I. Board of Trustees

A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections II, B, 2-3), pp. 36-38
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections II, A, including Appendix B)

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. John Terpstra, chair of the Board of Trustees; Rev. Joel R. Boot, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod approve the BOT’s response to the Faith Alive situation and approve the dissolution of the Faith Alive board effective June 30, 2013 (II, B, 2).
2. That synod note the reorganization of the specialized ministries in support of the faith formation initiative (II, B, 3).
3. That synod take note of the following actions taken (BOT Supplement section II, A):
   a. Endorsement by the BOT of the proposed direction of the Implementation Design Team report regarding the convergence of the critical functions of Faith Alive Christian Resources and the faith formation initiative.
   b. The formal endorsement of the Implementation Design Team report by the synodical Faith Formation Committee.

II. Faith Alive Christian Resources


B. Recommendations

1. That synod recognize, in the dissolution of the Faith Alive board and the transition of this important ministry; the diligence, honesty, and grace of the board and staff; the painful human cost of change and uncertainty; and the core of crucial service that will continue.
2. That synod convey its deep gratitude to God for Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs (LUYH), for his grace seen throughout the process of developing this hymnal, and for how he has blessed his church already through this process.
3. That synod thank senior editor, Joyce Borger; editors Martin Tel and John D. Witvliet, and their assistants; the Lift Up Your Hearts editorial committee; and the advisory committee for their excellent and pastoral work.
Ground: These dedicated people searched the work of a wide array of poets, writers, and composers to bring together a remarkable assembly of their works of praise and worship, doing so in ways that unite and inspire all to the glory of God.

4. That synod encourage local congregations and ministries to make use of this rich resource.

Grounds:

a. LUYH is broad, deep, biblical, multicultural, and Reformed.
b. LUYH has already been well-received and highly-praised with over 12,000 copies sold prior to publication.
c. LUYH is available not only in print but also in many digital formats.
d. LUYH is more than a hymnal for corporate worship.
   – There are additional services for morning, evening, and night prayer useful for small groups and the opening of meetings.
   – Pastoral care resources are included that can be used for events in the life of the church; this hymnal is also a useful resource for hospital and home visits.
   – For personal and family devotions, the songs, prayers, and Scriptures can be sung, played, or read.
   – Accessible accompaniments throughout the book, including some intentionally simplified accompaniments, encourage younger musicians to grow and develop into the next generation of church musicians.
   – The contents can also be used as part of a curriculum for teaching both new and lifelong Christians the overarching story of God’s love.

(from the Preface)

III. Dynamic Youth Ministries

A. Calvinist Cadet Corps

1. Materials: Calvinist Cadet Corps Report, p. 254

2. Recommendation

   That synod note with gratitude the work of the Calvinist Cadet Corps, including the addition of badge work on church leadership.

B. GEMS Girls’ Clubs


2. Recommendation

   That synod note with gratitude the 55 years of GEMS ministry and recognize the appointment of a new executive director, Kathryn Miller, and urge prayers for her ministry.

C. Youth Unlimited
1. **Materials:** Youth Unlimited Report, p. 256

2. **Recommendation**

   That synod affirm the work of Youth Unlimited as it encourages student leadership and participation in the life of the church. The health and vitality of the CRCNA is dependent upon the involvement of the millennial generation just as these young adults are dependent upon the influence of the church for their faith formation. We are grateful for the continuing relationship that the CRCNA has with Youth Unlimited.

**IV. Friendship Ministries**

A. **Materials:** Friendship Ministries Report, pp. 257-58

B. **Recommendation**

   That synod commend Friendship Ministries for its extensive and multifaceted ministry, and extend Christian sympathy to the board and the family of Mrs. Nella Uitvlugt in the passing of this devoted leader who served as executive director since 1996.

**V. Faith Formation Committee**

A. **Materials:** Faith Formation Committee Report, including Appendices A-C, pp. 318-47

B. **Recommendations**

1. That synod encourage congregations to make use of the following resources:
   
   a. A Primer for Welcoming Children to the Lord's Supper and the Role of Public Profession of Faith (Appendix A)
   
   
   c. New products developed by Faith Alive related to our work:
      
      -- A Place at the Table: Welcoming Children to the Lord’s Supper
      -- You’re Invited: A Week of Family Devotions on the Lord’s Supper for use by families the week prior to celebrating communion
      -- Taste and See: Preparing Children to Participate in the Lord’s Supper, a two-session course featuring lessons on each sacrament and designed for intergenerational learning

2. That synod approve the forms for baptism and profession of faith as found in Appendix C.

   **Grounds:**
   
   a. These forms are consistent with scriptural teaching about the sacraments and with the Reformed confessions.
   
   b. These forms strengthen our existing set of explicitly approved forms by, for example, providing ways of linking the profession of faith before the elders and the public profession of faith and by providing a model for celebrating profession of faith and baptism in the same service.
   
   c. Expanding the pool of explicitly approved synodical forms is valuable both for congregations that use only the exact text of approved forms and congregations that more freely adapt them.
d. Approving these forms developed by the Reformed Church in America further strengthens organic unity and collaboration with our sister denomination.

3. That synod accept the work of the Faith Formation Committee as fulfilling each of the various mandates assigned by Synods 2007 and 2011, and that synod dismiss the committee with profound thanks.

   *Ground:* The committee shepherded the church through weighty issues and polity changes with careful work that fostered church unity and enthusiasm for the ongoing task of faith formation.

4. That synod instruct the BOT to advise future synods to consider the shepherding model of the Faith Formation Committee when study committees are formed.

   *Ground:* The Faith Formation Committee was able to listen to the denomination, develop consensus on a challenging issue with pastoral sensitivity, provide education, and assist the denomination through significant change over a period of time. Future difficult issues may require similar shepherding.

5. That synod instruct the BOT to continue the foundational work of the Faith Formation Committee by making intergenerational lifelong learning and discipleship integral to the realignment of Faith Alive and denominational structures.

   *Grounds:*
   1. Although the study committee has fulfilled its specific mandates, the work of faith formation is not complete.
   2. Our denominational structures should reflect that the work of faith formation has been a strength of our Reformed tradition and, in its lifelong nature, needs increasingly to become a central component of the church’s life.