

Congregational Care and Justice

Chair: Rev. Rob Toornstra
Reporter: Rev. Richard Grift

I. Thrive

A. Materials

1. Thrive Report, pp. 204-209
2. Thrive Supplement Report

B. Privilege of the floor

Lesli van Milligen, director of Thrive

C. Recommendations

1. That synod, along with the Council of Delegates, remind all Christian Reformed congregations that Thrive exists “to provide expertise, wisdom, and compassionate support to congregations while remaining attentive to a wide range of opportunities and challenges facing the church today”; and that synod encourage ministry leaders and CRC members to reach out to Thrive for support.
2. That synod encourage classes to reflect on the results of the Gather initiative and take time at their fall meetings to pray for renewal in the Christian Reformed Church.
3. That synod encourage classes to encourage churches to commit themselves to praying for renewal in the Christian Reformed Church.

II. Response to Overture 25: Focus on Officebearer Training and Overture 27: Add a Supplement to Church Order Article 3

A. Materials

Overture 25, pp. 392-393
Overture 27, pp. 394-395

B. Recommendations

1. That synod remind churches and classes of the critical need to train officebearers.
2. That synod commend Thrive’s existing and forthcoming material for congregational leadership (“Thriving Essentials”) and officebearer training (“Deacon and Elder Essentials”), which will continue to be developed to include material on the Covenant for Officebearers and church polity in collaboration with the Office of General Secretary.
3. That synod encourage churches and classes to connect with our existing denominational ministries for officebearer training material (e.g., Thrive, Diaconal Ministries, Calvin Theological Seminary).
4. That synod declare this to be its response to Overtures 25 and 27.

Grounds:

- a. The need for ongoing officebearer training is critical for faithful and fruitful ministry by council members.

- b. The concerns raised by these overtures are not so much procedural (i.e. Church Order) as much as they are local spiritual, discipleship and leadership challenges.
- c. Much of the training material is already available and accessible through various denominational ministries.