

July 19, 2013

Christian Reformed Church Councils

Dear Council Members:

Synod 2013 has now become part of the CRC history—news stories have been written and published on the web and in *The Banner* regarding the work of synod, delegates have made their way home and have begun to report on their personal experiences, and the minutes of synod's actions are nearing completion for posting and printing. The delegates worked diligently to address significant matters before the assembly brought by the various standing and study committees, as well as ministries and boards of the church. Among these matters were the office of deacon, diversity in leadership, and the concluding report of the Faith Formation Committee. Overtures to synod placed additional matters before the assembly, such as formation of a new classis, religious persecution and liberty, as well as homosexuality and same-sex marriage. To be of assistance to you, our office has gathered the decisions of Synod 2013 that are of special importance for the churches in the attached summary document. Please take time to review these highlights in your upcoming council meeting.

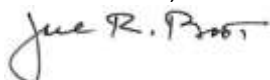
We are grateful for the opportunity at synod to honor and declare those presented as candidates for ministry within the CRC—*fifty* new candidates were approved! What a blessing to be witness to a standing ovation of the more than 200 delegates and advisers, expressing their sincere gratitude for this commitment to the ministry of the Word. In addition, synod gave special recognition to *thirty* ministerial retirees. We are grateful for the service of these dedicated servants of the church and wish them God's grace as they enter a new chapter in their lives.

Worship at synod is always one of the high points. This year was no exception as delegates sang from the new *Lift Up Your Hearts* hymnal—a joint project of the CRC and RCA. Synod also expressed appreciation to the staff and board members who so faithfully served one of our agencies, Faith Alive Christian Resources—in transition as it is being enfolded into a new faith formation ministry. At the encouragement of the synods of both the CRC and RCA, congregations are asked to “recite in unison Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 1 during the primary worship service on Sunday, September 15, 2013” in commemoration of the 450th anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism—a gift to the Christian church.

Look for the electronic version of the *Acts of Synod 2013* on the CRC website (crcna.org/SynodResources) by the end of July, followed by the printed version toward the end of August. The Acts includes a complete record of the decisions of synod.

On behalf of the Christian Reformed Church, I want to extend our sincere thanks to those who served synod as delegates and advisers. These individuals selflessly gave their time and energy for more than a week. The spirit of unity, even in diversity, was evident all around.

In his service,



Joel R. Boot
Executive Director

Encl: Summary of Decisions of Synod 2013

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Summary of Decisions of Synod 2013 for the Churches

A. Synod celebrated the following: Release of the **new *Lift Up Your Hearts* hymnal** and encourages its use in the churches, the 450th anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism encourages churches to recite **HC Q. and A. 1** during the morning service on September 15, the ratification of **appointment of Dr. Amanda W. Benckhuysen as associate professor of Old Testament** at Calvin Theological Seminary. References within the *Acts of Synod* are copied below:

Faith Alive Christian Resources

That synod encourage local congregations and ministries to make use of this rich resource— [the *Lift Up Your Hearts* hymnal].

Grounds:

- a. [*Lift Up Your Hearts*] 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*)
(*Acts of Synod 2013*, p. 551)

Board of Trustees

That synod adopt the following resolution to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism (II, A, 23), revised as follows:

Resolution to Commemorate the 450th Anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism

The synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America remembers that 2013 is the 450th anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism, and recommends that members, congregations, classes, agencies, publications, educational institutions, and staff renew their study of its insights and contributions to the Christian life, and explore creative and culturally appropriate ways of using and celebrating the role of the Heidelberg Catechism in the life of the church. Our “only comfort in life and in death” is that we are not our own, “but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to [our] faithful Savior, Jesus Christ” (Heidelberg Catechism, Q. and A. 1).

As an expression of our unity in Christ and to commemorate our great appreciation for this gift to the Christian church, synod encourages all Christian Reformed

congregations to recite in unison Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 1 during the primary worship service on Sunday, September 15, 2013.

(*Acts of Synod 2013*, pp. 570-71)

Calvin Theological Seminary

Following the interview, synod enters into executive session and considers the following recommendation:

That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Amanda W. Benckhuysen as associate professor of Old Testament for three years, effective July 1, 2014.

(*Acts of Synod 2013*, p. 582)

B. Synod affirmed the list of **resources for profession of faith** submitted by the Faith Formation Committee and approved **new forms for baptism and profession of faith**, as well as endorsed **new priorities for the ministries** as presented in the “Five Streams” document. References to these decisions follow:

Faith Formation Committee

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)
 - b. Strengthening Profession of Faith: A Guide for Councils (Appendix B)
 - 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.

(*Acts of Synod 2013*, pp. 552-53)

Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture

That synod endorse the ministry priorities, as identified in the “Five Streams” document in Appendix B to the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Report (*Agenda*, p. 381), for discussion and discernment within the church, its agencies, boards, and planning groups.

(*Acts of Synod 2013*, p. 610)

C. Synod adopted changes proposed by the Candidacy Committee to update the Church Order to clarify the **role and readiness of a commissioned pastor**, encourages reading of “[The Scarlet Number](#)” (*The Banner*, March 2012), and reminds churches to consult the Candidacy Committee before engaging **pastors ordained outside the CRC and RCA** in a search process. The adopted recommendations follow:

Candidacy Committee

1. That synod approve the following change to Church Order Article 23-a (additions in **bold**; deletions in ~~strike through~~):

Commissioned pastors shall be acknowledged as **such in elders** of their calling churches ~~with corresponding privileges and responsibilities~~. Normally, their work **on the church council** ~~as elders~~ shall be limited to the ministries in which they serve as commissioned pastors.

Grounds:

- a. These changes make more explicit the recognition that commissioned pastors serve the church as pastors, and describe how they currently function in the church.
 - b. These changes maintain the desire expressed when synod first recognized the office that commissioned pastors serve on the church council for matters that pertain to their work (see *Acts of Synod 1978*, pp. 74-78).
 - c. These changes also maintain the limitation of commissioned pastors relative to the council, making explicit that their involvement is normally limited to their particular area of ministry.
 - d. These changes are consistent with the desire of Synod 2007 that synod give more use, more value, and more support for this office (see *Agenda for Synod 2007*, pp. 298-303).
2. That synod approve the following addition to Church Order Supplement, Article 23-a (to be inserted after the opening paragraph in Supplement, Article 23-a):

Before a person who will serve as the solo pastor of an emerging or an organized church is examined for a position as a commissioned pastor, that person, in cooperation with classis, shall develop and complete a contextualized learning plan, adopted by classis and approved by the Candidacy Committee. Ordinarily the learning plan would include an introduction to the CRC Church Order, CRC history, CRC ministry, CRC creeds and confessions, Reformed hermeneutics, and an introduction to the discipline and art of preaching.

Grounds:

- a. This ensures that those who provide primary spiritual leadership in CRC congregations have been adequately trained in the basic denominational information that the church expects of its primary spiritual leaders.
- b. This enables a classis to have flexibility in the training mechanisms it uses for commissioned pastors, as a given learning plan can include many elements and learning experiences.
- c. This balances local flexibility and contextual sensitivity with a denominational voice via the Candidacy Committee, which is advantageous for consistency in denominational awareness among leaders in the CRC.

Note: The advisory committee agrees with the assessment of the Candidacy Committee “that these two proposals are not significant in nature, and can therefore be approved by Synod

2013 without waiting an additional year,” (*Agenda for Synod 2013*, p. 211) as is usually required for the ratification of a change to the Church Order. The advisory committee therefore recommends:

3. That synod judge that Recommendation 1 is not a substantial change to the Church Order and as such will not require ratification by Synod 2014 (see Church Order Art. 47).

Ground: The change and addition recommended clarify a situation that has caused confusion and does not substantially change our polity.

4. That synod refer syndical deputies, church councils, church visiting teams, and classes of the CRCNA to *The Banner* article (“The Scarlet Number”) on the uses of Church Order Article 17 that appeared in the March 2012 issue, and encourage the church to recognize that there are many uses of Article 17-a that indicate a healthy relationship between pastors and churches.
5. That synod remind all churches, pastor search committees, counselors of vacant churches, and church visitors of our covenantal commitment to each other as expressed in Church Order Article 8 (see Art. 8-d, and Supplement, Art. 8, E, 1 and 3). Churches are to engage in meaningful pastoral search conversations with pastors ordained outside of the CRC and RCA only after consulting with the Candidacy Committee.

Grounds:

- a. The Article 8 requirement that churches engage in a “*sustained and realistic search*” (Supplement Article 8, E, 1) among current candidates and ordained CRC and RCA pastors has been disregarded by some churches in recent years.
- b. The CRC currently has a large number of candidates and available ordained ministers of the Word, making it all the more crucial that we keep our commitment to them.
- c. Church Order Article 8 does not prohibit congregations searching for a pastor from enlisting the pastoral services of qualified, godly individuals, but does so in an ordered way that is of benefit to the denomination, our seminary, our congregations, and the pastors who serve us.

(*Acts of Synod 2013*, pp. 556-58)

D. By way of the following action, synod granted the Board of Trustees permission to consider a **non-clergy nominee for the position of ED.**

Board of Trustees

That synod grant the BOT permission to consider the possibility, by way of exception to the rule, of a non-clergy nominee for the position of ED, providing that person is or becomes an officebearer in the CRC (BOT Supplement II).

Grounds:

- a. Permitting the BOT to make an exception (for valid reasons) will allow for greater diversity in the pool of potential candidates.
- b. The projected leadership team (surrounding the ED) can be tailored to meet a diversity of skills and experiences required for the position.
- c. There are unordained leaders who, though not seminary trained, know and understand Reformed theology and are excellent servants of the church.

(*Acts of Synod 2013*, p. 576)

E. Synod upheld the decision of previous synods not to permit the **formation of a separate classis** based on theological affinity. The wording and grounds for that action follow:

Creation of a New Classis in Michigan

1. That synod not accede to Overtures 3 and 4, requesting an affinity classis.

Grounds:

- a. The creation of a separate classis based upon and restricted to a single theological conviction will create a fixed uniformity that runs contrary to biblical principles and practices of unity in the CRC (1 Cor. 12:12-31).
 - b. This is consistent with the past decision of synod not to accede to the “formation of a classis based on theological affinity” (*Acts of Synod 1996*, Article 76, C, 4, p. 561).
 - c. The creation of such a classis may address the issues of conscience and the discomfort of protesting the presence of women officebearers at the classical level, but this does not resolve those same issues at the synodical level.
2. That synod grant Trinity CRC in Sparta, Michigan, and Second CRC in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the option to move to the classis in closest proximity that is willing to receive them and which they are willing to join.

Grounds:

- a. After Synod 2010 did not accede to the overture to allow the move to Classis Minnkota, these churches exhaustively explored geographically closer options. They have satisfied Synod 2010’s concern that they explore classes of closer proximity.
 - b. In view of the diligent efforts of these two churches, the desire of their classes to help them move forward, and the desire of these churches to end the hurt and tension within their classes, this decision offers grace into this reality.
 - c. This is consistent with the synodical precedent that allows the transfer of churches to another classis (see *Acts of Synod 1995, 2000, 2006, 2007*).
3. That synod communicate the following to Trinity CRC, Sparta; Second CRC, Kalamazoo; and their respective classes:
 - a. We commend these two churches for their faithful perseverance in these matters and for their desire to remain in the CRC.
 - b. We encourage these churches to seek ways to continue in their current classes.
 - c. We encourage these churches and classes to engage in some process of reconciliation, healing, and blessing.
 - d. We also encourage these churches to seek ways to continue to work together with local CRC churches to communicate and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ in their regions.

(*Acts of Synod 2013*, p. 619)

- F. Synod asks that all churches **be intentional in equipping, coaching, mentoring, and engaging ethnic minority persons** and groups for the purpose of developing leadership in the church. Please read further the following decision of synod:

Diversity in Leadership Planning Group II

That synod affirm the importance of increasing and improving denominational training efforts for all ethnic minority groups (as well as for the denomination at large) by focusing on equipping for service at the congregational, classical, and denominational levels; developing awareness, ownership, and commitment to the ministries and mission of the CRCNA; and enhancing unity by dismantling racism and promoting diversity. The following elements are essential in this training effort:

- a. Review, enhance, and promote existing materials and practices.
 - 1) The executive director will assemble an in-house task force to review current training resources and determine what additional resources could be added (e.g., providing basic training related to history, polity, leadership, and so forth).
 - 2) Based on the modules provided, local churches, classes, and agencies are encouraged to develop and conduct orientation programs for all members, including topics on antiracism strategies and diversity education, especially for greater diversity in leadership bodies.
- b. Schedule and arrange training events such as regional conferences and workshops, Days of Encouragement, binational conferences, and the Multiethnic Conference where recommended training materials (see Recommendation 2, a, 1 above) will be used and promoted.
- c. Promote continuing education and learning communities through mentoring and coaching.
- d. Enhance professional development for staff through ongoing in-service training and professional development opportunities in diversity education and cultural sensitivity for all staff. This will help ensure that employees remain current in their knowledge and best practices in diversity, and will encourage and support attainment of diversity goals and build in accountability.

Timeline: To begin immediately upon adoption by Synod 2013.

(Acts of Synod 2013, pp. 629-30)

G. In response to overtures received, synod approved the **start-up of two new studies** to report back to a subsequent synod: (1) Religious persecution and liberty and (2) Guidance for addressing the issues of same-sex marriage. The mandates for these studies are:

Related Issues of Religious Persecution and Religious Liberty

That synod accede to Overture 9 by appointing a study committee to provide a biblical and theological framework regarding religious persecution and religious liberty, and to propose ways to equip and empower the church to walk alongside and intercede on behalf of those who are subject to religious persecution or denied religious liberty in both global and local contexts.

Grounds:

1. The cause of Christians and all those suffering religious persecution calls urgently for response.
2. The study of religious persecution demands that we also study religious liberty so that we can send a coherent message to all people.
3. The related issues of religious persecution and religious liberty are urgent, complex, and comprehensive enough to merit the church's attention in the form of a study committee.

(Acts of Synod 2013, p. 569)

That synod adopt the following mandate for the Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty:

The committee shall

- a. Provide a Reformed framework that establishes a biblical and theological grounding for religious liberty and the injustice of religious persecution.
- b. Propose individual and group action that empowers the church in our increasingly secularized North American setting to walk alongside and intercede on behalf of those who are subject to religious persecution or denied religious liberty at home or abroad.
- c. Report on their progress to Synod 2015 and provide the completed study to Synod 2016.

Note: This study may be referred to the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) to promote dialogue among our Reformed brothers and sisters about religious liberty and religious persecution, encouraging them to develop similar individual and group actions particular to their individual, social, and religious contexts.

(Acts of Synod 2013, pp. 641-42)

Provide Pastoral Guidance on the Issue of Same-sex Marriage

That synod adopt the following mandate for the Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage:

This study committee shall

- a. Give guidance and clarification on how members, clergy, and churches can apply the biblical teachings reflected in the *Acts of Synod 1973*, Report 42 (cf. also the report to Synod 2002) in light of the legality of same-sex marriage in certain jurisdictions, as well as how to communicate these teachings in a truthful and gracious way within North America.
- b. Address questions on same-sex marriage, including but not limited to those in Overtures 12 and 13.
- c. Identify and guide the churches, members, and clergy regarding the ramifications of the legal, ethical, and spiritual issues that they face.
- d. Identify resources and best practices that will facilitate ministry and directly communicate them to the churches.
- e. Follow the shepherding model used by the synodical Faith Formation Committee.

(Acts of Synod 2013, pp. 640-41)

That synod request the Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage to consult extensively with pastors in Canada and the United States, members of different ethnic minorities, and others who have a broad range of experience and expertise (i.e., biblical, pastoral, ethnic) to both inform and provide feedback regarding the work of the committee.

Grounds:

1. The approved list of committee members does not include pastors active in congregations.
2. The approved list of committee members does not have an adequate racial diversity to represent the stated goals of synod and the CRCNA.
3. This will promote engagement within the churches of the denomination in the spirit of the shepherding model.

(Acts of Synod 2013, pp. 643-44)

H. The 2013 Office of Deacon Task Force report was adopted in part, including a two-year period for churches to consider the proposed Church Order changes that deacons be delegated to classis and synod, prior to approval of these changes. Some of the task force recommendations were referred to a **new committee that includes also a study of the office of elder** in its mandate. See the following:

Diakonia Remixed: Office of Deacon Task Force

That synod adopt the following mandate for the Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon:

- a. Address the following questions:
 - 1) Church Order Article 35 assigns “tasks which belong to the common administration of the church” to the council (pastors, elders, and deacons). What biblical and confessional basis exists for those tasks, which on the congregational level belong distinctively to the office of elder and to the office of deacon (Church Order Art. 35), to be assigned collectively to elder and deacon delegates on the classical and synodical levels?
 - 2) What unity do these offices share, and how are the “dignity and honor” of the offices distinguished from how they differ in “mandate and task” (Church Order Article 2)? What does it mean to have parity of office?
 - 3) How do the distinctiveness of each office, the unique giftedness, the parity of offices, and yet the differences in “mandate and task” influence and shape the agendas of major assemblies that would have both elders and deacons seated?
 - 4) In what ways can the agendas of the major assemblies be shaped for meaningful inclusion and participation by deacons, without tying the hands of the individual classes and their local expression (minimal regulation for maximum engagement)?
 - 5) What changes, highlights, or broadening of the mandate of synod would help make the seating of all officebearers at synod meaningful and beneficial?
- b. That the task force develop a plan for resourcing and revitalizing both elders and deacons, including plans for its implementation.
 - 1) That the Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon recommend appropriate changes to the Church Order. This would include reviewing the proposed changes within the report of the 2013 Office of Deacon Task Force, considering further changes relating to the other offices, and clarifying a missional vision, all with a view to integrating such recommended changes.
 - 2) That the Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon study Recommendation G of the Office of Deacon Task Force 2013 for suitable ways to be implemented.
 - 3) That the task force report to Synod 2015 and forward an update to Synod 2014.

(Acts of Synod 2013, pp. 642-43)

I. Churches are encouraged to adopt a **church policy on disability and appoint a disability advocate**. Please also take note of **Disability Week: October 14-20, 2013**.

Board of Trustees

1. That synod encourage all Christian Reformed churches to adopt a church policy on disability and to appoint at least one person in the congregation to serve as a church disability advocate.

Grounds:

- a. Churches that have a policy on disability and a church disability advocate have both a framework and a person to help them comply with the synodical decision of 1993 that calls all portions of the CRC located in the United States and Canada to comply fully with the provisions and regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Subsequent to the decision of Synod 1993, federal and provincial governments in Canada have ratified the international Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that provides a standard for Canada.
 - b. Church advocates can provide direction to pastors, elders, and deacons not only to make the church building, program, and communication accessible but also to find appropriate assistance for persons affected by disabilities.
 - c. When the apostle Paul urged the churches of Corinth to take up an offering for the impoverished church in Jerusalem, he argued that “your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness” (2 Cor. 8:14, ESV). Churches that commit to a policy on disability will make their buildings, programs, and communication accessible for all members (including those with disabilities), so that “there may be fairness.” In doing so, these churches proclaim that everybody belongs, and everybody has the opportunity to serve.
 - d. Churches that have a church advocate and commit to a church policy on disability will be better able to provide assistance and prevent further harm for people who experience the often traumatic onset of disabilities.
 - e. Churches that have a policy and advocate are more likely to take the necessary steps to take their churches beyond the minimum requirements of the law, and lead their communities in engaging people with disabilities.
 - f. Our Lord’s call to reach people with the gospel includes reaching the 20 percent of the population who have disabilities, in addition to their family members and friends. Churches that seek to fulfill the calls of our Lord in Matthew 28:18-20 and Luke 14:13-14 will benefit greatly from committing to a policy and appointing an advocate.
2. That synod encourage Christian Reformed churches, classes, and educational institutions to sponsor events to celebrate Disability Week from October 14-20, 2013.

Grounds:

- a. Specific and intentional events that recognize the importance of breaking down barriers and including people with disabilities will remind God’s people of the welcome our Lord gives to all of his people (Luke 14:15-24) and will encourage them to press on toward becoming a community in which every member knows that he or she is indispensable (1 Cor. 12:12-27).
- b. This date coincides with the denominational schedule for offerings, which assigns the third Sunday in October to Disability Concerns.
- c. The Bible calls God’s people to be a caring community as the covenant people of God. In 1985, the CRC committed itself as a denomination to eliminate barriers of architecture, communication, and attitude “in order to use the gifts of all people in our life together as God’s family.” Although our Lord Jesus calls all of his people to

ministry in his church, the church has not always made it possible for people with disabilities to participate fully and sometimes has isolated them and their families.
(*Acts of Synod 2013*, pp. 612-14)

J. Synod approved the **2014 ministry share amount** of \$332.79 and approved the new **lists of agencies recommended for gifts and offerings** (the lists can be accessed in the *Acts of Synod 2013*, pp. 651-53).

Board of Trustees

2. That synod receive the agencies and institutional unified budget as information and approve a ministry share of \$332.79 for calendar year 2014 (BOT Supplement, sections II, B, 1-2).
3. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:
 - a. That synod approve the list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for the agencies and institutions of the CRC and denominationally related ministries, and recommend these to the churches for consideration (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 3).
 - b. That synod receive as information the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2014 (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 4).
 - c. That synod accept the following new request for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies (BOT Supplement, section II, B, 5): Care of Creation.
(*Acts of Synod 2013*, pp. 564-65)

K. And once again, synod encourages all churches to **make use of the following services** provided by the following committees:

Sermons for Reading Services

That synod approve the work of the committee and encourage the churches to avail themselves of the sermons for reading services on the CRC website.
(*Acts of Synod 2013*, p. 560)

Historical Committee

That synod encourage all churches and classes to send duplicates of their articles of incorporation and/or bylaws to the archives.
(*Acts of Synod 2013*, p. 569)