

Interdenominational and Financial Matters

Chair: Scott Vander Ploeg

Reporter: Drew Sweetman

Overture

- I. Response to Overture 15: Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan: Revise Belgic Confession Articles 18 and 34, pp. 403-04

- A. Recommendation

1. That synod not accede to Overture 15.

- Grounds:*

- a. A similar overture came to Synod 2002. The following ground is quoted from Acts of Synod, 2002: Historically, synod has opted for a historical-textual, rather than a “too literalistic approach to the Confessions” in the hope that we would avoid making so many changes to these documents that we end up with confessions that are “a barely recognizable polyglot of emendations” (*Acts of Synod* 1959, p. 183). Our confessions were born in a certain climate of theological debate and can be best understood in light of that history. (*Acts of Synod* 2002, p. 499)
 - b. In the past, the Christian Reformed Church has not changed the confessions lightly. Acceding to this overture would have far-reaching repercussions with our relationships with other Christians (e.g. Reformed Baptists).
 - c. While the change seems simple, due to the widespread usage of our version of the Belgic Confession in other Christian denominations, we do not want to create undue complexity among them without engaging with them.