

## Education and Candidacy

Chair: Rev. Aaron Greydanus  
Reporter: Rev. Matthew Haan

### **I. Calvin University**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Calvin University Report, pp. 145-173
2. Calvin University Supplement Report

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod celebrate and highlight The Calvin Prison Initiative, a joint partnership between Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary, and encourage the delegates, classis and church to further educate and understand the work that C.P.I is doing to transform prison culture (<https://www.secondmilevideo.com/documentary>).
2. That synod celebrate with Calvin University the ongoing work of God's faithfulness of 150 years of education and look forward to the celebration on March 29, 2026.
3. That synod give praise to the Lord for President Greg Elzinga leading Calvin University with humility and grace.
4. That synod acknowledge the success of Calvin University found in the report that highlights the following:
  - Enrollment of 3600 students
  - Three Goldwater awards
  - Being named number one teaching university in the Midwest
5. That synod express deep appreciation for Calvin's faithful work in teaching, learning, and scholarship as an academic institution and commend their ongoing research.

### **II. Response to Overture 30: Response to Synod 2025 Regarding Calvin University Report**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Calvin University Report, Appendix A
2. Overture 30

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod allow Board Chair Perrin Rynders five minutes to address p. 156, "Requirements for Trustee alignment" and give minutes for Provost Noah Toly to address, "developmental approaches for confessional subscription and differences for faculty."

*Ground:* The policies developed for board member and faculty alignment in response to Synod 2024's request (Acts of Synod 2024, p. 880) is both thorough and robust and goes a long way in affirming trust in the board and institution.

2. That synod instruct the Calvin University Board of Trustees to further define "indefinite exceptions to confessional subscription", (p. 156) and the reasons that they may be granted and report back to Synod 2026.

*Ground:* The committee desires greater clarity regarding the possibility of granting indefinite exceptions including in the area of human sexuality.

3. That synod commend Calvin University for their high-level majority of confessional alignment in the Board of Trustees and encourage them to continue this good work of two-tier application and consider a higher level than a simple majority of confessional alignment, and report back to Synod 2026.
4. That synod affirms Calvin's Board of Trustees ongoing efforts to live into a robustly-Reformed set of standards for the board, faculty and administration, as servant-leaders in the CRCNA.
5. That synod affirm Calvin University Board of Trustees in their work of responding to Synod 2024, to see the Reformed mission and witness of Calvin University enthusiastically and faithfully continuing for the next 150 years or more or for as long as the Lord tarries.
6. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 30.