

Advisory Committee 7, Ecumenical and Historical Matters, Dr. Ren Tubergen reporting, presents

I. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

A. Materials

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee report, pp. 215-228

B. Recommendation

That synod extend and affirm a relationship with the Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerken as a church in cooperation.

Grounds:

1. There is a strong historic ecumenical connection to approximately one third of the churches (the former Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerken; see *Acts of Synod 1982*, p. 62) that now are part of this new denomination.
2. The new denomination affirms the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort, and the Heidelberg Catechism, as does the CRCNA. This basis supports cooperation in dialogue, relationships, and the shared use/development of ministry resources.
3. The time is not right to extend church in communion status, given the direction being charted by this new denomination regarding some matters concerning human sexuality. The new NGK polity allows local congregations to hold varied positions about the full inclusion of Christians in active same-sex relationships.