissioned pastor may serve as a lead or solo pastor in an established church. There is also a fourth scenario, referred to unofficially as a “bridge ordination,” to which we now turn our attention.

—Adopted

3. That synod rejoice in the provision of a new director of candidacy, Rev. Susan E. LaClear (Supplement 2021).

—Adopted

Rev. Elenbaas offers prayer for Rev. LaClear and the work of candidacy.

4. That synod note with appreciation the extensive work of the EPMC Facilitation Team in implementing changes to the EPMC program.

—Adopted

5. That synod declare the following persons as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church as recommended in section I, A of the Candidacy Committee Supplement:

Sheri L. Admiraal
Brad D. B. Bootsma
Kristy L. Bootsma
Tricia L. Bosma
Stewart J. De Jong
Mark D. Elffers
Ryan L. Farrell
Matthew D. Guichelaar
Rebecca G. Hall
Carol E. Hulin
Minho Jake Jeong
Jelle H. Koersen

Aleah M. Marsden
Jacob A. Patton
Mario R. Perez, Jr.
Micah P. Ringelberg
Nicole M. Romero
Joseph J. Steenholdt
Zachary J. Toth
Jodi F. VanWingerden
Wendy J. Werkman
Benjamin H. Wimmers
Anthony Vander Schaaf

—Adopted

6. That synod approve the extensions of candidacy for the following individuals as recommended in section I, B of the Candidacy Committee Supplement:

Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi
Brad S. Diekema
Joshua L. Grimes
Timothy Joo
Kennedy Muli Kailiti
Eunice Kim
Jooheyng “David” Kim
Hannah Ryou Lee
Daniel Meyers
Loice Mueni Minito
Matthew Mulder

Paul Seonmok Park
William S. Roelofs
Kent A. Sanders
Ivan K. Santoso
Lynn Song
Evan J. Tinklenberg
Rebecca L. Tjapkes
Ryan A.K. VanderWees
Thomas J. Van Wyk
Lea A. Wilkening

—*Adopted*

7. That synod approve the reinstatement of candidacy of Klaas Walhout and of Kiseok (Daniel) Kang as described in section I, C of the Candidacy Committee Supplement.

—*Adopted*

8. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee in declaration of need for those listed in section II of the Candidacy Committee Supplement for affiliation under Church Order Article 8.

—*Adopted*

9. That synod take note of the modifications the Candidacy Committee has made to candidacy requirements, explained in section III of the Candidacy Committee Supplement.

—*Tabled*

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod express its serious concerns with the modifications the Candidacy Committee has made to the candidacy requirements pertaining to biblical languages and preaching, explained in section III of the Candidacy Committee Supplement, and direct the Candidacy Committee and the seminary to seriously consider increasing these requirements and to report back to Synod 2023.

Grounds:

- a. Ministry in our cultural context is becoming more difficult, not less, and requires better trained pastors rather than less training.
- b. The proclamation of the Word is the very power of God unto salvation, and preparation for those called to this task should be given the utmost seriousness and effort.
- c. It is not the church’s calling to compete with other seminaries but to ensure the most effective training possible for ministers to serve our congregations, for the sake of Jesus Christ and the well-being of his beloved bride, the church.

—*Defeated*

Synod returns to the tabled motion:

That synod take note of the modifications the Candidacy Committee has made to candidacy requirements, explained in section III of the Candidacy Committee Supplement.

—*Adopted*

Cedric W. Parsels, Classis Grandville, registers a negative vote.

III. Response to Overture 13 (*deferred from 2021*): Honor Ordination of a Reformed Church in America Commissioned Pastor if Called to a CRC Congregation

A. Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overture 13 (deferred from 2021), pp. 488-89

B. Recommendations

1. That synod not accede to Overture 13 (submitted by Classis Arizona).

Grounds:

- a. There is a lack of clarity in the overture about the exact change sought.
- b. In the Reformed Church in America (RCA) commissioned pastors are ordained as elders, not to the fourth office designated in the CRC for commissioned pastors.
- c. The commissioned pastor ordination is a local ordination and is not designed to be easily transferrable.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates to review the implications of the church planting activities in Classis Arizona and recommend any needed Church Order changes to help church plants find expression in both denominations (RCA/CRC).

Grounds:

- a. Classis Arizona is doing excellent church planting work born from the Reformed Collaborative.
- b. While this matter arose out of a local context, there are denominational implications for our relationship with the RCA.

—*Adopted*

IV. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Council of Delegates Supplement (deferred from 2021; section I, K, including Appendix B), pp. 290-93, 335-41*
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022, Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 12), p. 40*
3. *Council of Delegates Supplement (section I, J, 2, including Appendix D)*

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod adopt the proposed changes to the bylaws of Calvin University as found in Appendix B (COD Supplement 2021, section I, K) and instruct the executive director (or general secretary) to make relevant updates to the Rules for Synodical Procedure and the COD Governance Handbook to reflect the adopted changes.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod take note that the COD permitted Calvin University to move forward with a presidential search and appointment prior to Synod 2022, in compliance with the current Calvin University bylaws (II, A, 12).

—*Noted*

3. That synod adopt the change to the registered agent information in Calvin University's Articles of Incorporation (COD Supplement, section I, J, 2; Appendix D).

—*Adopted*

V. Calvin University

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Calvin University Report (section VI), p. 155

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Bruce Los, chair; Dr. Michael K. Le Roy, president; and Mr. Craig Lubben, past chair

C. Recommendation

That synod give thanks for President Michael K. Le Roy and his exemplary leadership and service for the cause of Christian higher education on behalf of the Christian Reformed Church at Calvin University over the past ten years.

—*Adopted*

Delegates express their appreciation for President Le Roy. Rev. Rebecca L. Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East) offers a prayer of thanksgiving.

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 47.)

ARTICLE 34

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters and Heresy, Rev. Anthony R. DeKorte reporting, presents the following:

I. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

A. Materials

1. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report (sections I, III; VIII, A and C), pp. 274-75, 279-80

2. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement (sections I and III)

B. Privilege of the floor: William T. Koopmans, chair, and Colin P. Watson, Sr. (ex officio)

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod express its gratitude to Lenore Maine for serving the cause of ecumenicity for the CRC.

— *Adopted*

2. That synod receive the following update to the EIRC membership distribution/nomination process description as information (noted in strike-through and italics):

That five members be from Canada and five members be from the United States, with every effort made toward the following regional balance:

- a. That two Canadian members be elected from the *Canada West region* ~~classes Lake Superior, Alberta/Saskatchewan, Alberta North, B.C. South-East, and B.C. North-West.~~
- b. That three Canadian members be elected from the *Canada East region* ~~classes east of Classis Lake Superior.~~
- c. That one U.S. member be elected from the *USA East region* ~~Eastern regions.~~
- d. That two U.S. members be elected from the Great Lakes region.
- e. That two U.S. members be elected from the *USA Central and USA West regions* ~~west of the Mississippi River.~~

— *Adopted*

3. That synod recognize Kingdom Network, USA, as a *church in dialogue* for the purpose of continued pursuit toward designation as a *church in ecclesiastical fellowship*, and, by way of exception, that while designated as a *church in dialogue*, a church with previous CRCNA/RCA dual-affiliation maintain its affiliation with the CRCNA.

Grounds:

- a. The churches that make up Kingdom Network, USA, share previous background with the Reformed Church in America.
- b. The new denomination intends to work toward the status of being a *church in ecclesiastical fellowship*, the status its congregations had when part of the RCA.
- c. This is a way to provide an opportunity to work out details as Faith Church – Highland (Ind.) Campus, Calvary Church of Oak Lawn (Ill.), and any similar ministry desires to remain part of the CRCNA.

— *Adopted*

4. That synod, by way of exception, ask the Council of Delegates to appoint a new member at the October meeting to fill the vacancy on the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.

— *Adopted*

II. Response to Communication 2 (*deferred from 2020*)

A. *Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Communication 2 (deferred from 2020)*, pp. 570-71

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive for information Communication 2 (2020) from Classis B.C. North-West requesting that CRCNA and Reformed Church in America leadership discern potential realignment options.

—*Adopted*

III. Council of Delegates

A. *Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Council of Delegates Report (deferred from 2020; section II, A, 15, including Appendix E)*, pp. 138, 161-71

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the report on the definition of *heresy* as a fulfillment of the instruction of Synod 2019, consider its recommendations, and express gratitude to the authors of the report for their work and contribution (COD Report 2020, section II, A, 15; Appendix E).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod commend this report to the churches as a helpful guide to what heresy is and when it might be appropriate to use the term.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod take note that there is currently considerable diversity of understanding of the term *heresy* in society and in the church.

—*Noted*

4. That synod urge caution in using the term *heresy*, while not shrinking back from using the term when necessary.

Grounds:

- a. Diverse understandings of the term *heresy* in both popular culture and the church make it a term easily susceptible to misunderstanding.
- b. There are often other acceptable ways to identify and reject aberrant or false teachings—ways that are less susceptible to ambiguity or misunderstanding.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod urge any future synod, if it judges a teaching or movement to be heretical, to identify which of the characteristics noted in this report as typically associated with heresy lead to the judgment of heresy.

Grounds:

- a. The exercise of sorting through the characteristics typical of heresy will be helpful in knowing whether the term *heresy* is appropriate in any given case.
- b. Identifying the characteristics that lead to the judgment of heresy will help to inform members of the church and other interested parties why the church offers this strong rejection.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 55.)

ARTICLE 35

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Rev. John R. Lee, reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. *Materials*

1. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (section II, C, including Appendix H), pp. 50, 115-46
2. Council of Delegates Supplement (section II, C, 1-6)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Michael L. Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Colin P. Watson, Sr., 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 H).
2. That synod take note of the work of the COD in taking note of the unified budget for the denominational entities for 2023 and in approving ministry-share allocations, based on ministry-share pledges reported by the churches and classes (COD Supplement sections II, C, 1-2).

—*Adopted*

—*Noted*

3. That synod adopt the use of a consent agenda at future synods.

Grounds:

- a. Synod 2022 used a consent agenda to great effect.
- b. The COD, the interim committee of synod, has already effectively implemented a consent agenda in its work.
- c. This will enable synod to focus its limited time on matters that deserve greater attention.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod, upon adoption of recommendation 3 above, instruct the Program Committee of synod to designate appropriate matters, such as receiving the condensed financial statements as information, taking note of the unified budget approval, and authorizing pension amounts for housing allowance, to the consent agenda of synod in future years.

Grounds:

- a. Much of the material on financial matters more appropriately belongs under a consent agenda. For example, the budgeting process is no longer approved at synod but rather occurs at the COD level.
- b. Without independent review of the unified budget, the exercise of synod taking note of such a budget lacks integrity.
- c. Other items are placeholders for annual accountability and transparency but not for active discernment by synod.

— *Adopted*

5. That synod adopt the 2022-2023 denominational salary grid for staff positions as proposed, noting that the current pay ranges reflect a 5 percent increase for Canadian staff and a 4 percent increase for U.S. staff from the previous year (COD Supplement section II, C, 3).

Grounds

- a. The recommended adjustments to the salary range targets are needed to reflect the marketplace salary inflationary increases that have been experienced in Canada and the United States.
- b. These changes are consistent with the compensation levels included in the fiscal 2023 budget.

— *Adopted*

6. That synod ratify the following with regard to organizations requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:
 - a. The list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for denominational agencies, institutions, and ministries of the CRC (COD Supplement section II, C, 4).
 - b. The list of nondenominational organizations, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2023 (COD Supplement section II, C, 5).

— *Adopted*

7. That synod take note of the COD's endorsement of the following actions of the Pension Trustees (COD Supplement section II, C, 6):
 - a. The three-year average salary to be used to determine retirement benefits beginning in 2023 for ministers of the Word in the United States is \$56,625 and in Canada is \$61,060.
 - b. That the 2023 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$37.20 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$7,704. Similarly, that the 2023 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.

— *Adopted*

II. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund

- A. *Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022*, Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report (section II), p. 165

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, In., U.S.

C. Recommendation

That synod receive the report of the Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund as information.

—*Adopted*

III. Pensions and Insurance

A. Materials: *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Pensions and Insurance Report (section II), pp. 176, 179-80

B. Privilege of the floor: John H. Bolt, members of the Canadian Pension Trustees and members of the U.S. Pension Trustees

C. Recommendations

1. That synod designate up to 100 percent of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 2023 as housing allowance for United States income-tax purposes (IRS Ruling 1.107-1) but only to the extent that the pension is used to rent or provide a home.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod designate up to 100 percent of an ordained pastor's distributions from their CRC 403(b)(9) Retirement Income Plan in 2023 as housing allowance for United States income-tax purposes (IRS Ruling 1.107-1) but only to the extent that those funds are used to rent or provide a home.

—*Adopted*

IV. Denominational Investment Policy

A. Materials: Council of Delegates Supplement, section II, C, 7; Appendix F

B. Recommendation

That synod take note of the summary of denominational investments and compliance with investment policy.

—*Noted*

V. Ministry-share discussion

A. Background

The committee spent time discussing historical denominational ministry-share contribution trends and emerging patterns arising from the recent transition to Ministry Shares Reimagined. Recognizing the important role ministry shares play in denominational budgeting, synod will be well served by an analysis of the dynamics behind historic trends and the changing ways congregations are approaching denominational funding.

B. Recommendation

That synod instruct the Council of Delegates to examine congregational responses to Ministry Shares Reimagined, with particular attention to questions such as the following:

- Why are ministry share contributions declining, especially in the U.S.?
- How are churches contributing in alternate ways?
- What other ministry priorities are congregations funding?
- What should we be doing going forward?

Grounds:

1. Ministry Shares Reimagined has introduced changes to denominational funding models that warrant a review.
2. As the interim committee of synod, the COD is well positioned to review changes in synodical ministry-share pledges.

— *Adopted*

VI. Response to Overture 9: Implement Insurance for Short-Term Illness

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Overture 9, p. 514

B. Recommendations

1. That synod instruct the executive director to curate Human Resources-related best practices and templates including short-term disability options for congregational staff.

— *Adopted*

2. That synod further instruct the executive director to study possible denominational and classical benevolence funds for congregations facing short-term disability needs.

— *Adopted*

3. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 9.

Grounds:

- a. This recognizes the autonomy and contextual realities of local congregations while resourcing them with the HR expertise of the CRC's denominational offices.
- b. In light of increased ministry stressors, the need for such policies is apparent.

— *Adopted*

VII. Response to Overture 1 (*deferred from 2020*): Formally Allow Campus Ministers to Serve as Delegates to Classis

A. Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overture 1 (deferred from 2020), pp. 429-30

B. Recommendation

That synod amend the Supplement to Church Order Article 40-a to formally allow campus ministers to serve as delegates to classis as follows (deletions indicated by strikethrough; additions indicated by *italics*):

- b) ~~"...If a classis so desires, it may also invite emerging churches to delegate three officebearers to the meetings of classis."~~
- c) *If a classis so desires, it may invite councils to delegate up to three officebearers from emerging churches under their care to the meetings of classis.*

- d) *If a classis so desires, it may also invite councils to delegate campus ministers, who are ordained officebearers, under their care to the meetings of classis.*

Grounds:

- a. Classis is a major assembly constituted by councils with original authority who are responsible to delegate members.
- b. Such a delegation will benefit classes by the expected presence and contributions of campus ministers at classis meetings.
- c. Such a delegation will give greater recognition and encouragement to these officebearers in classis.
- d. An amendment to the supplement would invite classes to implement this practice without obligating them to do so.

— Adopted

VIII. Response to Overtures 2 and 3 (*deferred from 2020*): Revise Church Order Article 45 to Permit Classes to Delegate an At-large Alternate to Synod; Revise Church Order Article 45 to Reduce Number of Delegates to Synod to Three per Classis

A. *Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overtures 2 and 3 (deferred from 2020), pp. 430-34*

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod propose to Synod 2023 that Church Order Article 45 be amended to allow greater flexibility to classes in formulating their delegations to synod (additions indicated by *italics*):

Synod is the assembly representing the churches of all classes. Each classis shall *ordinarily* delegate one minister, one elder, one deacon and one other officebearer to synod. *A classis may send no more than two delegates bearing the same office.*

Grounds:

- a. This permits needed flexibility for classes in constituting their delegations to achieve full participation at synod.
- b. Recent history has demonstrated a persistent difficulty in classes' sending a full delegation to synod.
- c. The principles of Christian fellowship and unity call us to act in ways that promote justice and equality and maximize the voices present at synod, especially from minority-majority classes, rural or geographically distant classes, and smaller classes that have struggled to send a full delegation under the present system.
- d. Retaining four delegates while allowing a maximum of two per office maintains diversity of office while also maintaining a full complement of deliberative voices at synod.

— Adopted

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 2 and 3.

— Adopted

IX. Response to Overtures 4-6 (*deferred from 2020*) and Overture 10 (2022):

Overture 4 (*deferred from 2020*): Amend Church Order Articles 12, 13, 14, and 17 with Respect to Supervision and Transition of Ministers

Overture 5 (*deferred from 2020*): Appoint a Study Committee to Review Church Order Articles 12-17

Overture 6 (*deferred from 2020*): Revise Church Order Article 16 to Provide for a Terminal Leave of Absence and Avoid Unnecessary Stigma of Article 17 Separation

Overture 10 (2022): Clarify Process for Reinstatement of Pastors Who Resigned to Serve in Other Denominations

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Overtures 4-6 (*deferred from 2020*), pp. 434-48
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Overture 10, pp. 514-15

B. Recommendation

That synod direct the COD to form a task force to conduct a comprehensive review of Church Order Articles 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, and 17 and their supplements in conversation with Pastor Church Resources and relevant voices, and to bring an interim report to Synod 2023 through the COD and a final report to Synod 2024.

The task force shall develop suggestions for clearer guidelines to pastors and churches in times of conflict, as well as assistance for positive pastoral transitions and more effective oversight of individuals in specialized ministries, including attention to the readmission of pastors via Article 8.

Grounds:

1. Overtures 4, 5, 6 (*Deferred Agenda*) and 10 (*Agenda 2022*) raise important issues in the application of these articles in the life of the CRCNA.
2. The increasing use of Article 17 and its often-perceived stigma underlie the importance of clarifying and strengthening guidance for the multifaceted situations of pastor-church separations.
3. The task force can also address occasions of inappropriate avoidance regarding Articles 82, 83, and 84.
4. A review of the data of the *Acts of Synod*, the *Manual for Synodical Deputies*, and memos to stated clerks from 1972 to the present indicates that the best synodical advice for congregations unhelpfully lies in synodical supplements and board/committee memos and not in Church Order.

—*Adopted*

Rev. John Lee expresses gratitude to John Bolt, director of finance and operations, for his faithful and extended service to the CRCNA on the occasion of his upcoming retirement.

ARTICLE 36

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Ministries, Rev. Michael J. Kooy reporting, presents the following:

Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Supplement (*deferred from 2020*; section I, I, including Appendix A), pp. 204, 206-16
2. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Faith Formation Ministries Report (*deferred from 2020*), p. 345
3. Council of Delegates Supplement (section I, G, including Appendices C1, C2)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod adopt the following recommendations as suggested by Faith Formation Ministries (FFM) regarding review and use of the New City Catechism (COD Supplement 2020, section I, I, including Appendix A).
 - a. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Chris Schoon, director of Faith Formation Ministries (FFM), when matters related to the report in Appendix A are being discussed.

—Adopted
 - b. That synod encourage CRC churches to share with FFM the ways in which they are engaging in catechetical teaching in their local contexts, particularly with regard to people who come to faith as adults. Churches can share ideas at faithformation@crcna.org.

—Adopted
 - c. That synod consider the report in Appendix A in fulfillment of the directive by Synod 2019 for FFM to provide a curriculum review and advice regarding the use of the New City Catechism by our churches.

—Adopted
2. That synod take note of the updates provided within the COD report on addressing directives of Synod 2019 regarding the abuse of power (II, A, 17, c):
 - Current review of the appeal process
 - Development of restorative practices resources and training for staff
 - Abuse of power training for candidates for ministry
 - Ongoing implementation and monitoring of synod’s directives

—Noted

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 39.)

ARTICLE 37

The morning session recesses at 11:46 a.m. Frederick L. Harvey II (Hackensack) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Monday afternoon at 1:15 p.m.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 13, 2022
Seventh Session

ARTICLE 38

The afternoon session convenes at 1:25 p.m. Rebecca Bokma (young adult representative) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 39

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 36.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Ministries, Rev. Michael J. Kooy reporting, presents the following:

Recommendations

3. That synod take the following actions to improve the appeal process (COD Supplement section I, G, and Appendices C1 and C2):
 - a. Adopt the following proposed revisions to Church Order Supplements Articles 30-a and 42-b as proposed in Appendix C1:

Proposed Church Order Supplement, Article 42-b, section b (the current Supplement, Article 42-b would become section a)

- b. When allegations of abuse against a church leader are brought forward to a church council, the council will contact the classis interim committee, which will appoint church visitors to do the following:*
 - 1. Meet with the church council of the accused for the purposes of advice, encouragement, and support as the council determines the most appropriate process for investigating and responding to the allegations (advisory panel process, independent investigation, mediation/ restorative conversations, other).*
 - 2. Participate as an observer on the panel if an advisory panel process is initiated.*
 - 3. Advise the church council as they discern how to follow up on and respond to the advisory panel findings.*
 - 4. Prepare a report detailing their observations of the advisory panel proceedings and the council's response. The report will be submitted to the church council and, if requested, to the claimant, the claimant's advocate, the accused, and the support person for the accused. The report is to be kept confidential and may be submitted to classis only if there is an appeal of the council's decision. All parties shall commit to maintaining the confidentiality of the report.*

— Adopted

Proposed addition to Church Order Supplement, Article 30-a: section A, 3 (the current sections A, 3 and 4 would become A, 4 and 5)

3. Appeal Process in Situations of Abuse That Are Appealed to Classis

Involvement of Synodical Deputies. When an appeal of a council decision involving allegations of abuse against a church leader comes before classis, the synodical deputies will advise the classis in order that fair

process and proper respect and care for all involved may be maintained (per Church Order Art. 48-c).

Orientation and Training. *Before handling an appeal involving abuse allegations against a church leader that have been taken up by an advisory panel process, classis delegates will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.*

Independent Investigations. *If an investigation hasn't already been done, classes or their interim committees may choose to arrange for an independent investigation into the allegations claimed. An independent investigation is strongly recommended in the following situations:*

- a. The accused or claimant is a prominent leader in the community or region such that impartiality is especially elusive.*
- b. The accusations consist of multiple victims or multiple jurisdictions.*
- c. Real or perceived conflicts of interest make impartiality especially elusive.*
- d. The case is appealed to classis because of alleged irregularities or mis-handling of the allegations.*

Responsibilities to the Claimant and the Accused

- a. Orientation to the process: Classes or their interim committees shall ensure that the claimant and the accused are familiar with the process, understand what is expected of them, and know how best to prepare.*
- b. Commitment to confidentiality: Delegates to the classis meeting addressing the appeal will commit to holding all matters of the testimony and discussion, including the identity of persons involved, in confidence according to the Rules for Synodical Procedure (section V, B, 11). Breaches of confidentiality will be reported to the councils of any delegates who violate this commitment.*
- c. Communication: The clerk of the classis that is taking up the appeal will communicate in a timely fashion the decisions of the classis to the claimant and the accused.*

Follow-up Care. *After the proceedings are finished, the church visitors and/or the classis Safe Church coordinator will arrange for restorative circle conversations to be made available to the persons most affected by the allegations of abuse and by the appeal process, to provide a pathway forward for healing and restoration to the community. Classes are also strongly encouraged to set aside funds for follow-up counseling for affected parties.*

— Adopted

Proposed addition to Supplement, Article 30-a: section B, 8

- 8. When an appeal of a classis decision involving allegations of abuse against a church leader comes before synod, members of the synod advisory committee will participate in a 60-minute Safe Church Ministry orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response.*

— Adopted

- b. Adopt the revised “Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader” document as proposed in Appendix C2.

Grounds:

- 1) The proposed changes provide greater support for the local council and the classis to act with justice and compassion when allegations of abuse against a church leader are brought forward.
- 2) The proposed changes increase awareness about how to adjudicate allegations of abuse by those who are authorized to respond on behalf of the church, in order to ensure better outcomes.
- 3) By expanding the use of the Advisory Panel Process, those who bring forward allegations of abuse and those who are accused will all be given a safe, objective process by which to have their voices heard.
- 4) The proposed changes reduce the likelihood of appeals to classis and synod involving allegations of abuse.
- 5) The proposed changes ensure proper support and care for the claimant and the accused should the allegations be appealed to classis.
- 6) The proposed changes are consistent with the recommendations proposed by the Addressing the Abuse of Power Committee report approved by Synod 2019.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 51.)

ARTICLE 40

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services and Structure, Rev. Peter A. Hoytema reporting, presents the following:

I. Historical Committee

A. Materials

1. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 14 including Appendix E), pp. 40, 81-83
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Historical Committee Report (section II, A), pp. 282-83
3. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2021*; section II, A, 11), p. 237
4. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Historical Committee Report (*deferred from 2020*; sections VI-VII, including Appendix), pp. 406-410, 411-16
5. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Historical Committee Report (*deferred from 2021*; section V), pp. 424-26

B. Privilege of the floor: John Bolt, chair, and James A. De Jong, secretary

C. Recommendations

1. That synod approve the revised Historical Committee mandate as presented in Appendix E of the 2022 COD Report (II, A, 14).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod expand the membership of its Historical Committee by adding two regular members to the committee as well as the executive director or his successor (ex officio, without voting privilege) and the Heritage Hall archivist (ex officio, without voting privilege) (2020, pp. 407, 410).

Grounds:

- a. This would bring the committee into closer conformity with synod's other two standing committees.
- b. This would allow the broadening of committee expertise to include, for example, such matters as outside archival experience and wider geographic and ethnic minority representation.
- c. This comports with the CRCNA executive director's job description and is similar to roles the executive director has with other standing committees of synod.
- d. This would reinforce the committee's visibility and stature in carrying out its synodical mandate.
- e. The formally recognized presence of the archivist on the committee would provide synodical sanction to actual past practice.

— *Adopted*

3. That the president of Calvin University (or a designee) and the president of Calvin Theological Seminary (or a designee) serve as ex officio members of the Historical Committee (Appendix E, p. 82).

Grounds:

- a. It is appropriate that all three financial stakeholders in Heritage Hall (which includes the denominational archives) have a significant role in the work of the Historical Committee's responsibility for the archives.
- b. The ongoing involvement of all three financial stakeholders in the work of the Historical Committee is the best way to avoid any potential conflict between the stakeholders and the Historical Committee.

— *Adopted*

4. That synod acknowledge the Historical Committee's contribution to the joint statement clarifying its synodical mandate (2020, pp. 410-11).

— *Adopted*

5. That synod recognize the work done by the Historical Committee and its conversation partners as providing the clarification directed by Synod 2019 (2021, pp. 425-26).

— *Adopted*

6. That synod recognize with deep appreciation the outstanding work of Hendrina Van Spronson, longtime office coordinator of Heritage Hall, and gratefully remember Ed Gerritsen, a dedicated Heritage Hall volunteer who passed away in 2021 (2022, p. 291).

— *Adopted*

II. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Supplement (*deferred from 2020*; section I, F, 2), p. 202
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (sections I, D and II, B, 2), pp. 32-33, 45-46, 56
3. COD Supplement (sections I, C, 1-2)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Andy DeRuyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr., executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That Synod 2021 publicly honor Steven R. Timmermans by endorsing the following resolution of thanksgiving and appreciation (COD Supplement 2020, section I, F, 2):

Resolution of Thanksgiving and Appreciation for the Person and Service of Dr. Steven R. Timmermans

Dr. Steven R. Timmermans completed his service as executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America in February 2020. During his tenure he was instrumental in laying out the framework for the transition from a Board of Trustees governance model to a Council of Delegates model that would better serve local congregations, classes, and the denomination.

Under his leadership the biennial Inspire conferences, *Our Journey 2020*, and multiple other ministry initiatives were born and shepherded. We express deep appreciation for his faithful service in leading senior staff, assisting with numerous committees and boards in staying focused on synodical guidelines and decisions, being a friend and spokesperson to our ecclesiastical partners, and being our CRCNA representative to the world.

Dr. Timmermans, with his extensive knowledge and experience, along with his love for our Lord Jesus Christ, served the denomination positively in assisting synod, the Council of Delegates, staff, classes, and local congregations in learning best practices to build up and equip the churches for service to our Lord in this ever-changing world in which we live.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Christian Reformed Church in North America declares its thanks and appreciation to Dr. Steven R. Timmermans for his faithful service to Christ's church and for his friendship, leadership, and encouragement on behalf of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

—Adopted

Rev. Joel D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast) offers a prayer of thanksgiving for Dr. Steven R. Timmermans.

2. That synod thank COD members who are retiring from or concluding service on the Council of Delegates for their faithful service and significant contributions to the denomination (I, D).

—*Adopted*

3. That synod express its gratitude to Colin P. Watson, Sr., and John H. Bolt for their faithful leadership and service to the CRCNA (COD Supplement, sections I, C, 1-2).

—*Adopted*

Rev. Peter A. Hoytema (Ontario Southwest) offers a prayer of thanksgiving for Colin P. Watson, Sr., and John H. Bolt.

4. That synod encourage classes and churches to make use of the *Our Journey 2025* (Ministry Plan) resources, including visuals, conversation cards, and other tools to aid in engaging in the excitement and ownership of the ministry plan (II, B, 2).

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 70.)

ARTICLE 41

Advisory Committee 5, Global Mission and Denominational Unity, Robert J. Toornstra reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2020*; section II, A, 13, including Appendix D), pp. 138, 156-61
2. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2021*; section II, B, 8), p. 243

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Andy DeRuyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr., executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod receive the Classis Ministry Plans report as a fulfillment of the request from Synod 2018 and instruct the COD to request that the Classis Renewal Advisory Team report to Synod 2023 regarding (1) new resources being developed for creating or refining a classis ministry plan and (2) an update on which classes have a ministry plan, since many are currently in process (2020, II, A, 13; Appendix D).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod hear a brief report and presentation by Resonate Global Mission on raising missionary support as a follow-up to decisions on missionary support approved by Synod 2014 (2021, II, B, 8; p. 247).

—*Adopted*

Rev. Joel Huyser, interim director of Resonate Global Mission, shares that, prior to 2014, missionary support-raising goals were based on worldwide averages. Because of this, it was difficult to budget for new missionaries to go to the field. In 2013 it was decided to move to individualized support-raising goals based on the cost of sending a missionary to a particular field. This change has been effective. However, a misunderstanding has circulated that individualized support-raising has covered 90 percent of the cost to support missionaries. That is not the case. The individualized missionary support covers compensation, field living expenses, and general ministry expenses. But there are other expenses that are not covered in that individualized support-raising, including regional spiritual retreats, home service, children's education, and necessary services provided by the home office.

Rev. Huyser reminds delegates that, because of this, offerings that are received are extremely important for Resonate's domestic and international programs. He expresses appreciation for the faithful prayer and financial support from members of the CRCNA on behalf of Resonate Global Mission.

II. ReFrame Ministries

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, ReFrame Ministries Report (section IV), p. 192

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Kurt Selles, director of ReFrame Ministries

C. Recommendation

That synod commend the work of ReFrame Ministries and encourage congregations to use their materials to support their own local ministries and outreach.

—*Adopted*

III. Resonate Global Mission

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Resonate Global Mission Report (section IV), pp. 199-200

B. Privilege of the floor: Director of Resonate Global Mission

C. Recommendation

That synod, along with the Council of Delegates, encourage all Christian Reformed congregations to recognize the following Sundays as significant opportunities to pray for and to receive an offering for Resonate Global Mission: Easter, Pentecost, and the second and third Sundays in September. (The committee notes that this was approved in Article 15 during the morning session of synod on June 10, 2022.)

—*Noted*

IV. World Renew

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, World Renew Report (section IV, A), p. 247

B. Privilege of the floor: Charles Adams, president of World Renew-U.S.; Andrew Geisterfer, president of World Renew-Canada; Carol Bremer-Bennett, director of World Renew-U.S.; and Ken Kim, interim director of World Renew-Canada

C. *Recommendation*

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. (The committee notes that this was approved in Article 15 during the morning session of synod on June 10, 2022.)

—*Noted*

V. **Response to Overture 13: Establish a Task Force on Unity**

A. *Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Overture 13, pp. 520-23*

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod receive Overture 13 for information and direct the executive director to instruct churches and classes to seek and to keep the unity of the church and the denomination in ways that are consistent with biblical principles, our Reformed confessions, and our Ecumenical Charter.
—*Adopted*
2. That synod direct the executive director to gather best practices on pursuing unity from the various classes and to share these with the broader church.
—*Adopted*
3. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 13 (2022).

Grounds:

- a. Unity is commanded by Jesus and is essential for the church.
- b. Unity must be grounded in biblical principles and shaped by our Reformed confessions.
- c. We have much to learn about unity from one another, and gathering best practices from churches and classes will help to promote the practice of unity.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 56.)

ARTICLE 42

President Rayas welcomes Rev. Elaine May, women's leadership developer, who addresses synod. The year 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of women in ecclesiastical office. In 1995 the advisory committee on women in office found inspiration for their recommendations: "This position is a compromise for the vast majority of the members of the committee, but it is offered in the hope that it will be positively received by a sizable majority of synod, thus providing a solution to our current dilemma [the inability of synod to agree on the role of women in the church]."

Rev. May shares that whether this milestone is celebrated or grieved, it is a celebration of the ability of the CRCNA to acknowledge both perspectives—that of women holding ecclesiastical office and that of the offices being restricted to men. Rev. May provides highlights of the history: "It has been challenging at times to honor our commitment to unity, and yet here we are after 25 years. We are a testament to Paul's words to the church in

Ephesus. We are joined and held together in Christ Jesus as each part has done its work.”

A video presentation shows the names and pictures of the 200 women currently ordained in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The narration includes these words: “May Jesus Christ be glorified and his church strengthened for God’s mission in the world.”

Delegates and advisers show appreciation in applause.

ARTICLE 43

Synod enters into strict executive session.

During the strict executive session, Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins reporting, presented the report of the committee. The following action is adopted for the public record:

That synod not sustain the appeal of Rev. Dr. D. Roorda.

Synod returns to open session.

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 66.)

ARTICLE 44

The afternoon session recesses at 5:20 p.m. after a time of prayer. Synod will reconvene Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY EVENING, June 13, 2022

Eighth Session

ARTICLE 45

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Rebecca L. Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 46

Rev. Anthony Elenbaas, reporter of Advisory Committee 3, reviews the process for the upcoming interviews. He introduces Rev. Jul Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, who addresses synod.

Rev. Medenblik thanks delegates for their prayers, encouragement, and support for Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS). Throughout the interview process, CTS has been able to illustrate the global church. Rev. Medenblik shares that Dr. Wilson Cunha is from Brazil and Dr. Yudha Thianto is from Indonesia.

ARTICLE 47

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 33.)

Calvin Theological Seminary

A. Materials

1. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Calvin Theological Seminary Report, section VII, p. 258
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement, sections II, C, 3-4

B. Recommendations

Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure (in Article 33, section I) and, following the completed interviews, considers the following recommendations:

1. That synod appoint Dr. Wilson Cunha as professor of Old Testament.

—*Adopted*

The president of synod congratulates Dr. Cunha, and Rev. Rebecca L. Jordan Heys offers a prayer of blessing for Dr. Cunha and his family.

2. That synod appoint Dr. Yudha Thianto as professor of history of Christianity and Reformed theology.

—*Adopted*

The president congratulates Dr. Thianto, and Rev. Curt Walters offers a prayer of thanksgiving for Dr. Yudha Thianto.

ARTICLE 48

The evening session recesses at 9:22 p.m. Synod will reconvene Tuesday morning at 8:15 a.m.

TUESDAY MORNING, June 14, 2022

Ninth Session

ARTICLE 49

The praise team leads delegates in worship with singing “Teach Us Your Ways,” “Instrument of Peace,” and “We Need the Power.”

The Christ candle is lit as a reminder that God is present. Rev. Amanda Benckhuysen, director of Safe Church Ministry, leads in the call to worship from Ephesians 3:14-21. Delegates and advisers respond by singing “Build My Life.”

A video by First CRC of Denver, Colorado, leads delegates in reciting the Lord’s Prayer in sign language. Synod is invited to reflect on the Lord’s Prayer statement “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.” Rev. Timothy A. Kuperus (Yellowstone) provides a reading from the children’s book *Our Father*, written by Rainer Oberthür and illustrated by Barbara Nascimbeni: “And forgive us our trespasses. In this life, we see both light and shadow, truth and lies, good and evil. We see both right and wrong, even in our own lives. We want what is good, but we don’t always do it. Give us courage to look for your goodness and let it grow in us. We can be sure that you will never turn your back on us, no matter what.” Rev. Benckhuysen provides a call to confession.

Rev. Kuperus reads Psalm 139:1-12, and there is a time of reflection. Delegates respond by singing “Turn Your Eyes.” As an assurance of pardon, Rev. Kuperus reads Psalm 139:13-18. He provides another reading from *Our Father*: “As we forgive those who trespass against us, you forgive us, and so we also want to forgive other people. Even if we know we are right, we won’t reject them. We won’t bring up old hurts, and we will learn to trust even those who have harmed us in the past. We will share your hope and

your love. In this small way we can show others what you are like: you are the God of new beginnings.” After a time of reflection, delegates and advisers respond by singing “Teach Us Your Ways.” All confess their faith by reading the Nicene Creed.

Rev. Benckhuysen offers the sending and blessing, concluding with “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow.”

The roll call indicates that the following delegate is absent: deacon delegate Geoffrey W. Vanderburg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan).

President Rayas announces that one of our delegates is experiencing health concerns, and he offers prayer for the delegate.

ARTICLE 50

President Rayas introduces Mr. Bruce Los, chair of the Calvin University Board of Trustees, who addresses synod. Mr. Los introduces the eleventh president of Calvin University: Dr. Wiebe Boer.

Dr. Boer addresses synod via video from Lagos, Nigeria.

President Rayas offers a prayer for Dr. Boer and his leadership and congratulates him on his appointment.

ARTICLE 51

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 39.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Ministries, Michael J. Kooy reporting, presents the following:

I. Ministerial retirements

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

Minister	Classis	Effective Date
Pedro Aviles	Northern Illinois	July 31, 2022
Theodore J. Boswell	Chicago South	July 1, 2021
Alan D. Breems	California South	July 1, 2022
Hendrik P. Bruinsma	Toronto	November 16, 2021
Cornelius J. De Boer	Chicago South	September 21, 2021
George De Jong	Holland	September 30, 2022
Steven De Ruiter	Grand Rapids East	September 30, 2021
Randall J. Dieleman	Southeast U.S.	October 28, 2021
Keith M. Doornbos	Holland	December 31, 2021
David J. Dykstra	Red Mesa	January 24, 2022
Adrian Eising	Muskegon	February 24, 2022
Richard W. Foss	California South	October 28, 2021
Pieter Heerema	Eastern Canada	October 31, 2022
David A. Hornor	Rocky Mountain	October 20, 2022
Paul Jorden	Rocky Mountain	July 31, 2022
Peter C. Kelder	Chicago South	May 31, 2022
Robert L. Knol	Rocky Mountain	October 9, 2021
Jack Kooreman	Grand Rapids East	November 21, 2021
Frank T. Lanting	Alberta South/Saskatchewan	June 30, 2022
Carl J. Leep	Columbia	September 1, 2022
Gary L. Luurtsema	Holland	August 1, 2021
Lyle D. Bierma	Grand Rapids East	May 21, 2022
Harrison A. Newhouse	Lake Superior	September 20, 2021

John A. Ooms	Alberta North	December 1, 2021
Mark A. Scheffers	Kalamazoo	March 8, 2022
Sheldon Starkenburg	Central Plains	June 30, 2022
Willis D. Van Groningen	Chicago South	January 31, 2022
Douglas A. VandeKamp	Lake Superior	September 20, 2021
Michael J. Vanderkwaak	B.C. South-East	April 7, 2022
Ferenc Varga	Lake Erie	October 2, 2021
Barton P. Velthuisen	Toronto	August 22, 2022
Michael Winnowski	Wisconsin	August 14, 2022
Frederick J. Witteveen	Toronto	June 1, 2021
James E. Wolff	Northern Illinois	July 1, 2022
Thomas R. Wolthuis	Central Plains	June 5, 2022

B. Commissioned pastors having reached retirement age under Church Order Article 24 and emeritus status noted

Name	Classis	Effective Date
Alvern G. Boetsma, <i>emeritus</i>	Central Plains	August 31, 2022
Ron L. Glass, <i>emeritus</i>	California South	May 11, 2021
Rick De Graaf, <i>emeritus</i>	Huron	December 1, 2021
William M. Hanchett, <i>emeritus</i>	Atlantic Northeast	January 31, 2021
John Hoffmaster, <i>emeritus</i>	Illiana	March 1, 2022
Jeanne Maher	Grand Rapids North	October 29, 2021
Lauretta J. Moll, <i>emeritus</i>	Rocky Mountain	March 9, 2022
JoAnn L. Swart, <i>emeritus</i>	Grand Rapids East	May 31, 2022
Dan Walcott, <i>emeritus</i>	Holland	December 31, 2021
Colin P. Watson, <i>emeritus</i>	Grand Rapids East	June 30, 2022

C. Recommendations

1. That synod take note of the above lists of ministerial and commissioned pastor retirements.
—*Noted*
2. That synod instruct the executive director to send a letter of appreciation to each of the retirees listed above.
—*Adopted*
3. That synod offer a prayer of gratitude for these servants of God, and for the many years of service they represent.
—*Adopted*

Rev. Willem J. Delleman offers a prayer of thanksgiving for these retiring ministers and commissioned pastors.

II. Work of the synodical deputies

A. Ministers from other denominations, Church Order Article 8

1. Synodical deputies J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Changho Ahn**, 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 March 8, 2022, 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.

2. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and T.T. Jung (Hanmi), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend In Ho Jang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am, in session on September 28, 2021, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Ye-Eun Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, California.
3. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and T.T. Jung (Hanmi), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Young Mun P. Koh**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am, in session on September 28, 2021, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is The Great Vision Church of Los Angeles, California.
4. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Sooho Lee**, 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 14, 2021, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Olympic Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, California.
5. Synodical deputies A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Nate Meldrim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Georgetown, in session on October 28, 2021, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Messiah CRC of Hudsonville, Michigan.
6. Synodical deputies J.D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast) and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Insoo Oh**, 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 March 3, 2022, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Namu Church of New York of Flushing, New York.

7. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Jinseok Park**, 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 October 26, 2021, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is The Bridge Church of Covina, California.
8. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Jeremy Rhodes**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Georgetown, in session on May 19, 2022, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Fairway CRC of Jenison, Michigan.
9. Synodical deputies C. Vander Neut (Yellowstone), R. De Young (Rocky Mountain), and L.M. Korf (Columbia), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Dongsoo Shin**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on July 13, 2021, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Shoreline CRC of Shoreline, Washington.
10. Synodical deputies M.D. Stegink (Hudson), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Gilbert Varela**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 10, 2022, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Goshen CRC of Goshen, New York.
11. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), and K. De Koning (Alberta North), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Gerhardt Venter**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 29, 2021, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Sonlight CRC of Regina, Saskatchewan.

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

—Adopted

B. Extension of eligibility for call under Church Order Article 8

1. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 16, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, C, 3, that **Rev. Troy W. Bierma's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
2. Synodical deputies P.T. Westra (Heartland), R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), and R.W. Boersma (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on March 1, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, C, 3, that **Rev. Norlyn J. Van Beek's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

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

—*Adopted*

C. Classical examination of candidates, Church Order Article 10

1. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Red Mesa, in session May 7, 2022, to admit candidate **Ram S. Aryal** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Holland), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session May 19, 2022, to admit candidate **David Bouma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), M.J. Klingenberg (Niagara), and G. van Leeuwen (Huron), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session October 26, 2021, to admit candidate **Mark D. Broadus** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session November 4, 2021, to admit candidate **Kelly J. Buist** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and W. Davelaar (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session October 4, 2021, to admit candidate **David M. Dick** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

6. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), 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 Central California, in session October 5, 2021, to admit candidate **Charles J. Dillender** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies N.J. Visser (Ontario Southwest), S. Cooper (Toronto), and J.A. Ryzebol (Niagara), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session November 17, 2021, to admit candidate **Steven T. Dykstra** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies P.A. Apoll (Ontario Southwest), R.E. Grift (Toronto), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session February 23, 2022, to admit candidate **Bart B. Eisen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), 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 Central California, in session October 5, 2021, to admit candidate **Josiah J. Gorter** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and L.B. Mensink (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 February 15, 2022, to admit candidate **Joshua L. Grimes** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Georgetown, in session February 24, 2022, to admit candidate **Robert J. Gruessing** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), H.A. Newhouse (Lake Superior), and C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session September 14, 2021, to admit candidate **Tyler R. Helfers** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
13. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), 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 May 10, 2022, to admit

candidate **Travis M. Jamieson** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

14. Synodical deputies G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session October 19, 2021, to admit candidate **Hang Jiang** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), M.D. Stegink (Hudson), and J.D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session March 8, 2022, to admit candidate **Timothy Joo** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), J.C. Busscher (Illiana), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session September 21, 2021, to admit candidate **Jiyong Kim** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
17. Synodical deputies P.T. Westra (Heartland), R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), and C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session March 15, 2022, to admit candidate **Young-Kwang Kim** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
18. Synodical deputies J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Michigan, in session August 3, 2021, to admit candidate **Timothy J. Kimbel** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
19. Synodical deputies J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), E.C. Visser (Grand Rapids South), and T.N. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session November 16, 2021, to admit candidate **Hoon Jae Lee** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
20. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Kalamazoo, in session September 14, 2021, to admit candidate **Maria Leys-Bowater** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
21. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and J.A. Dykema (Arizona), having heard the

examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session October 14, 2021, to admit candidate **Jeff Ming Liou** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

22. Synodical deputies T.N. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), 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 28, 2021, to admit candidate **Jessica R.E. Maddox** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
23. Synodical deputies A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Georgetown, in session October 28, 2021, to admit candidate **Bryzon W. Masiboh** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
24. Synodical deputies P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Columbia, in session September 25, 2021, to admit candidate **Frank Meneses** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
25. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session November 4, 2021, to admit candidate **Lisa M. Meyer** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
26. Synodical deputies J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), E.C. Visser (Grand Rapids South), and T.N. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session November 21, 2021, to admit candidate **K.O.*** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

* Record is protected, and actual name will not be published due to safety concerns.

27. Synodical deputies T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), 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 8, 2021, to admit candidate **Katrina J. Olson** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
28. Synodical deputies T.N. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), 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

28, 2021, to admit candidate **Ryan M. Phan** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

29. Synodical deputies R.W. Boersma (Northcentral Iowa), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session February 7, 2022, to admit candidate **Kyle J. Sandison** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
30. Synodical deputies A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and L.B. Mensink (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 February 15, 2022, to admit candidate **Nathaniel A. Schmidt** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
31. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session November 4, 2021, to admit candidate **Dawei Shao** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
32. Synodical deputies S.M. Muilenberg (Minnkota), R.W. Boersma (Northcentral Iowa), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session October 29, 2021, to admit candidate **Joshua Stammis** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
33. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton) and G. van Leeuwen (Huron) having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Ontario Southwest, in session September 28, 2021, to admit candidate **Lynette A. van de Hoef Meyers** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
34. Synodical deputies H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), J.A. Ryzebol (Niagara), and G. van Leeuwen (Huron), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session September 22, 2021, to admit candidate **Femke Visser-Elenbaas** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
35. Synodical deputies W. Davelaar (Northcentral Iowa), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Heartland, in session September 22, 2021, to admit candidate **Benjamin Wiersma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

36. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session November 4, 2021, to admit candidate **Sunghak Yang** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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

—Adopted

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

1. Synodical deputies R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and P.T. Westra (Heartland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Trinity Christian Reformed Church of Ames, 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 Northcentral Iowa, in session on March 1, 2022, to approve the position of Campus Minister as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Lora A. Copley**.
2. Synodical deputies J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), 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 26, 2022, to approve the position of Director of Spiritual Formation, Campus Ministry at Grand Valley State University as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Darrell L. Delaney**.
3. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Granite Springs Christian Reformed Church of Lincoln, California, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 5, 2021, to approve the position of U.S. Army Chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Kyu K. Hahn**.
4. Synodical deputies P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Parklane Christian Reformed Church of Portland, Oregon, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on September 25, 2021, to approve the position of Chaplain at Indiana University Hospital as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Chadd M. Huizenga**.
5. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having reviewed the evidence supplied by

the council of Christ's Community Christian Reformed Church of Hayward, California, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 5, 2021, to approve the position of Chaplain at Department of Corrections, California as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend D.K.***

* Record is protected, and actual name will not be published due to safety concerns.

6. Synodical deputies J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), and F.M. Bultman (Muskegon), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Lake City Christian Reformed Church of Lake City, 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 August 3, 2021, to approve the position of Chaplain, Michigan Army National Guard as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Timothy J. Kimbel**.
7. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), C. Pool (California South), and C. Vander Neut (Yellowstone), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of The Journey Christian Reformed Church of Longmont, 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 8, 2022, to approve the position of Young Life Leader as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Jonathan A. Kool**.
8. Synodical deputies A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), K. De Koning (Alberta North), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Medicine Hat Christian Reformed Church of Medicine Hat, 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 March 11, 2022, to approve the position of Ecumenical Campus Minister as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend S. George Koopmans**.
9. Synodical deputies J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Church of the Servant Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on February 9, 2022, to approve the position of Program Coordinator, Volunteer Ministries for Resonate Global Mission as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Ruth E. Lemmen**.

10. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and J.A. Dykema (Arizona), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of CrossPoint Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 14, 2021, to approve the position of National Director of Theological Formation for InterVarsity as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Jeff Ming Liou**.
11. Synodical deputies J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Fuller Avenue 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 (executive team), in session on December 9, 2020, to approve the position of Pastor of Congregational Care as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Douglas M. MacLeod**.
12. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Calvin 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 August 24, 2021, to approve the position of Minister of Discipleship as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Lisa M. Meyer**.
13. Synodical deputies W. Davelaar (Northcentral Iowa), R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), and C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Brandon, Manitoba, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 20, 2021, to approve the position of Chaplain, Headingley Correctional Centre as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Michael F. Miedema**.
14. Synodical deputies C. Vander Neut (Yellowstone), R. De Young (Rocky Mountain), and L.M. Korf (Columbia), 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 July 13, 2021, to approve the position of Executive Director of Soul Formation as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Summer Mohrlang**.
15. Synodical deputies T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and C. Pool (California South), having reviewed the evidence supplied

by the council of Sunrise Christian Reformed Church of Austin, Texas, 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 October 8, 2021, to approve the position of Professor of Worship and Homiletics at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Katrina J. Olson**.

16. Synodical deputies T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and C. Pool (California South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Denver, 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 October 8, 2021, to approve the position of Coordinator of Korean Studies Program and Instructional Designer as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Ahnna Cho E. Park**.
17. Synodical deputies R. De Young (Kalamazoo), S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Harderwyk Ministries 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 February 3, 2022, to approve the position of Executive Director, Movement West Michigan as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Kory L. Plockmeyer**.
18. Synodical deputies J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), 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 26, 2022, to approve the position of Ministry Planter, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Matthew Postma**.
19. Synodical deputies A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Beckwith Hills 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 North, in session on February 15, 2022, to approve the position of North Ottawa Hospice Chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Nathaniel Schmidt**.
20. Synodical deputies G. van Leeuwen (Huron), M.J. Klingenberg (Niagara), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Toronto, Ontario, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability

have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on May 29, 2021, to approve the position of Chaplain, Spiritual Care Professional as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Hannah Smele**.

21. Synodical deputies W. Davelaar (North Central Iowa), R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), and C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Emo Christian Reformed Church of Emo, Ontario, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 20, 2021, to approve the position of Chaplain at Elim Village as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Gerald P. VanSmeerdijk**.
22. Synodical deputies S.M. Muilenburg (Minnkota), R.W. Boersma (North Central Iowa), and B.A. Meinders (Central Plains), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on November 16, 2021, to approve the position of Director of Church Relations at Dordt University as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Todd M. Zuidema**.

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

—Adopted

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

1. Synodical deputies J.C. Busscher (Illiana), M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 21, 2021, to approve loaning **Reverend Jiyong Kim** to serve Hebron Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights, Illinois.
2. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), C. Pool (California South), and C. Vander Neut (Yellowstone), 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 8, 2022, to approve loaning **Reverend Henry Serrano** to serve CrossWide Community Church of Denver, Colorado.
3. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East (executive team), in session on August 20, 2021, to approve loaning **Reverend Dawei Shao** to serve Detroit Chinese Bible Church of Farmington Hills, Michigan.

4. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East (executive team), in session on August 20, 2021, to approve loaning **Reverend Sunghak Yang** to serve Korean Bible Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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

—Adopted

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

1. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), 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 16, 2021, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Josiah Chung** to serve Cornerstone United Methodist Church of Englewood, New Jersey.
2. Synodical deputies E.W. Visser (Hamilton), H. Wildeboer (Quinte), and D.A. Vroege (Eastern Canada), 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 18, 2021, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Jacob “Jack” De Vries** to serve the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia.
3. Synodical deputies J.D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 21, 2021, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Charles L. Geschiere** to serve Vienna Presbyterian Church of Vienna, Virginia.
4. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and J.A. Dykema (Arizona), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 14, 2021, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Yun Jin Kim** to serve Salinas Korean Presbyterian Church of Salinas, California.
5. Synodical deputies J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), T.N. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on October 2, 2021, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend John Y. Kim** to serve Hebron Presbyterian Church of Prospect Park, Illinois.
6. Synodical deputies S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), 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 16, 2021, to

approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Anthony J. Meyer** to serve Mountainview International Church of Madrid, Spain.

7. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 5, 2021, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Zeke R. Nelson** to serve Antwerp International Protestant Church of Antwerp, Belgium.
8. Synodical deputies S.E. Terpstra (Zeeland), J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), 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 16, 2021, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Mitchell R. Sheahan** to serve The Bridge Church of Portage, Michigan.
9. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), 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 16, 2021, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Ellen Van Tongeren** to serve Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel Church of Durham, North Carolina.

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

—*Adopted*

G. Release from office to enter a ministry outside the Christian Reformed Church under Church Order Article 14-b

1. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and J.A. Dykema (Arizona), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Glenn S. Adams** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 14, 2021, to declare that **Rev. Glenn S. Adams** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies L.B. Mensink (Grandville), J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Bruce Anderson** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, do not concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session on September 30, 2021, to declare that **Rev. Bruce Anderson** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), C. Pool (California South), and C. Vander Neut (Yellowstone), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Phil EuBank** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 8, 2022, to declare that **Rev. Phil EuBank** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

4. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Glenn O. Gerdes** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on May 10, 2022, to declare that **Rev. Glenn O. Gerdes** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Holland), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Shannon Jammal-Hollemans** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 19, 2022, to declare that **Rev. Shannon Jammal-Hollemans** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies W. Davelaar (Northcentral Iowa), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Stephen D. Moerman** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Minnkota, in session on September 16, 2021, to declare that **Rev. Stephen D. Moerman** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), M.D. Stegink (Hudson), and J.D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Ramon L. Orostizaga** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 8, 2022, to declare that **Rev. Ramon L. Orostizaga** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies L.B. Mensink (Grandville), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Kristin E. Palacios** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on October 7, 2021, to declare that **Rev. Kristin E. Palacios** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Matthew A. Riddle** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on May 10, 2022, to declare that **Rev. Matthew A. Riddle** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), P. Kornilov (Hackensack), and M.B. Stegink (Hudson), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Garrett C. Saul** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 7, 2022, to declare that **Rev. Garrett C. Saul** is released

from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

11. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East) and L.M. Korf (Columbia), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Elizabeth K. Turnbull** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 7, 2021, to declare that **Rev. Elizabeth K. Turnbull** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), L.M. Korf (Columbia), and A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Steve J. Van Noort** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis North Cascades, in session on October 21, 2021, to declare that **Rev. Steve J. Van Noort** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
13. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), and K. De Koning (Alberta North), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Paul van Stralen** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 29, 2021, to declare that **Rev. Paul van Stralen** 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*

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

1. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 11, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Bruce E. Gritter** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
2. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the discussion of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 14, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Kurtis Hwang** is 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 A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), L.M. Korf (Columbia), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having heard the discussion of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on April 7, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. George Keulen** 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 H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and G. van Leeuwen (Huron), having heard the discussion of Classis Quinte, in session on September 21, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Jana Koh** 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 E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and J.A. Dykema (Arizona), having heard the discussion of Classis California South, in session on March 3, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Seung Jun Lee** is honorably 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 L.M. Korf (Columbia), R. De Young (Rocky Mountain), and P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), having heard the discussion of Classis Yellowstone, in session on March 4, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Jonathan S. Owens** is dismissed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
7. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the discussion of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on September 14, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Brian D. Seifert** is dismissed 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

I. Release from office of one whose vocation is judged to be nonministerial under Church Order Article 14-d

1. Synodical deputies P.T. Westra (Heartland), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), having heard the discussion of Classis Wisconsin, in session on March 15, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Douglas J. Van Essen**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East) and L.M. Korf (Columbia), having heard the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 7, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Christopher Fulkerson**, 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.

3. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), K. De Koning (Alberta North), and A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on March 11, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Michelle R. Gritter**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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

—*Adopted*

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

1. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Red Mesa, in session on May 7, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Mr. Timothy Howerzyl** is eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), and R.T. Vanderwal (Illiana), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on March 9, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Mr. William D. Weber** 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*

K. Release from ministry in a congregation under Church Order Article 17-a

1. Synodical deputies M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on July 14, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. John G. Aukema** is released from ministerial service in First Christian Reformed Church of Crown Point, Indiana.
2. Synodical deputies R.E. Grift (Toronto), H. Wildeboer (Quinte), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on March 5, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Andrea M. Baas** is released from ministerial service in John Calvin Christian Reformed Church of Truro, Nova Scotia.
3. Synodical deputies R.E. Grift (Toronto), H. Wildeboer (Quinte), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on March 5,

2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Nicholas C. Baas** is released from ministerial service in John Calvin Christian Reformed Church of Truro, Nova Scotia.

4. Synodical deputies R.W. Boersma (Northcentral Iowa), C. Vander Neut (Yellowstone), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on August 7, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Steven G. Boersma** is released from ministerial service in Dispatch Christian Reformed Church of Cawker City, Kansas.
5. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Red Mesa, in session on May 7, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Robert J. Byker** is released from ministerial service in Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church of Rehoboth, New Mexico.
6. Synodical deputies G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on June 17, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Steven De Ruiter** is released from ministerial service in Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
7. Synodical deputies S.F. Terpstra (Zeeland), J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grandville, in session on August 31, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Anthony J. Gretz** is released from ministerial service in South Grandville Christian Reformed Church of Grandville, Michigan.
8. Synodical deputies S.M. Muilenburg (Minnkota), R.W. Boersma (Northcentral Iowa), and B.A. Meinders (Central Plains), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on November 16, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn** is released from ministerial service in First Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
9. Synodical deputies A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), L.M. Korf (Columbia), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on April 7, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Jeffrey P. Janssens** is released from ministerial service in Heartland Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Chilliwack, British Columbia.

10. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Thornapple Valley), J.W. Scripps (Georgetown), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on March 10, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Daniel Kwangmyung Joo** is released from ministerial service in Monroe Community Church Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
11. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), G.J. Kett (Northern Michigan), and T.N. Leunk (Grand Rapids East), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Muskegon, in session on June 29, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Douglas M. MacLeod** is released from ministerial service in Second Christian Reformed Church of Fremont, Michigan.
12. Synodical deputies A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and H.J. Vanderburgh (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 16, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Daniel Meyer** is released from ministerial service in Edson-Peers Christian Reformed Church of Edson-Peers, Alberta.
13. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Central California, in session on October 5, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Nicholas W. Monsma** is released from ministerial service in Fresno Christian Reformed Church of Fresno, California.
14. Synodical deputies L.M. Korf (Columbia), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and R. De Young (Rocky Mountain), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Yellowstone, in session on December 3, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Brian D. Tebben** is released from ministerial service in Life in Christ Christian Reformed Church of Salt Lake City, Utah.
15. Synodical deputies P.A. Apoll (Ontario Southwest), R.E. Grift (Toronto), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on February 16, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Kevin teBrake** is released from ministerial service in Exeter Christian Reformed Church of Exeter, Ontario.
16. Synodical deputies D.W. De Groot (Iakota), R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session on July 13, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Norman Underland** is released

from ministerial service in Austinville Christian Reformed Church of Austinville, Iowa.

17. Synodical deputies K. De Koning (Alberta North), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on March 1, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Charles W. Van Hoffen** is released from ministerial service in Houston Christian Reformed Church of Houston, British Columbia.
18. Synodical deputies P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Columbia, in session on September 25, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Joshua E. Van Til** is released from ministerial service in Renew Christian Reformed Church of Corvallis, Oregon.
19. Synodical deputies A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and H.J. Vanderburgh (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on June 4, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Dayna Vreeken** is released from ministerial service in Woody Nook Christian Reformed Church of Lacombe County, Alberta.

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

—*Adopted*

L. Extension of eligibility for call under Church Order Article 17-c

1. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 28, 2021, 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.
2. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 28, 2021, 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.
3. Synodical deputies A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and L.B. Mensink (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Georgetown, in session on October 28, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Mark D. Bennink's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

4. Synodical deputies P.T. Westra (Heartland), R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), and R.W. Boersma (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on March 1, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Joel De Boer's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
5. Synodical deputies R.E. Grift (Toronto), H. Wildeboer (Quinte), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on March 5, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Steven R. Eckersley's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
6. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and J.A. Dykema (Arizona), having heard the discussion of Classis California South, in session on March 3, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Charles M. Hong's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
7. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the discussion of Classis Red Mesa, in session on September 18, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. James H. Kuiper's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
8. Synodical deputies M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on July 14, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Jesse E. Powell's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
9. Synodical deputies L.B. Mensink (Grandville), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on May 17, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Daniel J. Rhee's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
10. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), L.B. Mensink (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Holland), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 16, 2021, 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.
11. Synodical deputies E.W. Visser (Hamilton), H. Wildeboer (Quinte), and D.A. Vroege (Eastern Canada), having heard the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on September 18, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Stephen D. Tamminga's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
12. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), and K. De Koning (Alberta North), having heard the

discussion of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 29, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Derek Van Dalen's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

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

— *Adopted*

M. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 17-c

1. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), R.E. Grift (Toronto), and G. van Leeuwen (Huron), having heard the discussion of Classis Ontario Southwest, in session on February 5, 2022, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Gregory A. Fluit** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the discussion of Classis Central California, in session on October 5, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Kyung Lok Jang** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies E.W. Visser (Hamilton), H. Wildeboer (Quinte), and D.A. Vroege (Eastern Canada), having heard the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on September 18, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Andrew Zantingh** 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*

N. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 17-d

Synodical deputies K. De Koning (Alberta North), W. Brouwer (B.C. South-East), and M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), having heard the discussion of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on October 19, 2021, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-d, that **Kenneth M. Vander Horst** 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*

Rev. Willem J. Delleman offers prayer for those who no longer serve in ordained ministry.

O. Declaration that a commissioned pastor position fits synodical guidelines under Church Order Supplement, Article 23-a

1. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sanostee Christian Reformed Church of

Shiprock, New Mexico, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Red Mesa, in session on May 7, 2022, that the position of pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mrs. Evelyn Bennally**.

2. Synodical deputies G. van Leeuwen (Huron), M.J. Klingenberg (Niagara), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Caledon, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on May 29, 2021, that the position of interim missions pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Michael Collins**.
3. Synodical deputies P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack), M.B. Stegink (Hudson), and C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Higher Calling Christian Reformed Church of Smithfield, North Carolina, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 25, 2021, that the position of commissioned pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Nelson Covington**.
4. Synodical deputies A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), K. De Koning (Alberta North), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), 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 29, 2021, that the position of pastor of spiritual formation and spiritual direction is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Dr. Heather L. Cowie**.
5. Synodical deputies G. van Leeuwen (Huron), J.A. Ryzebol (Niagara), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Barrie, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on May 14, 2022, that the position of Hope Acres chaplain is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mrs. Aleke Dekker**.
6. Synodical deputies M.B. Stegink (Hudson), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of River of Life Christian Reformed Church of Athens, Maine, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 10, 2022, that the position of pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Joel Gagnon**.

7. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Artesia, 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 26, 2021, that the position of pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Robert Golding**.
8. Synodical deputies M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest) and P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunnyside Christian Reformed Church of Sunnyside, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on March 5, 2022, that the position of associate pastor and youth and worship is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Andrew Hartman**.
9. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J.C. Busscher (Illiana), and M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hyde Park Christian Reformed Church of Chicago, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 21, 2021, that the position of senior pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Tsung-Lin B. Jen**.
10. Synodical deputies L.M. Korf (Columbia), A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), 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 19, 2021, that the position of worship pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Jason McNabb**.
11. Synodical deputies R.T. Vanderwal (Illiana), M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Ebenezer CRC Christian Reformed Church of Berwyn, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on March 9, 2022, that the position of commissioned pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Geronimo Morales**.
12. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northwest), P. Kornilov (Hackensack), and M.B. Stegink (Hudson), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunlight Community - Lake Worth CRC of Lake Worth, 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 October 27, 2021, that the position of pastor of worship is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Eli Munoz**.

13. Synodical deputies L.B. Mensink (Grandville), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Westend Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on January 19, 2022, that the position of pastor of congregational life is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Brian Myers**.
14. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), M.D. Stegink (Hudson), and J.D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of the Washington D.C. Christian Reformed Church of Washington, District of Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 8, 2022, that the position of resource and communications coordinator for CRCNA is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mrs. Katie L. Ritsema-Roelofs**.
15. Synodical deputies C. Vander Neut (Yellowstone), R. De Young (Rocky Mountain), and L.M. Korf (Columbia), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Oak Harbor Christian Reformed Church of Oak Harbor, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on July 13, 2021, that the position of senior pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Nick M. Rosas**.
16. Synodical deputies D.L. Spoelma (Holland), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Ivanrest Christian Reformed Church of Grandville, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on January 20, 2022, that the position of director of student ministries is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Nate Rusticus**.
17. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), P. Kornilov (Hackensack), and M.B. Stegink (Hudson), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunlight Ministries Christian Reformed Church of Port Saint Lucie, 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 October 27, 2021, that the position of pastor of hospitality and care is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Adam Sculnick**.

18. Synodical deputies L.B. Mensink (Grandville), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Calvary 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 October 7, 2021, that the position of campus pastor for Trinity Christian College is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Benjamin Snoek**.
19. Synodical deputies M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), L.M. Korf (Columbia), and A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Third Christian Reformed Church of Lynden, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis North Cascades, in session on October 21, 2021, that the position of pastor of family and youth is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Charles Southard**.
20. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), R. De Young (Rocky Mountain), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Christ's Community (Spanish Ministry) Christian Reformed Church of Chandler, Arizona, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on March 5, 2022, that the position of commissioned pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Carlos Tamayo**.
21. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and J.A. Dykema (Arizona), 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 October 14, 2021, that the position of director/pastor of community life is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Daniel Unterkofler**.
22. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), and J.A. Dykema (Arizona), 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 October 14, 2021, that the position of director of children's ministries is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Ms. Kaylyn Unterkofler**.
23. Synodical deputies J.D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and P. Kornilov (Hackensack), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New Life Ministries

Christian Reformed Church of Hawthorne, New Jersey, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, do not concur with the decision of Classis Hudson, in session on September 21, 2021, that the position of ministry director is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Jason “Jay” Van Hoff**.

24. Synodical deputies R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), W. Davelaar (Northcentral Iowa), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Pella, Iowa, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Central Plains, in session on September 24, 2021, that the position of chaplain at Vermeer Medical Center is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Daniel Van Kooten**.
25. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northwest), P. Kornilov (Hackensack), and M.B. Stegink (Hudson), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunlight Ministries Christian Reformed Church of Port Saint Lucie, 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 October 27, 2021, that the position of pastor of evangelism is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mr. Danny Vera**.
26. Synodical deputies L.M. Korf (Columbia), A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Ladner Christian Reformed Church of Ladner, 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 19, 2021, that the position of associate pastor for Chinese ministry is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Ms. Chun Li Yang**.
27. Synodical deputies R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and P.T. Westra (Heartland), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Korean Christian Reformed Church of Ames, Iowa, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session on March 1, 2022, that the position of hospital chaplain is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors. The position is to be filled by **Mrs. Youngja Yun**.
28. Synodical deputies W. Brouwer (B.C. South-East), M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), and K. De Koning (Alberta North), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Maple Ridge Christian Reformed Church of Maple Ridge, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on October 19, 2021,

that the position of associate pastor is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors.

29. Synodical deputies L.B. Mensink (Grandville), G.G. Vink (Grand Rapids South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Grant Christian Reformed Church of Grant, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on January 19, 2022, that the position of pastor of children and youth is in keeping with synodical guidelines for commissioned pastors.

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

—Adopted

P. Church Order Supplement, Article 23-a commissioned pastors, filling previously approved positions

The following commissioned pastors have been examined by the classes indicated for positions previously approved by synodical deputies (in addition to those listed above in the synodical deputy reports for Church Order Supplement, Article 23-a):

Name	Classis	Date
Paul D. Chang	Ko-Am	September 28, 2021
Mark Crawford	Arizona	September 17, 2021
Randy Green	B.C. North-West	March 1, 2022
Kaitlin Ho Givens	Atlantic Northeast	October 6, 2021
Wai Kei Kezia Lai-Leung	Central California	March 1, 2022
Patrick Y. Lin	Central California	March 1, 2022
John T. Simon	Arizona	September 18, 2021
George Tan	Northern Illinois	March 9, 2022
Sean Taylor	North Cascades	June 24, 2021
Melanie Wright	Alberta North	March 11, 2022

Recommendation: That synod take note of the above-named persons ordained as commissioned pastors within the classes indicated.

—Noted

Q. Service of a commissioned pastor in an organized church as solo pastor under Church Order Article 24-a

1. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), A.E. Beunk (B.C. North-West), and H.J. Vanderburgh (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having examined the request submitted by the council of Wolf Creek Community Christian Reformed Church of Lacombe, Alberta, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 16, 2021, that **Mr. Arnold R. Abma** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
2. Synodical deputies J.A. Dykema (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having examined the request submitted by the council of Sanostee Christian Reformed Church of Shiprock, New Mexico, concur with the decision of Classis Red Mesa, in session on May 7, 2022, that **Mrs. Evelyn Bennally** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

3. Synodical deputies R.T. Vanderwal (Illiana), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), having examined the request submitted by the council of Lawndale Lighthouse Christian Reformed Church of Chicago, Illinois, concur with the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on March 9, 2022, that **Mr. Eric L. Crawford** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
4. Synodical deputies M.B. Stegink (Hudson), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), having examined the request submitted by the council of River of Life Christian Reformed Church of Athens, Maine, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 10, 2022, that **Mr. Joel Gagnon** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
5. Synodical deputies J.D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and A. Gelder (Grand Rapids East), having examined the request submitted by the council of the New Horizon Christian Reformed Church of Paterson, New Jersey, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 21, 2021, that **Mr. Pedro Luis Gomez** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
6. Synodical deputies T.H. Douma (Northern Illinois), J.C. Busscher (Illiana), and M.J. Pluimer (Wisconsin), having examined the request submitted by the council of Hyde Park Christian Reformed Church of Chicago, Illinois, concur with the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 21, 2021, that **Mr. Tsung-Lin B. Jen** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
7. Synodical deputies P.H. Vander Klay (Central California), M.J. Borst (Pacific Northwest), and B. de Regt (North Cascades), having examined the request submitted by the council of Oak Hills Christian Reformed Church of Beaverton, Oregon, concur with the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on September 21, 2021, that **Mr. Gerry Muller** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
8. Synodical deputies C. Vander Neut (Yellowstone), R. De Young (Rocky Mountain), and L.M. Korf (Columbia), having examined the request submitted by the council of Oak Harbor Christian Reformed Church of Oak Harbor, Washington, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on July 13, 2021, that **Mr. Nick M. Rosas** (commissioned pastor) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

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

—Adopted

R. Calling a commissioned pastor to a specified term under Church Order Article 24-b

1. Synodical deputies W. Davelaar (Northcentral Iowa), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having examined the request submitted by the council of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church of Colton, South Dakota, the terms proposed, and the accountability of progress in the proposed learning plan, concur with the decision of

Classis Minnkota, in session on September 16, 2021, to call **Mr. Sam Gesch** to a specified term.

- 2. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the request submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Artesia, California, the terms proposed, and the accountability of progress in the proposed learning plan, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 26, 2021, to call **Mr. Robert Golding** to a specified term.
- 3. Synodical deputies W. Davelaar (Northcentral Iowa), C.D. Hoekstra (Iakota), and M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), having examined the request submitted by the council of Hope Christian Reformed Church of Hull, Iowa, the terms proposed, and the accountability of progress in the proposed learning plan, concur with the decision of Classis Heartland, in session on September 22, 2021, to call **Mr. Keith Hoekstra** to a specified term.
- 4. Synodical deputies H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), G. van Leeuwen (Huron), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having examined the request submitted by the council of Living Hope Christian Reformed Church of Peterborough, Ontario, the terms proposed, and the accountability of progress in the proposed learning plan, concur with the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on September 21, 2021, to call **Mr. John VanderWindt** to a specified term.

Recommendation: That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.
— *Adopted*

S. Commissioned pastors concluding service under Church Order Article 24-d
The following commissioned pastors have concluded service in the classes indicated in the positions to which they were appointed:

Name	Classis	Effective Date	Reason
Annika Bangma	Atlantic Northeast	February 15, 2022	Released
Eric O. Graef	Central California	May 10, 2022	Released
James M. Simpson	Atlantic Northeast	May 29, 2022	Honorably released
Daniel Svendsen	Illiana	September 18, 2021	Released
Ken A. White	B.C. South-East	October 19, 2021	Released

Recommendation: That synod take note that these commissioned pastors have concluded service in the classes indicated.
— *Noted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 76.)

ARTICLE 52

The president of synod welcomes the candidates for ministry to Synod 2022 in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Rev. Susan E. LaClear, director of Candidacy, presents the 2022 candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. (Names in **bold print** indicate those present at Synod 2022.)

Sheri L. Admiraal
Brad D. B. Bootsma
Kristy L. Bootsma
Tricia L. Bosma
Stewart J. De Jong
Mark D. Elffers
Ryan L. Farrell
Matthew D. Guichelaar
Rebecca G. Hall
Carol E. Hulin
Minho Jake Jeong
Jelle H. Koersen

Aleah M. Marsden
Jacob A. Patton
Mario R. Perez, Jr.
Micah P. Ringelberg
Nicole M. Romero
Joseph J. Steenholdt
Zachary J. Toth
Anthony Vander Schaaf
Jodi F. VanWingerden
Wendy J. Werkman
Benjamin H. Wimmers

Rev. LaClear acknowledges guests and delegates who are related to the candidates. Candidates, delegates, and guests sing “How Firm a Foundation.” Rev. LaClear leads the Litany of Celebration and Dedication. Rev. Zachary King and Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr., lead a liturgy taken from Isaiah 43:1-21 with responses by candidates.

Rev. Julius Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, offers words of encouragement to the candidates, sharing from John 20:21 and saying, “Embodied ministry is ‘with’ ministry.” Candidates, delegates, and guests respond by singing “Instrument of Peace.”

Families and supporting churches of candidates are invited to come forward to lay hands on them.

President Rayas leads in a time of prayer and closes with a blessing.

ARTICLE 53

Colin P. Watson, Sr., executive director, explains that our history is extremely important. In response to the directive of Synod 2018 that the executive director “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,” delegates honor with commemorative plaques the 150th anniversaries being celebrated in 2022 by Midland Park CRC of Midland Park, New Jersey; East Side CRC of Cleveland, Ohio; and Vogel Center CRC of McBain, Michigan.

ARTICLE 54

President Rayas acknowledges that the history of the CRCNA is a continuing story and welcomes John Harold Caicedo (California South), who addresses synod. Pastor Caicedo notes that (1) elder delegate Leo B. Jonker (Quinte) was also a delegate at Synod 1971, (2) elder delegate Evelyn H. Bennally (Red Mesa) is the first Native American commissioned pastor, and (3), for the first time ever, a Latino, Rev. José Rayas (Arizona), has been elected as president of synod.

The executive director offers a prayer of thanksgiving for this continuing story.

ARTICLE 55

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 34).

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters and Heresy, Rev. Matthew Borst reporting, presents the following:

Response to Overture 12 (*deferred from 2021*): Declare Denials of Penal Substitutionary Atonement as Heresy and Instruct Classes to Guard the Reformed Confessional Teaching of the Cross (majority report)

A. Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overture 12 (deferred from 2021), pp. 479-88

B. Recommendations

1. That synod declare that it is a serious deviation from the teachings of the confessions of the Christian Reformed Church to in any way deny that Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection provide a substitutionary work of bearing God's wrath on our behalf because of the just punishment we deserve for our sin.

Grounds:

- a. While we recognize and celebrate the importance and scriptural backing of various theories of the atonement, we see increasing confusion in the CRCNA about the necessity of the penal substitutionary theory of the atonement, such that its denial by officebearers is being tolerated within our denomination.
 - b. The Scriptures and confessional standards make clear the substitutionary nature of Jesus Christ's work.
 - c. To deny penal substitutionary atonement is to take away from the glory of our Savior.
2. That synod declare that any officebearer who explicitly denies penal substitutionary atonement is worthy of special discipline in accordance with Church Order Article 83.

Grounds:

- a. Church Order Article 83 states, "Special discipline shall be applied to officebearers if they violate the Covenant for Officebearers, are guilty of neglect or abuse of office, or in any way seriously deviate from sound doctrine and godly conduct."
 - b. Tolerating denials of foundational gospel truth puts the CRCNA in danger of transgressing its own boundaries for what a true church is, which includes the proper exercise of church discipline (Belgic Confession, Art. 29).
3. That synod instruct all classes, councils, and officebearers in the CRCNA that it is our duty to uphold the clear teaching of the Scriptures and confessions on the nature of Christ's substitutionary work.

Grounds:

- a. As Christians, we are called to be people of the truth, with integrity and honor, and failure to defend the faith is to break the Covenant for Officebearers.
 - b. The church must make every effort to correct such a grievous error, that we might not continue to sin in the eyes of God.
 - c. Local councils are accountable to the classis, and the classes are to “ascertain whether the officebearers of the church faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God’s kingdom” (Church Order, Art. 42-b).
4. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 12.

According to the Rules of Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the response to Overture 12 is presented as information by Rev. Anthony R. DeKorte:

Response to Overture 12 (*deferred from 2021*): Declare Denials of Penal Substitutionary Atonement as Heresy and Instruct Classes to Guard the Reformed Confessional Teaching of the Cross (minority report)

A. *Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overture 12 (deferred from 2021), pp. 479-88*

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 12.

Grounds:

1. Denial of penal substitutionary atonement does not meet the nine-point definition of heresy arrived at by the CRCNA Heresy Advisory Committee that reported to Synod 2022. Therefore, to label denial of penal substitutionary atonement as a heresy would be to revert to the CRCNA 1984 definition, which reads: “By ‘heresy’ (heretical) we mean a theological view or doctrine that is in conflict with the teachings of Scripture as interpreted by the Reformed confessions” (*Acts of Synod 2019*, p. 819).
2. Atonement is too rich and complex a work of God to reduce to a single theory. To do so also risks damaging our ecumenical relationships with believers who teach biblical alternatives to penal substitutionary atonement.
3. Penal substitutionary atonement is already strongly attested to in our Reformed confessions, almost to the exclusion of any other theory. When Church Order Article 83 states, “Special discipline shall be applied to officebearers if they violate the Covenant for Officebearers, are guilty of neglect or abuse of office, or in any way seriously deviate from sound doctrine and godly conduct,” it already provides a mechanism for church councils to discipline those who deny penal substitutionary atonement.

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

Response to Overture 12 (deferred from 2021): Declare Denials of Penal Substitutionary Atonement as Heresy and Instruct Classes to Guard the Reformed Confessional Teaching of the Cross (majority report)

A. Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overture 12 (deferred from 2021), pp. 479-88

B. Recommendations

1. That synod declare that it is a serious deviation from the teachings of the confessions of the Christian Reformed Church to in any way deny that Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection provide a substitutionary work of bearing God's wrath on our behalf because of the just punishment we deserve for our sin.

Grounds:

- a. While we recognize and celebrate the importance and scriptural backing of various theories of the atonement, we see increasing confusion in the CRCNA about the necessity of the penal substitutionary theory of the atonement, such that its denial by officebearers is being tolerated within our denomination.
- b. The Scriptures and confessional standards make clear the substitutionary nature of Jesus Christ's work.
- c. To deny penal substitutionary atonement is to take away from the glory of our Savior.

— Adopted

2. That synod declare that any officebearer who explicitly denies penal substitutionary atonement is worthy of special discipline in accordance with Church Order Article 83.

Grounds:

- a. Church Order Article 83 states, "Special discipline shall be applied to officebearers if they violate the Covenant for Officebearers, are guilty of neglect or abuse of office, or in any way seriously deviate from sound doctrine and godly conduct."
- b. Tolerating denials of foundational gospel truth puts the CRCNA in danger of transgressing its own boundaries for what a true church is, which includes the proper exercise of church discipline (Belgic Confession, Art. 29).

— Adopted

3. That synod instruct all classes, councils, and officebearers in the CRCNA that it is our duty to uphold the clear teaching of the Scriptures and confessions on the nature of Christ's substitutionary work.

Grounds:

- a. As Christians, we are called to be people of the truth, with integrity and honor, and failure to defend the faith is to break the Covenant for Officebearers.
- b. The church must make every effort to correct such a grievous error, that we might not continue to sin in the eyes of God.
- c. Local councils are accountable to the classis, and the classes are to "ascertain whether the officebearers of the church faithfully perform

their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God's kingdom" (Church Order, Art. 42-b).

— *Adopted*

4. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 12.

— *Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 81.)

ARTICLE 56

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 41.)

Advisory Committee 5, Global Mission and Denominational Unity, Robert J. Toornstra reporting, presents the following:

Council of Delegates (majority report)

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Council of Delegates (section II, A, 17, b, including Appendix F), pp. 41-42, 83-90

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendation

That synod direct the executive director to forward the proposed Code of Conduct as amended by Committee 5 (see underlining below), along with the implementation plan recommended to Synod 2022, to the classes for study and input, and that these be revised in light of feedback received for consideration by Synod 2023.

Spiritual

I will acknowledge the use of Scripture and the Spirit's work in the community of the church and, therefore, refrain from presuming to be the sole "voice of God."

I will teach, admonish, or discipline in ways that are biblical and Christlike, and I will seek other people's well-being (Matthew 18; Colossians 1:28; 3:16).

I will use my position as a way to serve the body of believers, rather than myself, for the common good and the cultivation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Grounds:

1. Adequate time has not been given to churches and classes to read the report and to offer feedback on the implementation of the Code of Conduct.
2. The proposed Code of Conduct modifies the Covenant for Office-bearers without input from the broader church.

3. In order for the Code of Conduct to receive broad support and buy-in from the denomination, churches must have the opportunity to speak into the Code of Conduct and the implementation plan.
4. Some of the language in the Code of Conduct is unclear and could be misinterpreted or misapplied.
5. The Code of Conduct does not adequately define terms such as *power* or *abuse*.

According to the Rules of Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the response to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders is presented as information by Rev. Eric D. Schlukebir:

Advisory Committee 5, Global Mission and Denomination Unity, Eric Schlukebir reporting, presents the following:

Council of Delegates (minority report)

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Council of Delegates (section II, A, 17, b, including Appendix F), pp. 41-42, 83-90

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed.

C. Recommendation

That synod adopt the following recommendation regarding implementation of the CRC Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders (II, A, 17, b, 1; Appendix F):

- a. That synod adopt the following revisions / additions to the Church Order and Its Supplements (indicated by italics):
 - 1) Add the following new Article 5-b and Supplement, Article 5-b to the current Church Order Article 5 and its Supplement (the existing Article 5 and its Supplement would become Article 5-a and Supplement, Article 5-a):

Church Order Article 5-b

All officebearers and ministry leaders, on occasions stipulated by council, classical, and synodical regulations, shall signify their agreement with the expected behavior of leadership in the church by signing the Code of Conduct.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 5-b

***Supplement, Article 5-b**

Preamble

In Philippians 2 the apostle Paul brings to his Philippian readers the words of a hymn in which Christ Jesus is acknowledged as being, in his very nature, God. Among other things, this means that Christ is the one to whom all power belongs.

The hymn goes on to say that Christ did not consider equality with God as something to be used to his own advantage. In fact, he made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, and humbling himself toward a life-sacrificing kind of obedience. In other words, he used his power for the thriving of others.

All of us who are united to Christ by faith and who serve in the life of the church are called, in this passage and others, to this way of being. Jesus himself, in response to the desire for power expressed by his disciples, called them (and us) to use power to serve people, a way of holding power that confronts and contrasts with the ways that the world uses power.¹

Not only do we have this call from Christ, but we actually have Jesus living and growing within us (Gal. 2:20). As a result, we find ourselves being transformed into the kind of people who hold and use power in a Christlike way.

That being said, until Christ returns and brings us to perfection, we will continue to wrestle with the urge to misuse power and abuse others. Ugly realities such as verbal, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, and spiritual abuse are found among us. The power that we hold by virtue of our person or our position can always be twisted into the project of building our own kingdoms at the expense of others. This is true for pastors, lay ministry leaders, and church members alike.

In awareness of these ugly realities and in the beautiful hope of Christ's transforming work, the following code of conduct is offered for ministry leaders. It is shaped by Scripture and by commitments found in our confessional statements and contemporary testimonies.² It emerges out of a response by Synod 2018 to patterns of abuse that had been brought to its attention³ and is aimed at preventing such abuse in the future. May God's peace be among us.

¹ See Mark 10:35–45. Note that there are other Scripture texts that address the use of power to bless, such as 1 Peter 5:1–4. In addition, there are texts that describe abuses of power and the damage that such abuses cause (see, for example, 2 Sam. 11 and Ezek. 34).

² See Belgic Confession, Article 28, and Heidelberg Catechism, Q. and A. 55, 107, 111. See also the statement in the Confession of Belhar that says, “We believe . . . that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others” (Confession of Belhar, Article 4). Further, in *Our World Belongs to God* we read that the church is a “new community,” gathered by God, in which “all are welcome” (para. 34); that the church’s mission in this broken world is a mission of proclaiming the gospel and its implications for life today (para. 41); and that, “restored in Christ’s presence, shaped by his life, this new community lives out the ongoing story of God’s reconciling love, announces the new creation, and works for a world of justice and peace” (para. 39). Such statements describe the mission of the church in general and provide foundation for the specific code of conduct presented here.

³ Bev Sterk’s overture to Synod 2018, titled “Address Patterns of Abuse of Power That Violate the Sacred Trust Given to Leaders and Recognize How These Hinder Due Process and Healing,” and appendices specifically related to it, can be found in the Agenda for Synod 2018, pp. 282–307 (see crcna.org/SynodResources). The subsequent action of Synod 2018 was to form an “Abuse of Power Committee” to study “how the CRCNA can best address patterns of abuse of power at all levels of the denomination” (Acts of Synod 2018, pp. 523–24). The work of Synod 2019 related to this overture can be found in the Acts of Synod 2019, pp. 794–96 (see cncna.org/SynodResources). The particular recommendation calling for a code of conduct is recommendation 3, c (p. 795).

Code of Conduct

Abuse of power is a misuse of position, authority, or influence to take advantage of, manipulate, or control. Abuse of power occurs when a person with power, regardless of its source, uses that power to harm and/or influence another for personal gain at the other's expense. All abuse by faith leaders within the church is also spiritual abuse and has spiritual impacts that often heighten the harm caused to individuals and to the family of God. (For more background, see Acts of Synod 2019, pp. 587-615).

As a ministry leader, I commit to the following:

Confidentiality

I will use confidentiality appropriately, which means I will hold in confidence whatever information is not mine to share. I will not use information shared with me in confidence in order to elevate my position or to depreciate that of others.

I will not use information shared with me in confidence in order to elevate my position or to depreciate that of others.

My use of confidentiality will also be guided by mandatory reporting as required by law.

Relational

I will speak and act, in all my personal and professional relations, in ways that follow the pattern of Christ, who used his power to serve (1 Pet. 5; Mark 10; Phil. 2; 2 Tim. 4:2).

I will conduct myself with respect, love, integrity, and truthfulness toward all—regardless of position, status, race, gender, age, or ability.

To the best of my ability, I will contribute to an environment of hospitality.

Financial

I will ensure that funds are used for their intended ministry purposes.

In all financial matters, including the acceptance of gifts, I will act with scrupulous honesty, transparency, and appropriate accountability.

I will appropriately use accepted accounting practices and regular reviews and/or audits.

Intimate Relationships

I will maintain standards and appropriate boundaries in all relationships, which are informed by the Scriptures.

I will keep all of my professional relationships free from inappropriate emotional and sexual behaviors. This includes not engaging in inappropriate intimate contact or a sexual relationship, unwanted physical contact, sexual comments, gestures, or jokes.

Safety

I will actively promote a safe environment where all persons are respected and valued, where any form of abuse, bullying, or harassment is neither tolerated nor allowed to take place.

I will report known or suspected cases of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect of minors to the proper government authorities.

I will support adults who disclose physical, sexual, or emotional abuse in a way that appropriately empowers the person who has been victimized.

Spiritual

I will acknowledge the use of Scripture and the Spirit's work in the community of the church and, therefore, refrain from presuming to be the sole "voice of God."

I will teach, admonish, or discipline in ways that are biblical and Christ-like, and I will seek other people's well-being (Matthew 18; Colossians 1:28; 3:16).

I will use my position as a way to serve the body of believers, rather than myself, for the common good and the cultivation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Additional Commitments

I will work within my professional competence, especially in counseling situations, and I will refer individuals to other professionals as appropriate.

I will promote truthfulness, transparency, and honesty in all of my work.

I will disclose any perceived or actual conflict of interest.

In all that I do, I will seek to use my position, power, and authority prudently and humbly and in nonexploitive ways.

In the event that I misuse my power, either intentionally or unintentionally, as a ministry leader, I will acknowledge the harm that has been caused and the trust that has been broken, and I will actively seek restoration with justice, compassion, truth, and grace. I will humbly submit to the insight and accountability of others to ensure that I use any power entrusted to me fully in service to Christ.

*(Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Council of Delegates 2021, p. 633)*

**To be signed by . . . [a description of ministry leaders who will sign this Code of Conduct (similar to the notation following the Covenant for Officebearers)]*

- 2) Revise Church Order Supplement, Article 13-c, section c as indicated by the following addition in italics:

Supplement, Article 13-c, section c

c. The duties of the minister are spiritual in character and directly related to the ministerial calling, and such duties do not conflict with the minister's commitment to the faith and practice of the Christian Reformed Church as required by one's signature to the Covenant for Officebearers *and the Code of Conduct.*

- 3) Revise Church Order Article 83 as indicated by the following addition in italics:

Article 83

Special discipline shall be applied to officebearers if they violate the Covenant for Officebearers or the *Code of Conduct*, are guilty of neglect or abuse of office, or in any way seriously deviate from sound doctrine and godly conduct.

b. That synod adopt the following guidelines related to the CRC Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders:

1) Who signs the code?

- CRCNA staff members
- Council of Delegates members
- Churches and classes should implement the code for council members and employees as part of an annual review.
- The Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders is referenced in the Abuse of Power Training. It would also be included in the Calvin Theological Seminary Church Order course after the adoption of proposed Church Order changes. The Candidacy Committee will recommend that all Article 8 candidates be required to take the Abuse of Power training.

2) Who is responsible for ensuring it is signed (e.g., councils, classes, and CRCNA ministry staff)?

- Councils, classes, COD, and denominational leadership
- Safe Church Ministry has been encouraging churches to include a reference to the Code of Conduct in their policy. It is reviewed as part of the Safe Church training.

3) What are the implications if individuals refuse to sign or deviate from the code?

- There are guidelines in the Supplement to Church Order regarding this.
- Each governing body would decide the ramifications.
- Another team is discussing ramifications for Council of Delegates members for consideration by the COD.
- Discipline would be tied to their position (not membership in the church).
- Discipline is a local matter (for church or classis).

4) Suggestions for incorporating the Code of Conduct include the following:

- Require all ministry staff in classes and churches to sign the Code of Conduct when they sign their contract upon hiring.
- Conduct annual performance reviews with questions related to abuse and the code of conduct (see Addendum below) to ensure meaningful conversations. It is suggested that an elder, human resources professional, or personnel committee conduct the review so that an employee may freely share any potential forms of abuse. Or consider holding a separate conversation at another time of year to review the sample questions—an employee may not be as forthright in a performance-review conversation, considering the possibility of promotion/demotion/raises.

- Incorporate into council training and orientation.
- Include in church visitor training (also with the Healthy Church Executive survey from Pastor Church Resources).
- The current CRCNA staff Code of Conduct can incorporate new elements from the Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders and be reviewed at the annual performance review.

Grounds:

1. The abuse of power is an urgent matter.
2. Synod 2019 recognized the urgent need for a code of conduct policy and asked that one be created. Three years later the need is even more apparent.
3. The policy and implementation process was created in consultation with experts in the field, including safe church advocates and Pastor Church Resources staff.
4. The COD has already deliberated, approved, and implemented this policy for members of the COD.

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 71.)

ARTICLE 57

The morning session recesses at 11:51 a.m. Ms. Ashley Medendorp, Synodical Services staff, leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Tuesday afternoon at 1:15 p.m.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 14, 2022

Tenth Session

ARTICLE 58

The afternoon session convenes at 1:18 p.m. Rev. Timothy Kuperus leads in opening prayer.

Elder delegate Melvin Vander Bie (Georgetown) replaces Douglas D. Holtrop. He rises to express agreement with the forms of unity.

ARTICLE 59

The vice president assumes the chair.

Advisory Committee 8, Human Sexuality, Rev. Douglas E. Fakkema reporting, presents the following:

I. Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality

A. Materials:

1. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, pp. 313-487
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 9, including Appendix A), pp. 38, 57-71
3. 73 Overtures and Communications in the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, and the 2022 Supplement

B. Background

1. In 2016, synod responded to several overtures asking for clarification of the meaning of biblical marriage in Church Order Article 69-c by appointing a study committee with the following mandate:

to articulate a foundation-laying biblical theology of human sexuality that pays particular attention to biblical conceptions of gender and sexuality. The central aim of this theological task will be to provide concise yet clear ethical guidance for what constitutes a holy and healthy Christian sexual life, and in light of this to serve the church with pastoral, ecclesial, and missional guidance that explains how the gospel provides redemptive affirmation and hope for those experiencing sexual questioning, temptation, and sin.

(Acts of Synod 2016, pp. 919-20)

2. The mandate for this committee includes discussion of how a Reformed perspective on biblical authority should be applied, dialogue with other voices and the current scientific studies in these areas, reflections on evaluation of questions around Church Order Article 69, the confessional status of synodical decisions, and whether a new statement on human sexuality is needed.
3. The Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality (HSR Committee) met first in October 2016, then by Zoom following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in June 2020. Four of these meetings were set aside to interact with people in specialized ministries or life situations whose input the HSR committee sought. The HSR committee submitted an interim report to Synod 2019, and three committee members were present to facilitate discussions and solicit feedback. The Human Sexuality Report (HSR) was finally presented to Synod 2022 after a delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The HSR followed this outline:
 - I. Introduction
 - II. Preamble which opens with stories from our churches
 - III. A biblical theology of human sexuality
 - IV. Note on science and general revelation
 - V. Pornography: Cultural context
 - VI. Pornography: Scripture
 - VII. Pornography: Pastoral care
 - VIII. Gender identity: Cultural context
 - IX. Gender identity: Scripture
 - X. Gender identity: Pastoral care
 - XI. Homosexuality: Cultural context
 - XII. Homosexuality: Scripture
 - XIII. Homosexuality: Pastoral care
 - XIV. Reflections on singleness, premarital sex and cohabitation, polyamory, and divorce
 - XV. Sexual desire: Bodies, bonding, and boundaries in the Song of Songs
 - XVI. Confessional status
 - XVII. Recommendations

Appendix A: What Can Science Tell Us about the Biological Origins of Sexual Orientation?

Appendix B: Disorders of Sexual Development and Their Implications

C. *Observations on “weightiness”*

1. The HSR committee’s mandate includes grounds for the five-year window granted to the committee to complete its work which noted the “scope of the task assigned” and that the weightiness of this matter “requires extended and careful deliberation” (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 927). This weightiness was confirmed in dialogue with the HSR committee and felt by this advisory committee.

This weightiness is observed in these two ways: (1) In the large number of overtures, communications, and extrasynodical conversations around the HSR, and (2) in the fact that we were constantly reminded, through story and testimony, that we were considering elements of our community that touch the lives of so many who face questions, pain, and brokenness in one of the most intimate and personal areas of our lives, our sexuality:

Tragically, the church’s response to the confusion, questions, and sexual turbulence of a desperate world, and even of its hurting members, has often been silence. Whether because we are caught in our own hidden sexual sins, unsure whether God’s grace actually has power, or we are afraid to speak unpopular or unaffirming words, we have not offered the healing words of the gospel of grace to fellow sinners.

(*Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 320)

In five powerful words, the HSR declares: “We have failed each other” (*Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 320).

2. This weightiness affords the Christian Reformed Church an unprecedented opportunity to lament, to repent, and to reimagine our life together around the Word, sacraments, and discipleship.

The church is facing a crisis of gospel proportions. Our failure to be salt and light through love, sexuality, marriage, friendship, and mutual accountability has deeply compromised our witness to the gospel. We are facing not just one problem, or even two or three. Our whole way of life has fallen out of step with the Spirit and with the teaching of Scripture, and all of us must be called to account. And yet in this very realization we have the opportunity, together, to repent. We have the opportunity to reexamine our lives and our communities, to confess the sins we have committed against each other, and to call one another back to the costly path of loving discipleship. By following this path, we once again can find hope and offer hope to a desperate, broken world.

(*Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 321)

3. This advisory committee calls Synod 2022 to begin these deliberations with prayer.

Members of Advisory Committee 8 lead in a prayer of common lament: “Lord Jesus, we embrace the call to be the manifestation of your body on earth. We desire to offer grace and radical hospitality to all persons who come seeking your presence through the ministries of our congregations

and communities. We want to be like you: welcoming our noblest neighbors, notorious sinners, and even our own immoral (or fallen) selves.

“To you, O God, we surrender our will, our power, our privilege. We surrender fully to your power, Blessed Trinity.”

4. This advisory committee shares the desire of the HSR committee: “The Holy Spirit leads. God pours out love and grace. May our desire to love one another and our neighbors increase, grounded in the confidence that we ‘belong—body and soul . . . –to [our] faithful Savior, Jesus Christ’ (Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1)” (*Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 327).

D. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to HSR committee members Mary-Lee Bouma, Jim Vanderwoerd, and Jeff Weima, and, when Council of Delegates material is addressed, to Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Michael L. Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Colin P. Watson, Sr., executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod thank the following:

- a. The members of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality for their service to the church.
- b. The individuals who shared and compiled the many stories we heard. It is with great appreciation, and has been a tremendous honor, to receive and to hear the stories of those who shared in the HSR report, in the agenda, and through various overtures submitted to synod. We recognize that this was not done lightly and required significant courage and vulnerability. For all of this, and the ways the stories included in the HSR, in the COD Report, and in Overtures 20 and 23 (*Deferred Agenda for Synod 2021*) and 38 and 56 (*Agenda for Synod 2022*) enriched and informed our deliberations, we extend our sincerest thanks.
- c. The individuals who faithfully served our church, this process, and our God by praying, by engaging with our advisory committee, and by giving the many hours it took to research and write the more than seventy overtures and communications that engaged with the HSR and guided our advisory committee work.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod solemnly take note of the pervasive sin of pornography and its harm, and lead our churches into repentance and healing. The HSR describes the problem this way: “We have tolerated [pornography] because the lusts of our hearts are dear to us. We have tolerated it because we are comfortable with the objectification and domination of women. The sins that lie closest to our hearts are those for which it is the most difficult to repent” (*Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 362).

Background: The work of the HSR with regard to pornography is deeply needed for the church today. The work of the CRC to address the sin of pornography first came to the surface in 1987 as Classis Grandville overtured synod to take a position on pornography. Synod 1988 approved a

revised statement on pornography (*Acts of Synod 1988*, pp. 368-69, 605-607). Synod gave several recommendations in response to an overture for Classis Eastern Canada in 2012 (*Agenda for Synod 2012*, p. 477; *Acts of Synod 2012*, pp. 758-59). Synod 2016 adopted a description in the Church Order Supplement, Article 84 stating that “participation in pornography” is ungodly conduct (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 716).

Grounds:

- a. The advisory committee turns its attention first to pornography because it is a sin that transcends sexual orientation and so, in considering a report so identified with how to address homosexual orientation, gives each one of us the opportunity to find ourselves in this report.
- b. The advisory committee turns its attention first to pornography because it is so often a secret burden and because it so clearly violates the dignity of other imagebearers of God. It is the conviction of the advisory committee that we will not be successful in dealing with the rest of the HSR if we do not deal first with the sin of pornography in our church. We note that the key New Testament text on same-sex activity, Romans 1, leads into Romans 2, which reminds us that “when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?” (Rom. 2:3-4).
- c. The HSR’s teaching and pastoral care advice concerning pornography is consistent with a Reformed perspective of biblical authority and a helpful application of a biblical theology of the body.

—*Noted*

4. That synod encourage the churches to make use of the curriculum prepared by Pastor Church Resources, in conjunction with members of the committee, to help small groups study and discuss aspects of the committee’s report which may be controversial.

—*Adopted*

Note: The advisory committee divided the HSR Recommendation B into two separate recommendations and presents them in reverse order.

5. That synod recommend the pastoral care sections in the HSR as offering sound, introductory guidance to the churches and strongly encourage continuing conversations around the complex items within the HSR and how to faithfully implement these practices in the life of the church.

The advisory committee sensed complexity in this area, so we make the following observations:

- The HSR’s pastoral care sections ought to be conversation starters regarding what it means to live a healthy Christian sexual life for both married and single persons.
- The text of the HSR recognizes the need for continued dialogue among scholars and research into the fields of biblical studies and the biological and social sciences, especially related to the topic of

gender dysphoria (HRS sections VIII-X). This need was also recognized in Overtures 40 and 42 (*Agenda for Synod 2022*).

- It is important that listening and supporting conversations concerning pastoral care are initiated with a variety of unique cultural settings and geographic regions. We were encouraged by the engagement with the Korean Council, with Classis Red Mesa, with Consejo Latino and with sisters and brothers in the African-American community, and we see a need for much more engagement in the future.
- We need each other for this work of pastoral care, and the contributions of those representing different generations, different cultural and geographic contexts, and different roles (areas of expertise that include social scientists, teachers, pastors, elders, counselors, students, young adults, and health-care providers) will be essential for developing guidelines for pastoral care. This will be especially true as the scope of pastoral care in the context of human sexuality expands to address topics like sexual consent, sexual violence, technological advances, and the shift toward more single persons in the church.
- Continued conversation around pastoral care might have a powerful influence on elements of congregational life such as gospel preaching, faith formation, the diaconate, our missional calling, the sacraments, and church discipline.
- Finally, reflecting a lengthy committee discussion over the first paragraph under section XVI, B of the HSR report (*Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 460), that the churches need help balancing Scripture and the confessions with regard to the more difficult portions of Scripture. The church needs wisdom to preach and teach the solemn warning texts (i.e., 1 Cor. 6 and 11) in a way that is consistent with the confessions. Indeed, we need a better balance of radical hospitality and radical obedience as an outpouring of the lavish grace of God. Only in this balance can we offer as a demonstration to all persons the words and deeds of costly discipleship that are the responsibility of all who call on the name of the Lord.

Grounds:

- a. There is a gap between our theology and our practice of pastoral care in the context of human sexuality.
- b. The advisory committee recognized the need for a continued conversation regarding our practice of pastoral care building on the foundation of the HSR.

— *Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: deacon delegate David Nightingale (Toronto) and Rev. Dominic J. Palacios (Rocky Mountain).

6. That synod not appoint a team of individuals to draft a statement of faith on human embodiment and sexuality that reflects and secures the conclusion of the report, but that synod warmly encourage the institutions and agencies of the Christian Reformed Church to develop resources to support effective, life-affirming pastoral care in the areas of sexuality, marriage, and gender.

Grounds:

- a. Congregations and classes need time to reflect on the implications of this year's decisions.
- b. Future synods can prioritize which of the many suggested tasks related to human sexuality (including suggested edits to the report, additional studies, etc.) will be most urgent.

—*Adopted*

7. That synod not accede to Overture 57.

Grounds:

- a. The recommendation is a weighty matter that has not been before the churches.
- b. The recommended change is not consistent with the foundational starting point of the HSR found in the 1973 study report on homosexuality, and would undermine its reception in the churches.

—*Adopted*

8. That synod not accede to overtures that recommend the appointment of a new committee at this time.

Grounds:

- a. Congregations and classes need time to reflect on the implications of this year's decisions.
- b. Future synods can prioritize which of the many suggested tasks related to human sexuality (including suggested edits to the report, additional studies, etc.) will be most urgent.

—*Adopted*

9. That synod declare the above recommendations to be its responses to the following overtures:

- a. Recommendation 4: Overture 52 (*Agenda for Synod 2022*)
- b. Recommendation 5: Overtures 20, 27-29 (*Deferred Agenda 2021*) and 20-21, 42-43, 45-48, 50, 53-54 (*Agenda for Synod 2022*)
- c. Recommendation 6: Overtures 30 (*Deferred Agenda 2021*) and 52 (*Agenda for Synod 2022*)
- d. Recommendation 7: Overture 57 (2022 Supplement)
- e. Recommendation 8: Overtures 26 (*Deferred Agenda 2021*) and 20, 37, 45, 47, 50-D, 53 (*Agenda for Synod 2022*)

—*Adopted*

II. Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality: Majority/Minority reports (majority report)

A. Materials

1. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, pp. 313-487
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 9, including Appendix A), pp. 38, 57-71
3. 73 Overtures and Communications in the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, and the 2022 Supplement

B. Recommendations

1. That synod recommend the HSR to the churches as providing a useful summary of biblical teaching regarding human sexuality.

Grounds:

- a. The report is consistent with Scripture.
 - b. The report is consistent with earlier synodical reports on the interpretation of Scripture, including “Infallibility and Inspiration” (1961) and “The Nature and Extent of Biblical Authority” (1972).
 - c. The report is consistent with shared convictions of the majority of Christian traditions and denominations historically and globally.
2. That synod affirm that “unchastity” in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extramarital sex, polyamory, pornography, and homosexual sex, all of which violate the seventh commandment. In so doing, synod declares this affirmation “an interpretation of [a] confession” (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 603). Therefore, this interpretation has confessional status.

Grounds:

- a. “When a synodical pronouncement is set forth as an interpretation of the confession, this is its use and function” (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 603).
 - b. We discern the need to call the church to radical obedience for chaste living.
 - c. This is consistent with the intent of Recommendation D in the HSR.
 - d. This action is consistent with prior synodical decisions regarding human sexuality (Report 42: Committee to Study Homosexuality, *Acts of Synod 1973*, pp. 609-633).
 - e. This action is grounded in a Reformed approach to the authority and inspiration of Scripture as expressed in “The Nature and Extent of Biblical Authority” (1972).
 - f. This reflects the shared perspectives of the majority of the Christian traditions and denominations historically and globally.
 - g. The advisory committee chose to clarify the language of the HSR committee’s Recommendation D because of the confusion expressed by several of the overtures received over the scope of the confessional status of this interpretation of the Heidelberg Catechism.
3. That synod add a footnote to Q. and A. 108 of the Heidelberg Catechism with regard to “unchastity,” and that synod direct the executive director to consult with historical theologians and denominational staff for the language, ensuring that this footnote is consistent with Recommendation 1.

Grounds:

- a. This addition is warranted to establish clarity in what the Heidelberg Catechism teaches and puts this teaching into the hands of the churches.
- b. There is precedent for adding a clarifying footnote to the confessions (e.g., the footnote included with Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 80, *Acts of Synod 2006*, pp. 710-11).

4. That synod affirm that “unchastity” in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 also encompasses “sexual violence within and outside of covenantal marriage.” The complete sentence would thus read: “‘unchastity’ in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extramarital sex, sexual violence within and outside of covenantal marriage, polyamory, pornography, and homosexual sex, all of which violate the seventh commandment.”

Observation: While members representing the minority report were unable to agree in full with this recommendation, they do affirm the intent of including sexual violence as prohibited by the seventh commandment.

Grounds:

- a. Scriptural prohibitions against sexual immorality warn against wronging or taking advantage of anyone—for example, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister” (1 Thess. 4:3-6).
 - b. Concern over the weighty sin of sexual violence has been affirmed by synod in its decisions to establish, instruct, and affirm the work of the Safe Church office—originally called Abuse Prevention (*Acts of Synod 1995*, pp. 178-81, 555-65), adding ministries focused on sexual violence to the approved list of offerings, and in its actions on Judicial Code matters over several years.
 - c. Concern over sexual violence and abuse within and outside of marriage was identified as an urgent matter by several entries in the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, including:
 - references in agency reports: pp. 92, 108, 110, 217, 234, 238-39, 242
 - references in the Human Sexuality Report: pp. 319, 332, 352, 354-56, 358, 362-369, 375, 397, 403, 410, 425, 428, 443, 445
 - Overtures 36, 52
 - several poignant stories shared by members of the CRCNA included within overtures and communications
 - d. Concern about sexual violence is consistent with the theology of the body in HSR (esp. section XV).
 - e. Sexual violence within and outside of covenantal marriage is a grievous matter, causing devastating trauma and impairing the witness of the church.
5. That synod declare that Church Order Article 69-c is to be interpreted in the light of the biblical evidence laid out in this report.

Ground: A change in the text of Church Order Article 69-c is not necessary.

6. That synod declare these recommendations to be its responses to the following overtures received:

- a. Recommendation 1: Overtures 18-23, 26-29 (*Deferred Agenda* 2021), 14-24, 35-36, 40-41, 43-45, 51, 55-56 (*Agenda for Synod* 2022), and 57 (2022 Supplement).
- b. Recommendation 2: Overtures 21, 24-29 (*Deferred Agenda* 2021) and 20-21, 25-35, 37-39, 49-50, 55 (*Agenda for Synod* 2022).
- c. Recommendation 5: Overtures 24-29 (*Deferred Agenda* 2021) and 23, 36-37, 56 (*Agenda for Synod* 2022).

According to the Rules for Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the response to the report from the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality is presented as information by delegate Rev. Lynette van de Hoef Meyers.

Response to the Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality (minority report)

A. *Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022*, Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, pp. 313-487

B. Background

1. General

We cherish the gift of the faith we share, the creeds and confessions of the church, and the Reformed interpretation of Scripture. Like the section of the Human Sexuality Report (HSR) on desire, we are inspired by the delight that the Song of Songs lovers find in each other's bodies, the equality of their love for each other, and the exclusivity of their relationship, as well as the deep intimacy God desires to have with us (pp. 453-56). We affirm the importance of Paul's warning to flee from immorality and the biblical admonition against willful, unrepentant sin.

Human sexuality is a broad topic addressed by fields such as theology, psychology, and biology and experienced daily by each human on our planet in different ways. Human sexuality is stunning and awe-inspiring in its complexity. Current scientific research has spurred theological reflection. This reflection at times causes anxiety as long-held beliefs are challenged; it can sometimes feel as if this reflection creates fault lines in the foundations of our faith. We fear losing our foundations. Or perhaps we do not understand where these reflections might lead, and we fear what the unknown future might hold.

Within our denomination, there are differences of opinions. This is obvious due to the large volume of overtures and communications sent regarding the report from the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality (HSR). It is our desire to be curious together, to hold space for more conversations to happen in our churches.

The members representing the minority report wonder what the various conclusions raised in the HSR mean for the CRCNA and its members. Some of us have fairly settled viewpoints, while others are still wrestling with this. We hope we can engage these spaces and conversations together with grace and truth as we strive to live with the humility of Jesus.

We share the belief that everyone is made in the image of God. We acknowledge that we do not always treat all people as such, and therefore we have people in our communities who live on the margins. Many of our LGBTQ+ members inhabit such margins. We lament that we have not followed in Jesus' steps, as he demonstrated radical hospitality and love to people who were marginalized. Jesus always demonstrated the compelling nature of grace and truth side by side in their fullness. We are in awe of Jesus' ability to hold these two together, and we strive to do likewise. We do not, however, fully understand the truth of all things, and therefore we would like to approach this topic with grace-filled curiosity.

As the members representing the minority report, we are united in our desire for clarity, humility, and grace with regard to the topic of human sexuality in the CRCNA. We desire to model the radical hospitality of Jesus toward all in our communities. We are committed to walking alongside people in their lives of discipleship.

2. Theology

The Christian Reformed Church recognizes the strength of a Reformed hermeneutic, the guidelines we use to interpret the Bible. The Reformed tradition uses four main elements in its guidelines for interpreting a text: *literary*, *historical*, *grammatical*, and *theological*. These four elements are all undergirded by our understanding that Scripture is inspired by God and that the Holy Spirit helps us to understand Scripture today.

We note that by applying a Reformed hermeneutic, those who hold to a high view of Scripture come to different conclusions about what God ordains as normative for human relationships. For members representing the minority report, the interpretations of key texts that inform the theology of human sexuality in the HSR are not the only or even the most compelling and faithful way to interpret these texts. The HSR's interpretation of Matthew 19, for instance, describes Jesus as presenting an overarching theology on human sexuality. God's will for sexuality is rooted in the creational norm set in Genesis 1 and 2: that male and female persons, a proper binary like day and night, may join in marriage. This union is made by God and is thus indivisible by man.

As Overture 36 points out, however, "a more faithful interpretation of Matthew 19:1-12 would begin with a look at the literary and cultural context of the passage. . . . In each of the first three pericopes of the unit Jesus commands people to care for, welcome, and be generous to those who are on the margins of society, those who are vulnerable and/or have no status (women, eunuchs, children, and the poor). He concludes the unit with a parable that demonstrates that it is God's character to be scandalously gracious rather than to follow what is 'fair' according to the letter of the law" (Overture 36, *Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 574).

Jesus points to Genesis 1 and 2 in this text, not in order to affirm universal creational norms, but "to remind everyone that the purpose of marriage was so that men and women could together live into the fruitfulness of God's blessing. Moses' law regarding divorce was given as a measure of protection for women because of the sinfulness of men. A certificate allowed them to remarry and thus secure their economic and social space in society. Jesus' point is that men should love their wives rather than look

for a law that enables them to shirk their duties. In other words, he calls men to fulfill the law with radical, costly love and justice" (Ibid, p. 575).

In its treatment of Genesis 1-2, the HSR emphasizes that God created humans both male and female, and it concludes that it is through our biological sexual differences that we image God. However, "[the HSR] ignores the simpler reading that males and females are each created in the image of God" (Overture 33, *Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 567). The HSR also does not define how our binary sexual differences image God.

Overture 24 notes that "in Genesis 1, not only humans but also the fish and birds are commanded to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:22). Hence, we understand that they too (along with the livestock) were created male and female. But despite possessing male and female sexual difference appropriate to their kind, these creatures are not in the image of God. Why then would sexual difference constitute the image in humans but not in animals? Genesis 1:27 is better understood as stressing that both men and women reflect who God is in the world. The created equality of women suggested by the text stands in stark contrast to the foundational beliefs of other Ancient Near Eastern cultures, which viewed men as more godlike, with women ranking sometimes below male slaves in the social hierarchy. God's people are to be different from the surrounding cultures by valuing women as fully equal to men in personhood and worth" (Overture 24, *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, p. 526).

We also wonder at the unbalanced application of this creational norm to homosexual and heterosexual practices. The HSR clearly finds that same-sex sexual practices violate this creational norm by being, necessarily, nonprocreative. However, it is silent on the topic of nonprocreative heterosexual practices (such as the use of contraception).

The HSR's focus on universal creational norms also undermines the New Testament emphasis on creating disciples to grow God's kingdom instead of growth through producing children.

3. Science, general revelation, gender identity

The HSR properly highlights the challenges we face in a world where members of our community don't identify in strictly binary or cisgendered terms. It also properly points out that the science in this area is constantly evolving and that we must be ready to learn more.

The HSR notes that science is not general revelation in itself, but a cultural response to general revelation, and therefore not to be given the authority of revelation. However, there remains a bias. While science is recognized as fallible and cultural, theology is not recognized as the cultural response to special revelation. Through the emphasis on special revelation as "readable" and "primary", without the properly Reformed humility of recognizing one's own fallibility, the HSR is at danger of equating their theological perspective on Scripture with Scripture itself. Just as science is provisional, fallible, and political, so too is theology provisional, fallible, and political. "For now we see in a mirror dimly" (1 Cor. 13:12).

Multiple overtures have pointed to the suspect use of scientific evidence in the HSR. Issues that have been raised include questions about the reliability of studies referenced, the proper conclusions drawn from

various studies, and the reputability of institutions and sources referenced (Overtures 33, 37, 39, 40, 42; *Agenda for Synod* 2022). Therefore, the HSR's discussion on gender identity is at best, incomplete, and at worst, insensitive and lacking scientific rigor to many who read this report.

4. Homosexuality

It is evident from the volume of overtures regarding the homosexuality portion of the HSR that there are differences of interpretation in the CRCNA on this topic and a desire for more dialogue within the churches. They also draw attention to the differing theological arguments arising from Reformed theologians. Overture 37 states that "the very existence of a variety of robust biblical and theological arguments for the inclusion of celibate *and* married LGBT Christians in the church signals that there is not theological consensus on this topic" (Overture 37, *Agenda for Synod* 2022, p. 581).

We also draw attention to the fact that "the report does not represent the diversity of voices present in the Christian Reformed Church . . ." (Overture 41, *Agenda for Synod* 2022, p. 629). While the HSR includes a number of stories of people who have same-sex attraction, nearly all of them reinforce the conclusions of the HSR (Overture 46, *Agenda for Synod* 2022) and fail to recognize what is good, true, and beautiful within the lives of many who are in committed same-sex relationships. Multiple overtures rightfully speak to this gap in the report, and we are grateful for the stories that were shared (from 2022, Overtures 38, 55, 56; from 2021, Overtures 20, 23). Hearing the diversity of LGBTQ+ voices is critical as we continue to seek clarity.

Additionally, we recognize "the report does not serve us well as we learn how to live with our differences" (Overture 40, *Agenda for Synod* 2022, p. 625). Instead, it creates a position that brings further harm and pain to those who already feel marginalized by the church and its people. Both the HSR and Overture 24 highlight troubling statistics of increased rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide among LGBTQ+ people, particularly among youth (Overture 24, *Deferred Agenda* 2021, p. 523). These troubling health outcomes give us great pause, and suggest even more urgently the need for further grace-filled conversations as a people of God within the CRCNA.

5. Reflections on divorce

We are also troubled by the HSR's reflections on divorce. The HSR encourages the church to "act more intentionally to call married partners to reconciliation and renewed commitment" and reinforces the 1980 guidelines on divorce that encourage churches to exercise "formal discipline when persons in hardness of heart refuse to heed the admonitions of the consistory and do not acknowledge and repent of their sins involved in divorce and remarriage" (*Agenda for Synod* 2022, p. 451). While we affirm the significance of the covenantal commitments of marriage, this strong encouragement to preserve the marriage relationship is given without qualification. Our concern is for those who experience intimate partner abuse in their marriage. The report's reflections imply and communicate to church leaders and abused spouses that both leaving the marriage and

remarrying is a sin worthy of church discipline, thus encouraging those who are being abused to remain in abusive relationships.

6. Confessional status and Church Order Article 69-c

In terms of the teachings of the confessions regarding human sexuality and relationships, and the matter of the confessional status of the HSR's understanding of the biblical teachings on human sexuality, we highlight the following comments and concerns reflected in various overtures before Synod 2022.

Overture 28 reminds us that "the CRCNA is what is known as a 'confessional church,' meaning that 'professing members of the CRC claim to believe not only that the Bible is the Word of God but also that 'the confessions of this church faithfully reflect this revelation.' The Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort, and our belief in them, stand as a statement of unity" (Overture 28, *Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 551).

The overture goes on to claim that declaring that the teachings *already* have confessional status does not align with our understanding of decisions of previous synods, particularly the denomination's teachings on homosexuality as defined as "pastoral advice" in the *Acts of Synod 1973*.

The overture concludes, "Given that the teachings were not designated as an interpretation of the confessions at prior synods, we believe that disagreeing with the report's conclusions does not violate our affirmation of the Three Forms of Unity, and in particular the Heidelberg Catechism. We understand that synodical decisions 'shall be considered settled and binding' (Church Order Art. 29), but we also emphasize Synod 1975's point that 'there is an obvious difference between the use and function of a pronouncement as interpretation of the confessions and a decision involving 'guidelines' or 'pastoral advice' (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 598)" (Overture 28, *Agenda for Synod 2022*, pp. 551-52).

In applying Church Order Article 69-c, ministers of the Word have the freedom to discern what would constitute a marriage that is "in conflict with the Word of God" (Art. 69-c). The recommendation of the HSR would limit their discernment process. It is unclear how far the implications of this decision would go (e.g., Would ministers be required to not marry a couple where one partner is engaging in pornography?). As Overture 24 states, "It would be irresponsible for synod to accede to a recommendation that has potentially far-reaching implications that are not even discussed in the report" (Overture 24, *Deferred Agenda 2020-2021*, p. 530).

Because there is sufficient reason to question the interpretations and claims made in the report, we present to you, the body of synod, an alternative voice in the form of the following recommendations.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod urge churches to prayerfully reflect on the trauma experienced by many in our congregations (e.g., LGBTQ+, divorced, single, abused, and addicted individuals) as we struggle to live out our call to love God and love our neighbors.

2. That synod receive the report for information but not adopt it.

Grounds:

- a. The interpretations of key texts (namely Gen. 1-2 and Matt. 19) that inform the theology of human sexuality in the report are not the only or even the most compelling and faithful way to interpret these texts. Applying a Reformed hermeneutic, those who hold to a high view of Scripture could come to different conclusions about what God ordains as normative for human relationships.
- b. The confessions proper do not speak explicitly against faithful same-sex relationships and therefore do not necessarily support the conclusions of this report.
- c. The report's engagement with scientific evidence is insufficient and raises significant questions.
- d. This recommendation creates space requested by many in our denomination to keep the door open to dialogue and grace-filled conversations and demonstrates our commitment to love and respect those in the LGBTQ+ community and those who support them who are wrestling with the church's stance on same-sex relationships.
- e. The report's discussion on divorce conveys that abused spouses are to stay in harmful and dangerous relationships. This would be a significant step backward in the church's efforts to prevent and respond justly and compassionately to abuse.

3. That synod not accede to recommendation D of the report from the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality.

Grounds:

- a. "The denomination's position on homosexuality does not hold confessional status via the word 'unchastity' in Heidelberg Catechism Q. & A. 108 because a previous synod has not declared such an interpretation of the word" (Overture 25, *Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 547).
- b. Several overtures and communications that affirmed the HSR urged synod not to make a determination about its confessional status until greater clarity could be provided about the wording of the recommendations, and until churches could more clearly discern the implications of this decision for church life (e.g., discipline, officebearing, profession of faith, etc.) (Overtures 44-47, 56, *Agenda for Synod 2022*; Communication 1 [2021], *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*).

4. That synod not accede to Recommendation E of the report from the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality.

Grounds:

- a. Since the biblical interpretation (Recommendation B) is not being adopted in full, then E cannot be adopted.
- b. The implications of this decision are unclear.

5. That synod encourage denominational ministries to intentionally support the churches and classes by developing /sharing resources as well as providing training and consultation as churches/ classes work to
 - enfold, support, and love those who identify as LGBTQ+.
 - walk alongside those experiencing the harms of pornography, intimate partner abuse, and questions of gender identity.

Grounds:

- a. Those who identify as LGBTQ+, regardless of whether they hold a traditional or affirming position regarding human sexuality, have noted that the church is often a challenging and inhospitable place. Various denominational ministries have resources and competence to help churches better understand the needs of the LGBTQ+ community and guidance in creating more hospitable environments.
- b. Churches can feel at a loss on how to respond to the vast variety of needs that may present themselves in relation to human sexuality. Denominational ministries can help people with resources and guide them as they access others within the continuum of care.

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

Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality (majority report)

A. Materials

1. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, pp. 313-487
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 9, including Appendix A), pp. 38, 57-71
3. 73 Overtures and Communications in the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, and the 2022 Supplement

B. Recommendations

1. That synod recommend the HSR to the churches as providing a useful summary of biblical teaching regarding human sexuality.

Grounds:

- a. The report is consistent with Scripture.
- b. The report is consistent with earlier synodical reports on the interpretation of Scripture, including “Infallibility and Inspiration” (1961) and “The Nature and Extent of Biblical Authority” (1972).
- c. The report is consistent with shared convictions of the majority of Christian traditions and denominations historically and globally.

— *Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Ingrid A. Beck (Niagara), Patricia L. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), Rev. Daniel G. Brown (Quinte), Janet deWinter (Toronto), Rev. Anthony Elenbaas (Hamilton), Rev. Rebecca L. Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East), Rev. Daniel Hoogland (Eastern Canada), Leo B. Jonker (Quinte), Janice E. Kostelyk (B.C. South-East), Larry L. Louters

(Grand Rapids East), Rev. Lynette A. van de Hoef Meyers (Ontario South-west), David Nightingale (Toronto), Rev. Dominic J. Palacios (Rocky Mountain), Migael L. Randall (Central Plains), Heidi J. Sytsema (Muskegon), and John A. Vanderstoep (Huron).

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 62.)

ARTICLE 60

The afternoon session recesses at 5:50 p.m. Rev. Douglas E. Fakkema (Pacific Northwest) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Tuesday evening at 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY EVENING, June 14, 2022

Eleventh Session

ARTICLE 61

The evening session convenes at 7:15 p.m. The executive director leads in opening prayer.

Deacon delegate Geoffrey W. Vanderburg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan) has returned home and is no longer able to attend and participate at synod.

ARTICLE 62

The vice president assumes the chair.

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 59.)

Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality (majority report)

Recommendations (continued)

2. That synod affirm that “unchastity” in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extramarital sex, polyamory, pornography, and homosexual sex, all of which violate the seventh commandment. In so doing, synod declares this affirmation “an interpretation of [a] confession” (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 603). Therefore, this interpretation has confessional status.

Grounds:

- a. “When a synodical pronouncement is set forth as an interpretation of the confession, this is its use and function” (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 603).
- b. We discern the need to call the church to radical obedience for chaste living.
- c. This is consistent with the intent of Recommendation D in the HSR.
- d. This action is consistent with prior synodical decisions regarding human sexuality (Report 42: Committee to Study Homosexuality, *Acts of Synod 1973*, pp. 609-33).

- e. This action is grounded in a Reformed approach to the authority and inspiration of Scripture as expressed in “The Nature and Extent of Biblical Authority” (1972).
- f. This reflects the shared perspectives of the majority of the Christian traditions and denominations historically and globally.
- g. The advisory committee chose to clarify the language of the HSR committee’s Recommendation D because of the confusion expressed by several of the overtures received over the scope of the confessional status of this interpretation of the Heidelberg Catechism.

The delegates deliberate on the above recommendation during the evening session without a vote.

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 65.)

ARTICLE 63

The evening session recesses at 9:11 p.m. Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Wednesday morning at 8:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 15, 2022

Twelfth Session

ARTICLE 64

The praise team leads delegates in singing “The Goodness of God” and “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less.”

The Christ candle is lit as a reminder that God is present. Elder delegate Jenny Douma (Ontario Southwest), Rev. Hyung Jun Kim (ethnic adviser), and Rev. Joel D. Vande Werken (Atlantic Northeast) lead in the call to worship from Psalm 46. Delegates respond by singing “A Mighty Fortress.”

Delegates offer prayer by singing “Our Father in Heaven.” Synod is invited to reflect on the Lord’s Prayer statement “Do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.” Rev. Chris Schoon, director of Faith Formation Ministries, reads Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 127: “And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one” means: By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and our own flesh—never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.” Debra L. Chee (Red Mesa) reads 1 Peter 5:1-11, and Rev. Schoon offers prayer. The assembly sings “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

Delegates participate in a “concentric circle of prayer” and sing “Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me.” Rev. Schoon offers the sending from 1 Peter 5:10-11 and 2 Thessalonians 1:16-17. Delegates respond by singing “Let Us Be Known by Our Love.”

The roll call indicates that the following delegate is absent: elder delegate Steven Zielinski (Atlantic Northeast).

President Rayas offers prayer for the day ahead, asking for a sense of peace to do God's work.

ARTICLE 65

The vice president assumes the chair.

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 62.)

Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality (majority report)

Recommendations (continued)

Delegates resume consideration of the following recommendation, presented during the evening session, June 14.

2. That synod affirm that "unchastity" in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extramarital sex, polyamory, pornography, and homosexual sex, all of which violate the seventh commandment. In so doing, synod declares this affirmation "an interpretation of [a] confession" (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 603). Therefore, this interpretation has confessional status.

Grounds:

- a. "When a synodical pronouncement is set forth as an interpretation of the confession, this is its use and function" (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 603).
- b. We discern the need to call the church to radical obedience for chaste living.
- c. This is consistent with the intent of Recommendation D in the HSR.
- d. This action is consistent with prior synodical decisions regarding human sexuality (Report 42: Committee to Study Homosexuality, *Acts of Synod 1973*, pp. 609-33).
- e. This action is grounded in a Reformed approach to the authority and inspiration of Scripture as expressed in "The Nature and Extent of Biblical Authority" (1972).
- f. This reflects the shared perspectives of the majority of the Christian traditions and denominations historically and globally.
- g. The advisory committee chose to clarify the language of the HSR committee's Recommendation D because of the confusion expressed by several of the overtures received over the scope of the confessional status of this interpretation of the Heidelberg Catechism.

—*Adopted*

President Rayas offers a prayer to build up and edify God's church.

The following negative votes are registered: Patricia Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), Matthew Borst (Pacific Northwest), Robert Broekema (Muskegon), Daniel Brown (Quinte), Barbara Bulthuis (Rocky Mountain), Samuel Cooper (Toronto), Steven deBoer (Niagara), Janet deWinter (Toronto), Anthony Elenbaas (Hamilton), Elizabeth Gysbers (B.C. North-West), Rebecca Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East), Michael Hoozeboom (Grand Rapids South), Daniel Hoogland (Eastern Canada), Peter Hoytema (Ontario Southwest), Leo Jonker (Quinte), Alice G. Joosse (Alberta North), Tamara

Kuklenski (Pacific Northwest), Sally Larsen (Chicago South), Larry Louters (Grand Rapids East), Lynette van de Hoef Meyers (Ontario Southwest), David Nightingale (Toronto), Dominic Palacios (Rocky Mountain), Mary Rupke (Lake Erie), Heidi J. Sytsema (Muskegon), Glenda VanderKam (California South), John Vanderstoep (Huron)..

3. That synod, in accordance with its clarification that “‘unchastity’ in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extramarital sex, polyamory, pornography, and homosexual sex, all of which violate the seventh commandment,” instruct the executive director to add the following clarifying footnote to Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108:

*Synod 2022 clarified that “unchastity” encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extramarital sex, polyamory, pornography, and homosexual sex.

Grounds:

- a. This addition is warranted to establish clarity in what the Heidelberg Catechism teaches and puts this teaching into the hands of the churches.
- b. There is precedent for adding a clarifying footnote to the confessions (e.g., the footnote included with Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 80, *Acts of Synod 2006*, pp. 710-11). [The footnote added to Q. and A. 80 in 2006 did not require ratification by a subsequent synod.]

Note: This footnote is a clarification of what the catechism always meant, not an alteration.

—*Defeated*

4. That synod affirm that “unchastity” in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses “sexual violence within and outside of covenantal marriage.”

Grounds:

- a. Scriptural prohibitions against sexual immorality warn against wronging or taking advantage of anyone—for example, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister” (1 Thess. 4:3-6).
- b. Concern over the weighty sin of sexual violence has been affirmed by synod in its decisions to establish, instruct, and affirm the work of the Safe Church office—originally called Abuse Prevention (*Acts of Synod 1995*, pp. 178-81, 555-65), adding ministries focused on sexual violence to the approved list of offerings, and in its actions on Judicial Code matters over several years.
- c. Concern over sexual violence and abuse within and outside of marriage was identified as an urgent matter by several entries in the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, including:

- references in agency reports: pp. 92, 108, 110, 217, 234, 238-39, 242
- references in the Human Sexuality Report: pp. 319, 332, 352, 354-56, 358, 362-369, 375, 397, 403, 410, 425, 428, 443, 445

- Overtures 36, 52
- several poignant stories shared by members of the CRCNA included within overtures and communications
- d. Concern about sexual violence is consistent with the theology of the body in HSR (esp. section XV).
- e. Sexual violence within and outside of covenantal marriage is a grievous matter, causing devastating trauma and impairing the witness of the church.

— *Adopted*

5. That synod declare that Church Order Article 69-c is to be interpreted in the light of the biblical evidence laid out in this report.

Ground: A change in the text of Church Order Article 69-c is not necessary.

Todd L. Eckstein offers prayer for the vote.

— *Adopted*

The following negative votes are recorded: Anthony Elenbaas (Hamilton), Rebecca Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East), Dominic Palacios (Rocky Mountain), Migael Randall (Central Plains), and John Vanderstoep (Huron).

6. That synod declare these recommendations to be its responses to the following overtures received:

- a. Recommendation 1: Overtures 18-23, 26-29 (*Deferred Agenda 2021*), 14-24, 35-36, 40-41, 43-45, 51, 55-57 (*Agenda for Synod 2022 and Supplement*).
- b. Recommendation 2: Overtures 21, 24-29 (*Deferred Agenda 2021*), 20-21, 25-35, 37-39, 49-50, 55 (*Agenda for Synod 2022*)
- c. Recommendation 5: Overtures 24-29 (*Deferred Agenda 2021*) and 23, 36-37, 56 (*Agenda for Synod 2022*)

Synod offers gratitude for the work of the members of Advisory Committee 8.

— *Adopted*

7. That synod declare the work of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology complete and dismiss them with thanks..

— *Adopted*

Synod offers gratitude for the work of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology.

Rev. Tim Kuperus, chair of Advisory Committee 8, offers a prayer of gratitude.

ARTICLE 66

The president resumes the chair.

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 43.)

Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins, reporter for Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Related Matters, offers prayer before presenting the following on behalf of the committee:

Response to Actions Taken by Neland Avenue CRC

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overtures 4-11 (deferred from 2021)*, pp. 454-79
2. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Communications 2 and 6 (deferred from 2021)*, pp. 575-76, 594-616
3. *Agenda for Synod 2022, Overture 12, Recommendations A and D*, p. 519; *Overture 19, Recommendation D*, p. 536
4. *Agenda for Synod 2022, COD Communication to Synod re Neland Avenue CRC (section II, A, 10; including Appendix B)*, pp. 38, 72-75

B. Introduction

When Neland Avenue CRC of Grand Rapids, Michigan, ordained a person in a same-sex marriage, it acted outside the bounds of past synodical decisions, procedures, and guidance as well as the CRCNA's interpretation of Scripture as it relates to same-sex marriage—and in so doing, Neland Avenue has broken covenant with fellow churches. Our unity is based on bearing one another's burdens together. Acting apart from this covenant is a violation of our sacred trust. This hurts us all.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod instruct Neland Avenue CRC to immediately rescind its decision to ordain a deacon in a same-sex marriage, thus nullifying this deacon's current term.

—*Tabled*

Note: The above recommendation was tabled and taken up again later in the day.

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 69.)

ARTICLE 67

The morning session recesses at 11:47 a.m. Willy K. Krahnke (young adult representative) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Wednesday afternoon.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 15, 2022 Thirteenth Session

ARTICLE 68

The afternoon session convenes at 1:59 p.m. Jake Van Dam (Yellowstone) leads in opening prayer, remembering those that are affected by severe flooding in Montana.

Note: Rev. Daniel Brown (Quinte) is absent for the afternoon session.

ARTICLE 69

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 66.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Related Matters, Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins reporting, presents the following:

Response to Actions Taken by Neland Avenue CRC

Recommendations (continued)

Note: Recommendation 1, tabled during the morning session, is taken up again.

1. That synod instruct Neland Avenue CRC to immediately rescind its decision to ordain a deacon in a same-sex marriage, thus nullifying this deacon's current term.

— *Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Donna Anema (Grand Rapids East), Patricia Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), Barbara Bulthuis (Rocky Mountain), Steven deBoer (Niagara), Anthony Elenbaas (Hamilton), Rebecca Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East), Dan Hoogland (Eastern Canada), Marcia Hosmar (Hamilton), Alice Joosse (Alberta North), Sally Larsen (Chicago South), Migael Randall (Central Plains), and Heidi J. Sytsema (Muskegon).

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 80.)

ARTICLE 70

The vice president assumes the chair.

Note: Rev. Daniel Brown (Quinte) is now present.

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 40.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services and Structure, Rev. Peter Hoytema reporting, presents the following:

Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2020*; section I, D), p. 132
2. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Supplement (*deferred from 2020*; sections G and L), pp. 202-205
3. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2021*; sections II, A, 8, a-b), pp. 234-36
4. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Supplement (*deferred from 2021*; section I, G, including Appendix A), pp. 284-89, 294-334
5. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 11; including Appendices C-D), pp. 38-39, 75-80
6. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Supplement (sections I, C, 3-6; D-E, including Appendices A and B1-B3)

7. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Overtures 1-5 and Communication 2, pp. 491-505, 688-89

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr., executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Background*

The Advisory Committee on Synodical Services and Structure has spent a great deal of time considering the matter of the Structure and Leadership Task Force (SALT) report, receiving significant input from Andy de Ruyter and Michael Ten Haken (on behalf of the Council of Delegates, and in their respective roles as the Canadian and U.S. corporate officers), as well as Al Postma and Terry Veldboom (senior level Canadian staff).

We acknowledge the disruption of the pandemic as well as significant personnel changes and the reality of Canada Revenue Agency tax compliance issues, which required the COD to move forward with some changes without the ordinary engagement with churches and classes due to the cancellation of Synods 2020 and 2021. This was unfortunate, and we recognize the pain that has resulted from this delay. This frustration and pain was evident in the overtures and communication sent to synod by a significant number of Canadian classes.

While different structures will admittedly not on their own fully resolve this pain, it is our hope and prayer that within these new structures some of the challenges of creating a healthy binational ministry can be more effectively addressed.

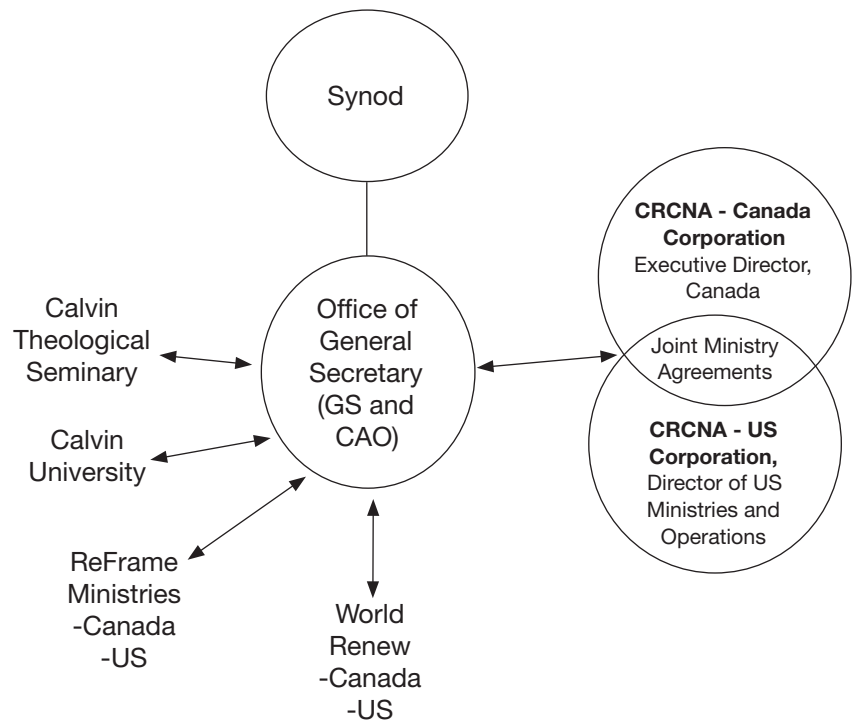
In our deliberations, it quickly became clear that the work of the Structure and Leadership Task Force did not end with their 2021 report to the Council of Delegates. Indeed, the COD and the Structure and Leadership Implementation Team has explored even further changes in the intervening months, many of which address the concerns outlined by the Canadian Catalytic Conversation (January 2022) and by several of the overtures presented to Synod 2022.

Our recommendations have taken into account all of the information from multiple sources, including the COD, overtures, the *Agenda for Synod* and its Supplement and other materials, which have outlined the evolution and improvements to the structure and leadership. We trust that this growth will continue as the CRCNA lives into its new structure and makes adjustments and improvements. However, we don't want to allow the challenges of the process to undermine the quality of the final results before us.

As a committee, we believe that the proposed structure and leadership aligns with originally stated goals and enables Synod 2022 to move forward based on our stated organizational values (i.e., partnership; collaboration; co-operation; shared mission; and interdependence between countries, ministry institutions, agencies, programs, and partners).

Chief among the developments that the COD and the CRCNA have implemented is the creation of a new executive leader for the CRCNA U.S. Corporation. This position is identified as Director of U.S. Ministry Operations. Organizationally, this position is the counterpart to that of the Executive Director-Canada, who correspondingly reports to the CRCNA-Canada

Corporation. This revised structure is reflected in the diagram of legal corporations presented below (adapted from the diagram in the *Agenda for Synod* Supplement, p. 725. (Note that this chart reflects only legal corporations and doesn't fully reflect the interconnected nature of ministry relationships.)



Another significant development has been the further clarification of joint ministry agreements. These agreements will “create role clarity, responsibility, and accountability between ministry boards, leaders, and partners,” including between the CRCNA Canada Corporation and the CRCNA U.S. Corporation (*Deferred Agenda*, pp. 307-309). In addition, our two countries will remain united ecclesiastically through the coordinating efforts of the Office of General Secretary, which will be housed in a newly created separate legal entity.

In all of this we highly value binationality and the continued unity of our denomination. While we recognize that heartache, frustration, and pain have been felt along the way, we are hopeful that this new structure and leadership will place the CRCNA in a strong position to move forward and confidently share the gospel.

D. Recommendations

1. That synod take note of the work of the COD to propose a new denominational structure in light of Canadian charitable-law requirements, as well as the more recent work to develop a new executive leader for the

CRCNA U.S. Corporation (COD Supplement 2021, section I, G; see also 2022 Supplement, Appendix B1).

Ground: This work significantly clarifies the relative roles of the CRCNA as an ecclesiastical body, the CRCNA-Canada Corporation, and the CRCNA-U.S. Corporation.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod address the following recommendations with regard to the work of the COD in response to the report of the Structure and Leadership Task Force (COD Supplement 2021, section I, G and Appendix A; COD Report 2022, section II, A, 11, d and Appendix D; COD Supplement 2022, section I, C, 4-5; I, E, and Appendices A, B1-B3):
 - a. That synod affirm the following goals and acknowledge these challenges to improve CRCNA culture:
 - 1) Affirm that we desire a binational organizational culture shaped by partnership; collaboration; cooperation; shared mission; and interdependency between countries, ministry institutions, agencies, programs, and partners. Board members and leaders will be persons who affirm these cultural values.
 - 2) Acknowledge the ongoing challenges the CRCNA organization faces in resolving the Canada Revenue Agency compliance issues in Canada and recognize that the implementation of the recommendations in the SALT report must address these issues but should not unduly impact the CRCNA organizational culture.
 - b. That synod take the following actions with respect to the formation of a separate legal entity to house the ecclesiastical office (to be known as the Office of General Secretary) of the CRCNA:
 - 1) Endorse the formation of this separate legal entity, note the work that has been done on the certificate of incorporation and bylaws of what has tentatively been called the “Worldwide Christian Reformed Church,” and receive the accompanying “Christian Reformed Church Ecclesial and Ministry Organizational Views” document as background regarding the new corporation.
 - 2) Instruct the Council of Delegates executive committee to review the proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws for this new ecclesiastical corporation and make the necessary changes to bring the articles of incorporation and bylaws into harmony with each other as well as with the Council of Delegates Governance Handbook, and to consider a new name for the ecclesiastical corporation, before presenting these documents for final approval by the Council of Delegates.
 - 3) Adopt the establishment of the senior leadership positions of general secretary and chief administrative officer, as well as the Office of General Secretary, to be governed by the new legal entity (tentatively called the Worldwide Christian Reformed Church).

- c. That synod instruct the Office of General Secretary to develop protocols to improve and strengthen the governance framework and design of the CRCNA organization as part of the Office of General Secretary.
- d. That synod acknowledge the revised role of the CRCNA Canada Corporation and take note that the CRCNA Canada Corporation has revised their charter and bylaws to be in compliance with Canada Revenue Agency regulations, and also take note of the appointment of the director of U.S. ministry operations for the CRCNA U.S. Corporation as a counterpart to the executive director-Canada.
- e. That synod adopt the Ecclesiastical Mandate Letter, as presented in a revised version in the Agenda Supplement 2022, to underscore that the CRCNA Canada Corporation has ecclesiastical obligations and accountability alongside its legal requirements as a registered charity in Canada.
- f. That synod take note of the adopted process for developing and approving joint ministry agreements.
- g. That synod instruct the Office of General Secretary to review and clarify the use of the terms *agency*, *board*, *office*, *ministry*, and similar names for CRCNA entities in order to provide clarity in communicating about the roles of these entities.

— *Adopted*

- 3. That synod, upon a successful interview, appoint Dr. Zachary J. King as general secretary of the CRCNA, effective July 1, 2022. Rev. Paul Vander Klay will conduct a 30-minute interview with 15 minutes allowed for questions from the floor (COD Report 2022, section II, A, 11, a; Appendix C).

— *Adopted*

- 4. That synod grant the COD authority to act on the appointment of a chief administrative officer should a nominee be identified and presented to the COD prior to Synod 2023 (COD Supplement 2022, section I, C, 3).

Ground: The current process for filling executive staff positions requires ratification by synod (Council of Delegates Governance Handbook, Appendix G, Section I, D).

— *Adopted*

- 5. That synod, upon adoption of the new structure as proposed in the Structure and Leadership Task Force report and adoption of a new ecclesiastical corporation, grant the COD authority to appoint all senior level staff within the Office of General Secretary (including the chief administrative officer, but excluding the General Secretary) going forward (COD Supplement 2022, section I, C, 6).

Ground: This will facilitate smooth and timely transitions in filling leadership vacancies.

— *Adopted*

- 6. That synod take note that the COD will review the status of Resonate Global Mission with a view to possible modification by a future synod in

order to make its status equivalent to that of World Renew and ReFrame Ministries, and that the purpose of such a review is to ensure internal ministry presence on the Ministries Leadership Council and to foster ministry integration (COD Supplement 2021, section I, G and Appendix A).

—Noted

7. That synod implement a Conflict of Interest Policy for delegates to synod, adapted from the policy in Appendix E to the SALT Report, which was adopted by the Council of Delegates (COD Supplement 2021, section I, G and Appendix A).

—Adopted

8. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 1-5 and Communication 2.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 72.)

ARTICLE 71

The president resumes the chair.

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 56.)

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

Advisory Committee 5, Global Mission and Denominational Unity, Robert J. Toornstra reporting, presents the following:

Council of Delegates (majority report)

Recommendation (continued)

That synod direct the executive director to forward the proposed Code of Conduct as amended by Committee 5 (see underlining below), along with the implementation plan recommended to Synod 2022, to the classes for study and input, and that these be revised in light of feedback received for consideration by Synod 2023.

Spiritual

I will acknowledge the use of Scripture and the Spirit's work in the community of the church and, therefore, refrain from presuming to be the sole "voice of God."

I will teach, admonish, or discipline in ways that are biblical and Christlike, and I will seek other people's well-being (Matthew 18; Colossians 1:28; 3:16).

I will use my position as a way to serve the body of believers, rather than myself, for the common good and the cultivation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Grounds:

1. Adequate time has not been given to churches and classes to read the report and to offer feedback on the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

2. In order for the Code of Conduct to receive broad support and buy-in from the denomination, churches must have the opportunity to speak into the Code of Conduct and the implementation plan.
3. Some of the language in the Code of Conduct is unclear and could be misinterpreted or misapplied.
4. The Code of Conduct does not adequately define terms such as *power* or *abuse*.

—*Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Ingrid Beck (Niagara), Rebecca Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East), and Dominic Palacios (Rocky Mountain).

ARTICLE 72

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 70.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services and Structure, Rev. Peter A. Hoytema reporting, presents the following:

Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2021*; section II, A, 1), p. 231
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 1), p. 35

B. Observations

For the past two consecutive years (2020 and 2021) the annual synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) was not able to meet as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program Committee for synod (officers of Synod 2019) was tasked with reviewing the contents of the agendas for Synods 2020 and 2021 to identify matters that could not await action until the following synod. Those matters were addressed by the Council of Delegates of the CRCNA in special meetings held in June 2020 and June 2021 (cf. Church Order Art. 33-b).

C. Recommendations

1. That synod ratify the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of Delegates 2020, acting in lieu of Synod 2020 (2021; section II, A, 1).
2. That synod ratify the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of Delegates 2021, acting in lieu of Synod 2021 (2022; II, A, 1).

—*Adopted*

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 75.)

ARTICLE 73

President Rayas informs delegates that the delegate who was ill has returned home and is recovering. The president reminds delegates to continue to pray for the three parents of delegates who are in the hospital or in

hospice. He shares that a delegate has also been informed of a death in the family.

The afternoon session recesses at 5:15 p.m. Rev. Richard J. de Lange (Alberta North) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 15, 2022

Fourteenth Session

ARTICLE 74

The evening session convenes at 7:08 p.m. Rev. Paul H. Vander Klay (Central California) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 75

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 72.)

Council of Delegates

Recommendation

Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure (in Article 70, section D, 3) and, following the completed interview, considers the following recommendation:

That synod appoint Dr. Zachary J. King as general secretary of the CRCNA, effective July 1, 2022.

—*Adopted*

The president of synod congratulates Dr. King. Elder delegate Evelyn H. Bennally, Rev. KwangBae Lee, Rev. John A. Vanderstoep, and Rev. Joel D. Vande Werken offer a prayer of thanksgiving in English, Korean, and Navajo.

ARTICLE 76

(The report from Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 51.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Ministries, Michael J. Kooy reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2020*; section II, A, 19), pp. 139-40
2. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (sections II, A, 17, a and c; B, 5-6, including Appendix G), pp. 41-42, 47-48, 90-114
3. Council of Delegates Supplement (section I, K, including Appendix E)

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr.

Colin P. Watson, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod appoint a study committee to more fully answer the questions: What is an ecclesiastical matter? What are the criteria for determining whether a matter is ecclesiastical? What does it mean to deal with an ecclesiastical matter in an ecclesiastical *manner*?

The task will include the following:

- a. Explore what *ecclesiastical matters* meant when it first appeared in the Church Order, and what it means to deal with such in “an ecclesiastical manner.”
- b. Conduct historical research on past synodical decisions with political and/or justice overtones and identify the criteria by which they were determined to be (or not to be) ecclesiastical matters.
- c. Considering the original intent of the Church Order, as well as the acts of previous synods, how should *ecclesiastical matters* be defined moving forward?
- d. Determine whether the findings could lead to serve as a supplement to Article 28 on ecclesiastical matters.

Grounds:

- 1) Article 28-a of the Church Order states, “These assemblies shall transact ecclesiastical matters only, and shall deal with them in an ecclesiastical manner.”
- 2) Synod 2019 instructed the Council of Delegates “to do historical research on synodical decisions and the defining rationale for making those decisions in dealing with political and/or justice matters, and to report through one of the COD committees and/or an ad hoc group” (*Acts of Synod 2019*, pp. 821-22).
- 3) The Council of Delegates noted that this deserves a more complete study than the COD is equipped to make, and it recommended that synod appoint a study committee to address this issue.
- 4) The issues raised in Article 77 of the *Acts of Synod 2019* (pp. 820-22) are important to the identity and future of our church. Due to the gravity of this issue, the importance of connecting with the church broadly, and the timetable necessary to do the work well, a synodical study committee would be a more appropriate means to address this issue.
- 5) Due to our denomination’s use at different times in its history of both a “two-kingdoms” approach to defining *ecclesiastical matters* and a neo-Calvinist approach, we recognize that there is no longer widespread agreement over how to interpret the term *ecclesiastical matters* in Church Order Article 28-a.

—*Defeated*

2. That synod approve the evaluation reports with regard to Mercy and Justice from the following ministries: Antiracism and Intercultural Conciliation, Centre for Public Dialogue, Disability Concerns, Indigenous

Ministries, Race Relations, Office of Social Justice, Safe Church Ministry, and World Renew (II, B, 5; Appendix G).

—Adopted

3. That synod take note of the COD's ratification of Lindsay Wieland Capel as director of Disability Concerns, welcome her in her new role, and express gratitude on behalf of the denomination to Mark Stephenson for his work as the previous director of Disability Concerns and for his ongoing service as interim director of Social Justice / Race Relations (II, B, 6, a-b).

—Adopted

4. That synod take note that the COD made the following appointments to the inaugural Dignity Team (*Agenda for Synod 2022*, p. 41): Sherry Fakkema, Carel Geleynse, Lee Hollaar, Sheila Holmes, and Cecil Van Niejenhuis. The staff of Safe Church Ministry and Pastor Church Resources will meet with the new team, help them to establish a working relationship, and orient them to the work.

—Noted

5. That synod approve the COD's review and approval of a separation agreement template (Supplement, section I, K and Appendix E) for use by churches in addressing a pastor's departure. This sample document removes nondisclosure-agreement language suggested in earlier guidelines adopted by synod (see *Acts of Synod 1998*, pp. 392-94). Pastor Church Resources will recommend use of this template in its work with churches.

—Adopted

6. That synod take note that the search team appointed by the COD to fill the vacancy for the Social Justice / Race Relations director position in 2021, reported that it is not appropriate to hire for the position at this time. Mark Stephenson agreed at that time to extend his interim term as director, and the COD has been grateful for his willingness to do so (II, B, 6, a).

—Noted

II. Safe Church Ministry

A. *Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022*, Safe Church Ministry Report (section III as indicated), pp. 217-18

B. Recommendation

That synod ask the Council of Delegates to instruct Safe Church Ministry to carry on their task of gathering data and reporting the current number of churches and classes with Safe Church teams and coordinators.

—Adopted

III. Response to Overture 11 (*deferred from 2020*): Curtail Clergy Use of Pornography

A. *Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Overture 11 (*deferred from 2020*), p. 452

B. Background

The committee deeply appreciates the sentiment and intention that led to this overture. We recognize that this is a serious issue for ministry and throughout society.

C. Recommendation

That synod not accede to overture 11.

Grounds:

1. Safe Church Ministry and Pastor Church Resources have resources available to assist in addressing this issue. Other resources such as Covenant Eyes may be used as appropriate.
2. We did not find the proposed action likely to be successful in resolving the issue; it will not address the underlying issue. Given the presence of personal electronic devices, monitoring church devices will not likely address the issue or solve the problem.
3. This method may create an environment of distrust.
4. The problem requires action that can be dealt with on the local level.
5. The Human Sexuality Report and its pastoral advice concerning pornography provide insight and guidance.

— Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: Rev. Michael Hoogeboom (Grand Rapids South).

ARTICLE 77

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 69.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Related Matters, Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2020*; sections II, A, 4 and 11, including Appendix C), pp. 135-37, 154-56
2. *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, Council of Delegates Report (*deferred from 2021*; section II, A, 3), p. 232
3. *Agenda for Synod 2022*, Council of Delegates Report (sections II, A, 3, 8, and 16), pp. 35-36, 37-38, 40-41

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod adopt the following Church Order changes proposed by and presented on behalf of Synod 2019 (indicated by strikethrough and italics; see *Agenda for Synod 2019*, pp. 357-59; *Acts of Synod 2019*, pp. 768-71, 812; Council of Delegates Report 2020, II, A, 11; Appendix C):

a. Categories of affiliation

Supplement, Article 8, G

G. Joint Ministry of Ministers from Churches in Ecclesiastical Fellowship Communion

Ministers of denominations in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~ communion with the Christian Reformed Church may be called by way of exception to serve in the Christian Reformed Church while jointly serving ministries within their own denominations. This arrangement requires the approval of classis and the concurrence of the synodical deputies. The specific need for their services must be demonstrated and the pension fund arrangements must be satisfactorily met in the denomination holding the minister's credentials.

Ministers of denominations in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~ communion who so serve churches in the Christian Reformed Church will be accorded the right of delegation to classis and participation in classical committee work for the duration of their time of service in the Christian Reformed Church. This right of delegation and participation shall not extend beyond the boundaries of the classis.

The Christian Reformed Church will by way of exception allow its ministers to be called by a congregation of a denomination in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~ communion if such a minister jointly serves in a congregation of the denomination in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~ communion and in a congregation of the Christian Reformed Church.

(Acts of Synod 1997, p. 663)

(Acts of Synod 2022, p. 937)

Articles 38-g and -h

g. Particular churches of the Christian Reformed Church in North America may unite to form union congregations with one or more particular congregations of churches in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~ communion, with the approval of classis.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 38-g

h. Particular churches of the Christian Reformed Church in North America may affiliate with one or more additional denominations in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~ communion, with the approval of classis and with the concurring advice of the synodical deputies.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 38-h

Supplement, Article 38-h

The following plan for affiliation shall be adopted by a particular church to affiliate with one or more denominations in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~ communion:

(Acts of Synod 2022, p. 937)

Article 49

a. Synod shall appoint a committee to encourage ecumenical relationships with other Christian churches, especially those that are part of the Reformed family, as articulated in the synodically approved Ecumenical Charter of the Christian Reformed Church so that the Christian Reformed Church may exercise Christian fellowship with other denominations and may promote the unity of the church of Jesus Christ.

b. Synod shall designate the churches with whom the Christian Reformed Church is in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~, the churches with whom the Christian Reformed Church is in dialogue, communion or in

cooperation, and the ecumenical organizations in which the Christian Reformed Church holds membership or significantly participates.

Article 59-e

e. Confessing members coming from churches in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~^{ship} shall be admitted as confessing members of the congregation upon the presentation of certificates or statements of membership after the consistory has satisfied itself concerning the doctrine and conduct of the members.

Articles 66-a and -b

a. Confessing members who move to another Christian Reformed church or to a church in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~^{ship} are entitled to a certificate, issued by the council, concerning their doctrine and life. When such certificates of membership are requested, they shall ordinarily be mailed to the church of their new residence.

b. Baptized members who move to another Christian Reformed church or to a church in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~^{ship} shall upon proper request be granted a certificate of baptism, to which such notations as are necessary shall be attached. Such certificates shall ordinarily be mailed to the church of their new residence.

Article 67

Members who move to localities where there is no Christian Reformed church and no church in ~~ecclesiastical fellowship~~^{ship} may, upon their request, either retain their membership in the church of their former residence, or have their certificates sent to the nearest Christian Reformed church.

Grounds:

1. This is a necessary step to effect the changes proposed to the ecumenical categories of affiliation and the Ecumenical Charter.
2. These revisions make for substantive changes to the Church Order.

—*Adopted*

b. Tasks of synod

Article 47

The task of synod includes the adoption of the creeds, of the Church Order, and of the principles and elements of worship. Synod shall approve the liturgical forms, the ~~hymnals~~^{Psalter Hymnal}, and the Bible versions suitable for use in worship. No substantial alterations shall be effected by synod in these matters unless the churches have had prior opportunity to consider the advisability of the proposed changes.

Ground: The reference to the *Psalter Hymnal*, a title that was not used for the most recent hymnal approved by synod, *Lift Up Your Hearts*, should be changed to a generic reference to hymnals.

—*Adopted*

c. The Lord's Day

Church Order Articles 51-a and 51-b

a. The congregation shall assemble for worship, ~~ordinarily twice~~ on the Lord's Day, to hear God's Word, to receive the sacraments, to engage in praise and prayer, and to present gifts of gratitude.

b. Each classis shall affirm the rich tradition of assembling a second time on the Lord's Day for worship, learning, prayer, and fellowship by encouraging churches to include these items as part of a strategic ministry plan for the building up of the body of Christ.

Note: The current Articles 51-b and -c would become 51-c and -d respectively; Supplement, Article 51-a would be deleted.

Grounds:

1. These changes would bring the Church Order into harmony with the current practice of the majority of congregations so that its provisions for public worship are "faithfully observed" (Church Order Art. 86).
2. Though Scripture does not indicate the frequency of worship on the Lord's Day, the proposed Article 51-b highlights the value of a time beyond Sunday-morning worship when the whole congregation may be invited to assemble as Christ's people and invites the broader assemblies to foster conversations about how this might best be done.

Proposed deletion of Article 54-b

~~a. The proclamation of the Word shall be central to the worship of the church and shall be guided by the creeds and confessions.~~

~~b. At one of the services each Lord's Day, the minister shall ordinarily preach the Word as summarized in the creeds and confessions of the church, especially the Heidelberg Catechism.~~

Grounds:

1. Though it is important for our preaching to reflect the instruction of the Reformed confessions, the current Church Order Article 54-a already requires that preaching be guided by the creeds and confessions, and a specific obligation for catechetical preaching is an unrealistic expectation when the majority of our congregations do not have a second service.
2. This brings Church Order into harmony with denominational practice (Church Order Article 86).

— Adopted

The following negative votes are registered: Trevor Mouw (Iakota) and Chad Werkhoven (Minnkota).

2. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the COD for synodical deputies, alternate synodical deputies, and the World Renew Board of Delegates (2020, II, A, 4; 2021, II, A, 3).

— Adopted

3. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the COD for synodical deputies and alternate synodical deputies (2022, II, A, 3).

— Adopted

4. That synod accept the invitation of Church of the Servant CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to serve as the convening church of Synod 2023, to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the campus of Calvin University (II, A, 8, a).

Ground: Church of the Servant CRC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod accept the invitation of Covenant CRC in Sioux Center, Iowa, to serve as the convening church of Synod 2025, to be held in Sioux Center, Iowa, on the campus of Dordt University (II, A, 8, b).

Grounds:

- a. Covenant CRC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024 and had originally asked to host Synod 2024; however, the Dordt University campus will be under construction that summer.
- b. Synod 2021 was planned to be held on the campus of Dordt University in Sioux Center but was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod express gratitude to Duane Bajema and Aldon Kuiper for their service to the Judicial Code Committee (II, A, 16, a).

—*Adopted*

II. Response to Overtures 6 and 7: Approve Transfer of San Jose New Hope CRC of Santa Clara, California, from Classis Hanmi to Classis Central California

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Overtures 6 and 7, p. 506

B. Recommendation

That synod approve the transfer of San Jose New Hope CRC of Santa Clara, California, from Classis Hanmi to Classis Central California.

Grounds:

- a. This transfer request originated in the San Jose New Hope CRC and was approved by both Classes Hanmi and Central California.
- b. This is in keeping with Church Order Supplement, Article 39.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 80.)

ARTICLE 78

The evening session recesses at 9:43 p.m. Dr. Zachary King, general secretary, leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m.

THURSDAY MORNING, June 16, 2022 Fifteenth Session

ARTICLE 79

The praise team leads delegates in singing “Bless the Lord, O My Soul.” Andy de Ruyter, president of the Council of Delegates, opens in prayer.

The roll call indicates that all eligible delegates are present.

ARTICLE 80

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 77.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Related Matters, Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins reporting, presents the following:

I. Response to Actions Taken by Neland Avenue CRC

Recommendations (continued)

2. That synod instruct Neland Avenue CRC to uphold our shared denominational covenants and procedures as laid out in the Church Order and the Covenant for Officebearers.

— *Adopted*

A negative vote is registered by Barbara Bulthuis (Rocky Mountain) and Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys (Grand Rapids East).

3. That synod instruct the executive director to appoint a committee *in loco* with the following mandate:
 - a. Meet with Neland Avenue CRC to oversee its compliance to synod's rulings.
 - b. Meet with Classis Grand Rapids East to admonish them regarding their responsibility to uphold our shared denominational covenants and procedures as laid out in the Church Order and the Covenant for Officebearers.
 - c. Report to Classis Grand Rapids East at the autumn meeting (September 15, 2022; classisgreast.org) and make pertinent recommendations for its deliberations and action.
 - d. If necessary, invite three other classes to assist the committee in dealing with the issues regarding Neland Avenue CRC.
 - e. Report to Synod 2023, by way of the published *Agenda for Synod*, its own actions and any classical actions taken, and present its recommendations.

Grounds:

- 1) Neland Avenue CRC has taken action contradictory to the position of the CRCNA. As per Report 47, section IV, B,2 (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 603): "Synodical pronouncements on doctrinal and ethical matters . . . shall be considered settled and binding, unless it is proved that they conflict with the Word of God or the Church Order (Church Order Art. 29). All officebearers and members are expected to abide by these synodical deliverances."
- 2) Neland Avenue CRC willingly chose a path of noncompliance. It did not use the proper means to enact change in the CRCNA or to seek clarification.
- 3) Failing to take firm action has negative consequences on the CRCNA. It sends a message to other churches that noncompliance is acceptable in the CRCNA. It threatens our unity and undermines

our witness to the world. Failure to address a publicly wayward church is to disregard the third mark of the true church (Belgic Confession, Art. 29).

- 4) Synod can intervene in a lower assembly if the well-being of the churches in common is at stake (Church Order Art. 27-b and 28-b). According to the Rules for Synodical Procedure, section V, B, 12, “All other matters may be considered which synod by a majority vote declares acceptable.” Synod is free to deal with any matter that it judges to be of importance for the well-being of the denomination. Synod appointed a committee *in loco* for First CRC of Toronto while the congregation intended to ordain an officebearer living in a same-sex relationship. Neland Avenue CRC has already ordained such an officebearer, and thus a committee *in loco* is all the more warranted.

—Adopted

The following negative votes are registered: Ingrid Beck (Niagara), Matthew Borst (Pacific Northwest), Barbara Bulthuis (Rocky Mountain), Steven deBoer (Niagara), Janet deWinter (Toronto), Anthony Elenbaas (Hamilton), Elizabeth Gysbers (B.C. North-West), Dan Hoogland (Eastern Canada), Marcia Hosmar (Hamilton), Peter Hoytema (Ontario South-west), Leo Jonker (Quinte), Sally Larsen (Chicago South), Lynette van de Hoef Meyers (Ontario Southwest), David Nightingale (Toronto), Dominic Palacios (Rocky Mountain), Migael Randall (Central Plains), Heidi Sytsema (Muskegon), John Vanderstoep (Huron), Steve Vogel (Huron).

4. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 4-11 (*deferred from 2021*); Communications 2 and 6 (*deferred from 2021*); Overture 12, Recommendations A and D (2022); Overture 19, Recommendation D (2022); COD Communication to Synod re Neland Avenue CRC (section II, A, 10; Appendix B).

—Adopted

II. Response to Overture 12: Admonish and Censure the Officebearers of Classis Grand Rapids East (Recommendations B and C)

A. *Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Overture 12, pp. 517-19*

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Recommendations B and C of Overture 12.

—Adopted

Synod expresses its appreciation for Kathy Smith, parliamentarian; and reporter Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins offers prayer.

Elder delegate Larry Louters (Grand Rapids East) addresses synod, and the executive director offers prayer.

III. Response to Overture 3 (*deferred from 2021*): Clarify Distinctions in Synodical Decisions

A. *Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overture 3 (*deferred from 2021*), pp. 453-54*

B. *Recommendation*

That synod defer Overture 3 to Synod 2023.

—*Adopted*

IV. Response to Overture 11: Appoint a Task Force to Develop Church Order Procedures to Discipline Officebearers, Including Disaffiliation Initiated by a Major Assembly

A. *Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Overture 11, pp. 516-17*

B. *Recommendation*

That synod defer Overture 11 to Synod 2023.

—*Adopted*

V. Response to Overture 7 (deferred from 2020): Adopt an Additional Supplement to Church Order Articles 82-84

A. *Materials: Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021, Overture 7 (deferred from 2020), pp. 448-52*

B. *Recommendation*

That synod defer Overture 7 (deferred from 2020) to Synod 2023.

—*Adopted*

Rev. Andrew R. Sytsma offers prayer.

ARTICLE 81

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 55.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters and Heresy, Rev. Anthony R. DeKorte reporting, presents the following:

Response to Overture 8: Oppose White Supremacy and Systemic Racism (majority report)

A. *Materials: Agenda for Synod 2022, Overture 8, pp. 506-13*

B. *Observations*

As an advisory committee, we add the following as an introduction to our recommendations related to Overture 8 from Classis Greater Los Angeles.

It is a sad commentary on the church in North America today that an overture like the one from Classis Greater Los Angeles tends to get read by Christians firstly through a political or partisan lens. Christians of varying political persuasions, formed firstly by partisan political identities, have a hard time hearing the whole counsel of God in Scripture on such matters as racism, justice, systemic and institutional forms of injustice, etc., even as we desperately need to hear the Word of God in these areas. Racism is sin that plagues all levels of human society—personal, corporate, and systemic—and where it exists in the church, it needs to be repented of. The solution to the sin of racism, and the suspicion and separation of peoples that such racism generates, is the cross of Jesus Christ and baptism into his name, which reconciles and unites Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female into one new family of God (Gal. 3:28). It is precisely because we have *already* been

given the gift of oneness in Christ that we also have an obligation to make this oneness visible, and to repent when this visible oneness is broken by patterns and practices of racism (Belhar Confession, Art. 2).

As Christ's new humanity, the church must engage our society's broader conversations about racism and justice in distinctively Christian ways. While we seek to learn from culture insofar as God has graciously revealed certain gifts and wisdom in this arena, the church's reflections and prophetic statements in such matters must never simply be a mirror of culture—simply speaking back to culture what it otherwise already wants to believe. In the recommendations that we offer as a response to Overture 8, this advisory committee wishes to urge the CRCNA to speak, teach, worship, and live in a way that allows our deep and common Christian identity, rooted in the gospel, to lead the way on matters of justice and racism—to allow the Word of God to speak prophetically from a distinctly Reformed perspective on the matters at hand, such that we might all (individuals, churches, and institutions) be called to repentance and to clothe ourselves with the humility, holiness, and justice of Jesus Christ, who is himself the One who does justice, loves mercy, and walks humbly with his Father (Micah 6:8), and who in himself tore down the dividing wall of hostility that separates his Father's children (Eph. 2:14). Furthermore, we urge local churches to take seriously their responsibility to be the *primary* site of gospel formation for their members in these areas, training their members to renounce sin *in these areas specifically*, to put on new life in Christ, and to be equipped for lives of sanctified and just service, that the body of Christ might be built up (Eph. 4:11-16). In sum: if the CRCNA must speak at every level of our life together (and we must), let us speak not from our preferred political tribe but from the cross: the folly and the weakness of God (1 Corinthians 1:25).

C. Recommendations

1. In light of the centrality of the ministry of the word in the CRCNA, we request the following:
 - a. That synod ask Calvin Theological Seminary to give a report to the COD on how they are teaching a biblical and Reformed perspective on issues of race and justice.
 - b. That synod instruct the COD to encourage classes to ask questions of all candidates for ministry regarding their commitment to preach a biblical and Reformed perspective on race and justice.

Ground: We believe the pulpit holds the key and has the responsibility to teach and inspire members to commit to embrace and embody biblical and Reformed perspectives on race and justice.
2. In light of the ministry of the offices Christ has given his church, that synod remind churches of the following:
 - a. All elders are responsible to defend the faith and doctrine taught from their church pulpit, including our denomination's position on a biblical response to matters of racism and justice.
 - b. All deacons are responsible to seek justice and work to change exploitative structures and systems for the flourishing of all people.

Ground: This is consistent with the charge to elders and deacons in the forms for the ordination and installation of officebearers.

3. That synod direct the executive director to request Worship Ministries to curate and provide resources to the churches that help congregations in matters of racial injustice to lament, confess, and receive assurance of pardon in corporate worship.

Grounds:

- a. Worship in the Reformed tradition has historically included confession of sin and assurance of our pardon. As Jesus' church, we model confession for one another and the world around us as we regularly confess all our sin, individually and corporately, including attitudes and actions of racism, ethnic pride, white supremacy, systemic racism, and any sin that destroys the unity given us in Christ.
 - b. The Heidelberg Catechism supports the need for confession and repentance in Question and Answer 89: "What is the dying-away of the old self? To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it."
4. That synod encourage leaders at all levels of the church to provide opportunities for listening, learning, and practicing civil dialogue on the difficult conversations needed to better understand one another's perspectives on racism and biblical justice. And that synod also encourage churches to make use of denominational resources.

Ground: Listening has the power to create the change needed for justice between diverse races. The empathy that rises from the power of sharing stories will lead members to actions that will transform the interconnection between justice and racial policy, giving our lives of faith integrity.

According to the Rules for Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the response to Overture 8 is presented as information by Rev. George Koopmans:

Response to Overture 8: Oppose White Supremacy and Systemic Racism (minority report)

A. *Materials:* Agenda for Synod 2022, Overture 8, pp. 506-13

B. *Recommendation*

That synod accede to Overture 8.

Ground: This overture identifies serious and widespread moral failure within the church and offers helpful correctives.

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

Response to Overture 8: Oppose White Supremacy and Systemic Racism (majority report)

Recommendations

1. In light of the centrality of the ministry of the word in the CRCNA, we request the following:
 - a. That synod ask Calvin Theological Seminary to give a report to the COD on how they are teaching a biblical and Reformed perspective on issues of race and justice.
 - b. That synod instruct the COD to encourage classes to ask questions of all candidates for ministry regarding their commitment to preach a biblical and Reformed perspective on race and justice.

Ground: We believe the pulpit holds the key and has the responsibility to teach and inspire members to commit to embrace and embody biblical and Reformed perspectives on race and justice.

—*Adopted*

2. In light of the ministry of the offices Christ has given his church, that synod remind churches of the following:
 - a. All elders are responsible to defend the faith and doctrine taught from their church pulpit, including our denomination's position on a biblical response to matters of racism and justice.
 - b. All deacons are responsible to seek justice and work to change exploitative structures or indifferent systems for the flourishing of all people.

Ground: This is consistent with the charge to elders and deacons in the forms for the ordination and installation of officebearers.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod direct the executive director to request Worship Ministries to continue to curate and provide resources to the churches that help congregations in matters of racial injustice to lament, confess, and receive assurance of pardon in corporate worship.

Grounds:

- a. Worship in the Reformed tradition has historically included confession of sin and assurance of our pardon. As Jesus' church, we model confession for one another and the world around us as we regularly confess all our sin, individually and corporately, including attitudes and actions of racism, disordered ethnic pride, white supremacy, systemic racism, and any sin that destroys the unity given us in Christ.
- b. The Heidelberg Catechism supports the need for confession and repentance in Question and Answer 89: "What is the dying-away of the old self? To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it."

—*Adopted*

(The report from Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 85.)

ARTICLE 82

The morning session recesses at 11:50 a.m. Rev. Michael Ten Haken, vice president of the Council of Delegates, leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Thursday afternoon at 1:15 p.m. in the Covenant Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, June 16, 2022
Sixteenth Session

ARTICLE 83

The afternoon session convenes at 1:15 p.m. Rev. Edward Wayne Coleman (Hackensack) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 84

The executive director expresses special thanks on behalf of synod to Dee Recker, director of synodical services, who is serving at her last synod, upon announcing her upcoming retirement in early 2023.

Appointments, officers, and functionaries that follow are presented by the executive director for review and ratification. This listing reflects the results of the synodical elections and appointments by way of the Denominational Boards and Committees Ballot on Saturday morning and includes the current study committees synodically approved.

I. Officers, functionaries, and convening church for Synod 2023

A. Officers

- 1. General secretary: Zachary J. King
- 2. Chief administrative officer: *To be appointed*
- 3. Director of synodical services: *To be appointed*

B. Functionaries

Arrangements for Synod 2023: MaryAnn Matzke, Event Services director, Calvin University.

C. Convening church

Convening church for Synod 2023: Church of the Servant CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

II. Synodical deputies

Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Rev. Kornelis (Neil) De Koning	Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis	2024(1)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. H. John Vanderburgh	Rev. David J. Swinney	2024(1)
Arizona	Rev. Jeffrey A. Dykema	Vacant	2025(2)
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. Joel D. Vande Werken	Rev. Christopher A. Fluit	2024(2)
B.C. North-West	Rev. Andrew E. Beunk	Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma	2024(1)
B.C. South-East	Rev. Walt Brouwer	Rev. William C. Tuininga	2025(1)
California South	Rev. Scott Elgersma	Rev. Patrick Guarracino	2025(1)
Central California	Rev. Paul H. Vander Klay	Rev. Eric J. Dirksen	2024(2)
Central Plains	Rev. Bradley A. Meinders	Rev. Sheldon Starkenburg	2024(2)

Chicago South	Rev. Daniel J. Roeda	Rev. Michael J. Kooy	2025(1)
Columbia	Rev. Louis M. Korf	Rev. Robert J. Toornstra	2023(2)
Eastern Canada	Rev. David A. Vroege	Rev. Charles Gregg Lawson	2024(1)
Georgetown	Rev. Jeffrey W. Scripps	Rev. Gerard Van Groningen	2023(1)
Grand Rapids East	Rev. Alvern Gelder	Rev. Thea N. Leunk	2024(2)
Grand Rapids North	Rev. Jerry L. Blom	Rev. Henry Admiraal	2023(1)
Grand Rapids South	Rev. George G. Vink	Rev. Edward C. Visser	2023(2)
Grandville	Rev. Bryce L. Mensink	Rev. Douglas R. Fauble	2025(2)
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. Erick D. Westra	Rev. David R. Koll	2025(2)
Hackensack	Rev. Petr Kornilov	Rev. Paul J. Van Dyken	2024(1)
Hamilton	Rev. Ed W. Visser	Rev. Michael W. Bootsma	2025(1)
Hanmi	Rev. Tukoon Timothy Jung	Rev. Jeong Ha Chun	2023(1)
Heartland	Rev. Phillip T. Westra	Vacant	2024(1)
Holland	Rev. David L. Spoelma	Rev. Christopher J. De Vos	2024(2)
Hudson	Rev. Mary B. Stegink	Rev. Kevin C. Vande Streek	2023(1)
Huron	Rev. Gary van Leeuwen	Rev. Sidney Couperus	2025(2)
lakota	Rev. Clifford D. Hoekstra	Rev. Daniel W. De Groot	2024(1)
Illiana	Rev. James C. Busscher	Rev. Richard T. Vanderwal	2025(2)
Kalamazoo	Rev. Ronald De Young	Rev. Hendrick De Vries	2023(1)
Ko-Am	Rev. Daniel Duyoung Yi	Vacant	2025(1)
Lake Erie	Rev. Randall D. Engle	Rev. Christopher B. Lanham	2023(2)
Lake Superior	Rev. Harrison A. Newhouse	Rev. Jack Van Marion	2023(1)
Minnkota	Rev. Roger W. Sparks	Rev. Scott M. Muilenburg	2024(1)
Muskegon	Rev. Leslie D. Van Dyke	Rev. Fred M. Bultman	2024(1)
Niagara	Rev. M. Jeff Klingenberg	Rev. Janet A. Ryzebol	2023(1)
North Cascades	Pastor Bryan Lanting (CP)	Rev. Donald L. Recker	2025(1)
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. Russell W. Boersma	Rev. Wendell Davelaar	2024(2)
Northern Illinois	Rev. Timothy H. Douma	Rev. John R. Huizinga	2023(2)
Northern Michigan	Rev. Jeffrey S.M. Kroondyk	Rev. Steven J. Datema	2024(1)
Ontario Southwest	Rev. Philip A. Apoll	Rev. Norman J. Visser	2024(1)
Pacific Northwest	Rev. Matthew J. Borst	Rev. Douglas E. Fakkema	2025(2)
Quinte	Rev. Kenneth M. deBoer	Rev. Joshua C. Tuininga	2025(1)
Red Mesa	Rev. John J. Greydanus	Rev. David J. Dykstra	2024(1)
Rocky Mountain	Rev. Roger De Young	Rev. John Terpstra	2022(1)
Southeast U.S.	Rev. Gerrit Besteman	Rev. Scott A. Vander Ploeg	2022(1)
Thornapple Valley	Rev. Ronald D. Goudzwaard	Rev. Paul R. De Vries	2025(2)
Toronto	Rev. Richard E. Grift	Rev. Samuel Cooper	2024(1)
Wisconsin	Rev. Mark J. Pluimer	Rev. Rodolfo Galindo	2025(2)
Yellowstone	Rev. Clair Vander Neut	Rev. Gilbert J. Kamps	2024(2)
Zeeland	Rev. Stephen F. Terpstra	Rev. Terry D. Slachter	2023(2)

III. Denominational boards

A. Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Classis	Member	Term Expires
Alberta North	Amy Nydam	2025(1)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Debbie Karambowich	2025(2)
Atlantic Northeast	Anthony T. Selvaggio	2025(1)
Central Plains	Thomas R. Wolthuis	2025(1)
Grand Rapids South	Jessica R. Maddox	2025(1)
Hamilton	William T. Koopmans	2025(2)
Hanmi	Paul K. Im	2024(2)
Heartland	Mark Vande Zande	2025(2)
Huron	Peter Meerveld	2024(2)
Kalamazoo	Michael D. Koetje	2025(2)
Lake Erie	Matthew Ackerman	2025(1)
North Cascades	Arie A. Vander Zouwen	2025(2)
Northcentral Iowa	Herbert W. Schreur	2025(1)
Rocky Mountain	Kelly Vander Woude	2025(2)
Southeast U.S.	Jesus Bayona	2025(2)
Yellowstone	Steve Bussis	2025(1)

Canada at-large	Kelli Berkner Greta Luimes Roberta Vriesema Ralph S. Wigboldus	2025(1) 2025(2) 2025(1) 2024(2)**
Ex officio	Zachary J. King, general secretary	
**By way of exception (see COD Supplement Report, section I, A, 2)		
<i>B. Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees</i>		
Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	E. Alan van der Woerd	2025(1)
Region 3	Louise Boutin	2025(1)
Region 4	Mark Verbruggen	2025(1)
Region 5	Sue Imig	2025(1)
Region 12	Kristin (Kris) J. Vos	2025(1)
At-large	Heather Garretson James Jones Hessel Kielstra	2025(3) 2025(1) 2025(2)
<i>C. Calvin University Board of Trustees</i>		
Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 2	Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman	2025(2)*
Region 5	Kathleen Ridder	2025(1)
Regional at-large		
Region 2	Lambert (Tony) Kamphuis	2025(1)
Region 4	Eugene (Gene) Miyamoto	2025(1)
	Carolyn Van Allen	2025(1)
Region 6	Bryan Dik	2025(1)
Alumni	Alice Klamer	2025(2)
At-large	Bruce Los Mary Tuuk-Kuras Mindy (Andringa) Vanden Bosch Rachel Vander Veen	2025(3) 2025(2) 2025(1) 2025(3)
*By way of exception (see Calvin University Supplement, section IV, A, 2).		
<i>D. World Renew Board</i>		
Classis	Member	Term Expires
Arizona	Marv Faber	2025(2)
Atlantic Northeast	Emily Boldenow Fortuna	2025(1)
B.C. North-West	Aria Sawyer	2025(1)
B.C. South-East	Dennis DeGroot	2025(2)
California South	Daryl Switzer	2025(2)
Central California	Monika Grasley	2023(2)
	Ron Schrotenboer	2025(1)
Grandville	Marc Faasse	2023(2)
Greater Los Angeles	Rebekah Vanderzee	2023(2)
Hackensack	Ken McBain	2025(1)
Hudson	Shanti Jost	2025(2)
Huron	Mary Blydorp	2025(2)
Kalamazoo	Dave Hoekstra	2025(2)
Ko-Am	Sungjin Kim	2025(2)
Muskegon	Carl Bergman	2025(2)
Northcentral Iowa	Doug Kallemyn	2025(2)
Ontario Southwest	Cindy Benedictus	2025(1)
Southeast U.S.	Winouze Jean-Louis	2025(2)

Thornapple Valley	James Boldenow	2025(2)
Yellowstone	Franck Groeneweg	2025(1)
At-large U.S.	Thomas Christian	2025(1)
Board member emeritus	Chuck Adams (to 2024)**	

IV. Service committees

A. Candidacy Committee

Rev. Ashley Bonnes (2023/2), Rev. Moon B. Kim (2023/1), Rev. Andrew Beunk (2024/1), Pastor Debra Chee (2024/1), Pastor Caleb Dickson (2024/1), Ms. Judy Cook (2025/2), Rev. Felix Fernandez (2025/2), Rev. Henry Kranenberg (2025/1), Rev. Andy Sytsma (2025/1), Rev. Susan E. LaClear (staff), Rev. Zachary J. King (ex officio as general secretary), Rev. Julius T. Medenblik (ex officio as Calvin Theological Seminary representative).

B. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Committee

Mr. Jack Meyer (2023/2), Ms. Nancy Wiesman (2023/1), Ms. Layla Kuhl (2024/1), Mr. Howard Van Den Heuvel (2024/2), Mr. Jeffrey Feikens (2025/2), Rev. Carl Kromminga (2025/1), Mr. Brian Van Doeselaar (ex officio member).

C. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

Rev. InSoon Hoagland (2023/2), Ms. Ruth Palma (2023/2), Ms. Yvonne Schenk (2023/1), Rev. Joy Engelsman (2024/1), Mr. James Joosse (2024/2), Rev. Ruth Hofman (2024/1), Dr. William T. Koopmans (2024/2), Dr. Lyle D. Bierma (2025/2), Dr. Shirley Roels (2025/1), Rev. Zachary J. King (ex officio member), Rev. Albert Postma (ex officio member).

D. Historical Committee

Dr. John Bolt (2023/2), Dr. James A. De Jong (2024/2), Dr. Herman DeVries, Jr. (2025/2), Dr. Tony Mann (2025/2).

E. Judicial Code Committee

Ms. Deloris Carter (2023/1), Rev. Bomsu Kim (2023/1), Mr. John Koot (2023/2), Mr. Doug Vande Griend (2023/2), Rev. Richard Bodini (2024/1), Mr. Edward Bosveld (2024/2), Rev. Cindy de Jong (2024/2), Ms. Kim Rhodes (2024/1), Mr. Robert D. Drenton (2025/1), Ms. Sarita Vandernaalt (2025/1), Ms. Amy Vander Vliet (2025/2), Mr. Dexter W. Young (2025/2), Rev. Zachary J. King (adviser).

F. Ministers’ Pension Funds committees

Canadian Pension Trustees

Mr. Hessel Kielstra (2024/1), Mr. Jacob Vanden Pol (2024/1), Mr. Dick Vreugdenhil (2025/2), Ms. Kathy Wassink (2025/3).

U.S. Pension Trustees

Mr. John H. Bolt (2025/1), Mr. Lloyd Bierma (2023/2), Mr. Darrel Raih (2024/2), Rev. Drew Sweetman (2025/1), Mr. Alan Van Dyke (2025/2).

V. Synodical study committees and task forces

A. *Ecclesiastical Marriage Task Force* (scheduled to report in 2021, deferred to Synod 2023)

Rev. Bernard Ayoola, Rev. Joan DeVries, Mr. Henry Doorn; Ms. Gayle Doornbos, Rev. Gerald Koning, Mr. David VanderWoerd, Mr. Loren Veldhuizen, and Ms. Lis Van Harten (staff).

B. *Study of Bivocationality Task Force* (scheduled to report in 2021, deferred to Synod 2023)

Rev. Bernard Bakker, Rev. John Bouwers, Ms. Beth Fellingner, Rev. Ernesto Hernandez, Ms. Sharon Jim, Rev. Michael Vander Laan, Rev. Phillip Westra, Mr. Robert Zoerman, and Rev. David Koll (staff).

VI. Recommendations

A. That synod ratify the above changes to the list of synodical deputies, denominational boards, and committees.

— *Adopted*

B. That upon completion by the synod of the Denominational Boards and Committees Ballot of Synod 2022, the U.S. directors of the U.S. Corporations (only) appoint the following new and interim (as appointed by the COD in lieu of Synods 2020 and 2021) U.S. Council of Delegates members as directors of both the ReFrame Ministries U.S. Corporation and the CRCNA U.S. Corporation:

Classis	Member
Atlantic Northeast	Mr. Anthony T. Selvaggio
Central California	Rev. Mark VanDyke
Central Plains	Rev. Thomas R. Wolthuis
Chicago South	Mr. Kyle Dieleman
Columbia	Rev. Rob Toornstra
Georgetown	Ms. Jeanne Kallemeyn
Grand Rapids East	Ms. Jeanne Engelhard
Grand Rapids South	Rev. Jessica R. Maddox
Grandville	Ms. Rachel Bouwkamp
Greater Los Angeles	Mr. Thomas Byma
Illiana	Ms. Jill Feikema
Hanmi	Rev. Paul K. Im
Hudson	Mr. Roy Heerema
Ko-Am	Rev. Jonathan J. Kim
Lake Erie	Rev. Matthew Ackerman
Lake Superior	Rev. Michael Ten Haken
Muskegon	Rev. Drew Sweetman
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. Herbert W. Schreur
Rocky Mountain	Rev. Kelly Vander Woude
North Cascades	Mr. Arie Vander Zouwen
Thornapple Valley	Mr. Casey Jen
Yellowstone	Rev. Steve Bussis

— *Adopted*

ARTICLE 85

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 81.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters and Heresy, Rev. Anthony R. DeKorte reporting, presents the following:

Response to Overture 8: Oppose White Supremacy and Systemic Racism (majority report)

Recommendations (continued)

4. That the executive director encourage leaders at all levels of the church to continue to provide opportunities for listening, learning, and practicing civil dialogue on the difficult conversations needed to better understand one another's perspectives on racism and biblical justice; encourage the churches to make use of denominational resources; solicit input from all the classes on providing the above opportunities; and report to Synod 2023, including praise reports about positive progress and prayer requests regarding challenges and concerns.

Ground: Listening has the power to create the change needed for justice between diverse races. The empathy that rises from the power of sharing stories will lead members to actions that will transform the inter-connection between justice and racial policy, giving our lives of faith integrity.

—*Adopted*

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

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 86

The president of synod, Rev. José Rayas, expresses thanks to his fellow officers of synod: Rev. Derek Buikema (vice president), Rev. Aaron J. Vriesman (first clerk), and Ms. Luann D. Sankey (second clerk). He also thanks Calvin University staff for the arrangements and hospitality provided throughout synod, and he thanks the convening church (Encounter Church, Kentwood, Michigan) for their planning and participation, including the faithful prayer volunteers.

The president expresses gratitude to the synod office staff, including staff operating projection and the voting system and recording minutes on the synod floor. The president thanks the transportation coordinator and the many volunteers who assisted.

The president expresses thanks to the CRC IT helpdesk staff, news office staff, and *Banner* staff. He also expresses thanks and appreciation to the Korean interpreters for their assistance to Korean delegates. He recognizes members of the synod-appointed committees: Worship Planning Committee, Minutes Review Committee, Sergeant at Arms, Testimonial Banquet Committee, and Hospitality Committee.

The president expresses appreciation for the faculty advisers, including the parliamentarian, ethnic advisers, young adult representatives, ecumenical delegates and guests, the president of Calvin University, the president of Calvin Theological Seminary, the Council of Delegates chair and vice chair, and synod's staff consultants.

The president 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 special thanks to Ms. Dee Recker, director of synodical services, and to the executive director, Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr.

The vice president expresses appreciation and thanks to the president on behalf of synod.

The executive director, Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr., expresses the gratitude and thanks of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

Delegates also recognize Rev. Leonard J. Hofman, former general secretary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, who is present.

ARTICLE 87

Synod 2022 concludes its deliberations and spends time in closing worship. Ms. Lis Van Harten, director of Pastor Church Resources and Congregational Ministries, leads in the call to worship, taken from *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraphs 1 and 2. The praise team leads delegates in singing "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven."

Ms. Van Harten reads 1 Chronicles 29:10-13. Rev. José Rayas, president, provides a reflection regarding the closing words of the Lord's Prayer: "for yours is the kingdom. . . . Amen." He reminds delegates that God is still the Father. "Today is the beginning of the work of synod, and trust in God is essential." Rev. Rayas concludes by reminding delegates that, at the end of the day, we still love one another.

Rev. Derek Buikema, vice president, offers a closing prayer for the delegates and advisers and the work of this synod, and all present are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in unison in their native language. Rev. Buikema offers the sending blessing. Worship concludes with the singing of "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow."

ARTICLE 88

Synod 2022 adjourns at 2:24 p.m.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARE SYSTEM

Ministry Shares Annual Cycle

06

(July 2023) **NEW MINISTRY YEAR BEGINS** — the ministry year will run from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Ministry shares received starting in July will be put towards the approved budgets. In addition, a new letter will be sent to congregations to help them start the planning process for the next cycle of pledges.

01

(August 2022) **INFORMATIONAL LETTER FROM THE CRCNA IS RECEIVED** — letter will include information about previous ministry share giving and some suggestions for how to think about determining your pledge amount.

02

(September-December 2022) **CHURCH COUNCILS DETERMINE PLEDGE** — Every CRC church council should spend time determining the amount of their ministry share pledge for the fiscal year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. This could be based on a percentage of total budget, an increase over previous years, or total active membership. Pledges should be forwarded to classis clerks once they have been decided.



05

(May 2023) **BUDGETS FOR MINISTRIES ARE APPROVED AT THE CORPORATION/COUNCIL LEVEL** — The Council of Delegates (as well as its Canadian and Michigan corporations) will review the proposed budgets including any changes to programs or personnel. They will also approve ministry share allocations for the coming ministry year that begins July 1.

04

(October 2022-January 2023) **PLEDGES ARE FORWARDED TO CRCNA OFFICES** — stated clerks of each classis should forward the pledges from their region to the US or Canadian offices of the CRCNA using an electronic form provided to them. These pledges will help determine the budgets for mission efforts and other ministries in the coming ministry year. Ministry shares are only one part of this budgeting process. Any significant variation in revenue from ministry shares, church offerings, individual gifts or other sources, will impact what ministry can be achieved.

03

(Fall 2022) **CONVERSATION AT FALL CLASSIS MEETINGS** — During the fall, every classis will have an interactive conversation about ministry shares as part of their meeting agenda: what ministry shares are, why they matter, and how ministries supported by ministry shares have been used by congregations in the area..



crcna.org/MinistryShares

updated June 2022



Christian
Reformed
Church

ORGANIZATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN 2023

Denominational agencies, institutions, and ministries recommended for one or more offerings

	Canadian Business Number
1. <i>The Banner</i>	856901285 RR0002
2. Calvin Theological Seminary	(per Schedule VIII)
2. Calvin University—above-ministry-share needs	(per Schedule VIII)
4. Congregational Services Ministries—above-ministry-share needs	
a. Centre for Public Dialogue	856901285 RR0002
b. Chaplaincy and Care Ministry.	856901285 RR0002
c. Disability Concerns	856901285 RR0002
d. Faith Formation Ministries	856901285 RR0002
e. Indigenous Ministries (Canada)	856901285 RR0002
f. Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action.	856901285 RR0002
g. Pastor Church Resources.	856901285 RR0002
h. Race Relations	856901285 RR0002
i. Safe Church Ministry	856901285 RR0002
k. Worship Ministries	856901285 RR0002
5. Raise Up Global Ministries	856901285 RR0002
6. ReFrame Ministries	13240 2090 RR0001
7. Resonate Global Mission—two offerings per year	856901285 RR0002
8. World Renew—four offerings per year because World Renew receives no ministry-share support	118857366 RR0001

Nondenominational organizations 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 organizations

- A. Benevolent organizations*
1. Hope Haven
 2. The Luke Society
 3. Mississippi Christian Family Services
 4. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
 5. QuietWaters Ministries

B. Educational organizations

1. All Belong Center for Inclusive Education/Friendship Ministries
2. Ascending Leaders
3. Christian Schools International
4. Christian Schools International Foundation
5. Dordt University
6. Dynamic Youth Ministries
 - a. GEMS
 - b. Calvinist Cadet Corps
 - c. ThereforeGo Ministries (formerly Youth Unlimited)
7. Elim Christian Services
8. Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies)
9. International Network for Christian Higher Education (INCHE)
10. International Theological Education Ministries, Inc. (ITEM)
11. The King's University (through the U.S. Foundation)
12. Kuyper College
13. Langham Partnership
14. Redeemer University (through the U.S. Foundation)
15. Rehoboth Christian School
16. Tent Schools International
17. Trinity Christian College
18. Zuni Christian Mission School

C. Miscellaneous organizations

1. Association for a More Just Society (AJS)
2. Audio Scripture Ministries
3. Bible League International
4. Center for Church Renewal
5. The Center for Public Justice
6. The Colossian Forum
7. Crossroads Prison Ministries
8. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
9. Mission India
10. Partners Worldwide
11. Pathways to Promise
12. Talking Bibles International
10. World Communion of Reformed Churches
11. Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

Canadian organizations

A. Benevolent organizations

Canadian Business Number

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Beginnings Family Services | 11880 2388 RR0001 |
| 2. Diaconal Ministries Canada | 89309 3377 RR0001 |

B. Educational organizations

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Dordt University | (per Schedule VIII) |
| 2. Dynamic Youth Ministries | .88992 0799 RR0001 |
| a. GEMS | |
| b. Calvinist Cadet Corps | |
| c. ThereforeGo Ministries (formerly Youth Unlimited) | |
| 3. EduDeo Ministries | 88945 9970 RR0001 |
| 4. Friendship Ministries - Canada | .11893 2375 RR0001 |
| 5. Institute for Christian Studies | 10750 8434 RR0001 |
| 6. The King's University | 10808 5911 RR0001 |
| 7. Kuyper College | (per Schedule VIII) |

8. Redeemer University College.....	12331 3660 RR0001
9. Trinity Christian College.....	(per Schedule VIII)
<i>C. Miscellaneous organizations</i>	
1. A Rocha Canada.....	86663 8943 RR0001
2. Bible League – Canada.....	10822 2084 RR0001
3. Canadian Council of Churches.....	11883 0512 RR0001
4. Cardus.....	11892 9207 RR0001
5. Christian Labour Association of Canada Foundation (CLAC).....	82284 7026 RR0001
5. Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation).....	89438 3512 RR0001
7. Dunamis Fellowship Canada.....	85540 0966 RR0001
8. Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.....	10735 3922 RR0001
9. Gideons International - Canada /ShareWord Global.....	10808 2991 RR0001
10. Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada.....	10751 3160 RR0001
11. OneBook.....	81317 5957 RR0001
12. Shalem Mental Health Network.....	13056 6011 RR0001
13. World Communion of Reformed Churches.....	13056 6011 RR0001
14. 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 materials on synod's agenda. This year those materials include the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, and the Agenda Supplement on pages 703-813 in this volume.)

Abbreviations and acronyms

in the *Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, the *Agenda for Synod 2022*, and the *Acts of Synod 2022*

AHANA – Asian, Hispanic/Latino, African, and Native American
 ARNOVA – Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action
 BIPOC – black/Indigenous/people of color
 BOT – brain organization theory
 BTGMI – Back to God Ministries International
 CAH – congenital adrenal hyperplasia
 CAO – chief administrative officer
 CCG – Committee for Contact with the Government
 CCM – Chaplaincy and Care Ministry
 CDN – Canadian
 CE – Continuing education
 CFGB – Canadian Foodgrains Bank
 CICW – Calvin Institute of Christian Worship
 CIMC – Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee
 CM – Congregational Ministries
 CMD – Canadian Ministries Director
 CMT – Canadian Ministries Team
 COD – Council of Delegates
 COD-SM – Council of Delegates - Special Meeting (for minute references)
 COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019
 CRA – Canada Revenue Agency
 CRC – Christian Reformed Church
 CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America
 CRHM – Christian Reformed Home Missions
 CRWM – Christian Reformed World Missions
 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

DOI – digital object identifier
 DRS – Disaster Response Services
 DSD – disorders of sexual development
 DSS – Director of Synodical Services
 ECO – Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians
 ED – Executive Director
 EDT – Eastern Daylight (Savings) Time
 EIRC – Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee
 ELIM – Ethnic Language Institute in Ministry
 EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy
 FFM – Faith Formation Ministries
 FTE – Full-time equivalent
 GCB – Global Coffee Break
 GD – Gender dysphoria
 GEMS – Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior
 GEO – Global Engagement Opportunities
 GI – gastrointestinal
 GVP – Global Volunteer Program
 HCDP – Healthy Church Discernment Process
 HR – Human Resources
 HSR – Human Sexuality Report
 ICF – Indigenous Christian Fellowship
 IDI – Intercultural Development Inventory
 IDR – International Disaster Response
 IRM – International Relief Manager
 IRS – Internal Revenue Service (U.S.)
 IT – Information Technology
 JCC – Judicial Code Committee
 JIMA – Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy
 JMA – Joint Ministry Agreement
 JMC – Joint Ministry Council
 KIM – Korean Institute in Ministry
 LGBTQ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer
 LXX – Septuagint
 MEPMC – Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy
 MLC – Ministries Leadership Council
 MOPS – Mothers of Preschoolers
 MSS – Ministry Support Services
 NCC – New City Catechism
 NDA – Nondisclosure agreement
 NGO – non-governmental organization
 NIV – New International Version
 NRSV – New Revised Standard Version
 OGS – Office of General Secretary
 OSJ – Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action
 PCC – Presbyterian Church of Canada
 PCR – Pastor Church Resources
 PPE – Personal protection equipment
 PTO – Parent Teacher Organization
 RBA – Reformed Benefits Association

RCA – Reformed Church in America
 RW – *Reformed Worship* (magazine)
 SALT – Structure and Leadership Task Force
 SEAPI – South East Asian and Pacific Islander
 SLIM – Spanish Language Institute in Ministry
 SRS – sex reassignment surgery
 SSM – Same-sex marriage
 STM – Specialized Transitional Minister
 TFRSC – Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture
 TLT – Timothy Leadership Training
 TLTI – Timothy Leadership Training Institute
 URC – United Reformed Churches
 USD – U.S. dollars
 VSLA – volunteer savings and loan association
 WR – World Renew

A

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4. Amend Church Order Articles 12, 13, 14, and 17 with Respect to Supervision and Transition of Ministers, **849**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 434-43.
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6. Hold Neland Avenue CRC Accountable to Scripture, Church Order, and the Covenant for Officebearers, **925, 942**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 457-58.
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8. Hold Neland Avenue CRC and Classis Grand Rapids East Accountable to Church Order and the Covenant for Officebearers, **925, 942**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 468-74.
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19. Adopt the Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, **913, 924**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 490-91.
20. Amend Recommendations of the Human Sexuality Report; Continue Deliberation re Human Sexuality; Delegate the Issue of Same-Sex Marriage as a Decision of Local Conscience, **907, 910, 913, 924**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 491-512.
21. Clarify What Already Has Confessional Status in the Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, and Consider Concerns about Recommendation D, **913, 924**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 513.
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26. Appoint a New Study Committee on Human Sexuality Not Limited by the 1973 Report; or Do Not Adopt Recommendations D and E of the Current Report, **910, 913, 924**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 543-46.
27. Do Not Accede to Recommendations B, D, and E of the Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, **910, 913, 924**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 547-51.
28. Do Not Accede to Recommendations B, D, and E of the Human Sexuality Report regarding *Status Confessionis*, **910, 913, 924**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 552-54.
29. Do Not Accede to Recommendations B, D, and E of the Human Sexuality Report; Recognize Different Perspectives and Convictions on Homosexuality; Support Local Option on Issues of Human Sexuality, **910, 913, 924**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 554-65.
30. Do Not Adopt Recommendations B, D, E, or F of the Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, **910**. *See also Deferred Agenda for Synods 2020-2021*, 566-68.

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