

SYNODICAL SERVICES AND STRUCTURE

Chair: Rev. Joel D. Vande Werken
Reporter: Rev. Peter A. Hoytema

I. Historical Committee

A. Materials

1. Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 14 including Appendix E), pp. 40, 81-83
2. Historical Committee – *deferred from 2020* (sections VI-VII, including Appendix), pp. 406-409, 411-16
3. Historical Committee – *deferred from 2021* (section V), pp. 424-26
4. Historical Committee (section II, A), pp. 282-83

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Dr. 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).
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, p. 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.
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.
4. That synod acknowledge the Historical Committee's contribution to the joint statement clarifying its synodical mandate (2020, pp. 410-11).
 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).
 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).

II. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. Council of Delegates Supplement – *deferred from 2020* (sections I, F, 2), p. 202
2. Council of Delegates Report (sections II, B, 2), pp. 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 TenHaken, 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 for the Person and Service of Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (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 for 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.

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).
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).
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).