

EDUCATION AND CANDIDACY

Chair: Rev. Thomas R. Wolthuis
Reporter: Rev. Gerry Koning

I. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. Council of Delegates Report (sections II, A, 17; and II, B, 5, a, including Appendix F), pp. 37, 43, 72-83
2. Council of Delegates Supplement (section I, D, including Appendix A)

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Andy de Ruyter, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod approve the evaluation report by Calvin College (II, B, 5; Appendix F).
2. That synod appoint a task force continuing the work of the Bivocational Task Force as reported in Appendix A, to examine what it means to be a bivocational pastor today and report to Synod 2021. The new task force will be mandated to give consideration to matters such as the following:
 - a. Create a definition of bivocationality
 - b. Give biblical support to bivocationality
 - c. Address financial implications and responsibilities (clearly defined “proper support”; see Church Order Supplement, Art. 15) relative to church, classis, pastor, and the like
 - d. Classical oversight
 - e. Cultural differences
 - f. Church Order implications

Grounds:

- a. A compelling biblical, theological, and historical case supporting bivocational ministry is needed.
 - b. The report provides sufficient examples of issues needing review and of possible options for remedies.
 - c. Addressing this issue will provide care for pastors in varying cultures and contexts.
3. That synod instruct the Executive Director to invite the leaders to the denominationally related institutions of higher education to meet with the appropriate advisory committee of future synods.

Grounds:

- a. It is very important today to strengthen our vital relationships in these institutions within our denomination.
- b. The committee found it is very beneficial to hear the joys and concerns of their respective institutions in person.
- c. The representatives expressed appreciation in being able to address the advisory committee.

II. Calvin College

A. Materials

- 1. Calvin College Report, pp. 147-52
- 2. Calvin College Supplement (sections I-IV and VI; *excluding* section V and Appendix)

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Craig Lubben, chair, and Dr. Michael K. Le Roy, president

C. Recommendations

- 1. That synod ratify the following faculty reappointments with tenure, effective September 1, 2019:
 - Ryan M. Bebej, Ph.D., associate professor of biology
 - Scott G. Lamanna, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish
 - Jaclynn L. Lubbers, D.N.P., associate professor of nursing
 - Jesse R. Moes, Ph.D., associate professor of nursing
 - Kevin Timpe, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, William Harry Jellema Chair in Christian Philosophy (three-year appointment to chair)
 - Roman R. Williams, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology
- 2. That synod recognize Calvin College's Vision 2030 and its goal of reaching new kinds of audiences and increasing global influence. We appreciate Calvin's efforts to provide a valuable education that connects various disciplines, grows discipleship, and engages the whole of God's world. We celebrate with anticipation the name change to Calvin University. We pray for Calvin College as it struggles with social and cultural challenges with faithfulness and integrity.

III. Calvin Theological Seminary

A. Materials

- 1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 237-43
- 2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement (*excluding* section II, D, 2; including Appendix A)

B. Privilege of the floor: Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., chair, and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president

C. Recommendations

1. That synod approve the addition of two at-large trustees to the current three at-large trustee positions and that the terms of the additional board members be staggered so that the first terms would conclude in 2021 and 2023. (For background information, see Appendix A.)

Grounds:

- a. While the current board composition has been helpful, the board desires flexibility to add additional diversity in ethnicity, age, gender, professional expertise, and financial expertise.
 - b. Adding two at-large members to the current board composition would increase the total to twenty-one board of trustees members. The regional at-large board members would fill nine of the twenty-one board positions, allowing for the ability to recruit persons with specific expertise and diversity.
2. That synod recognize with great appreciation the work of Calvin Theological Seminary in training leaders for the Christian Reformed Church and Christian mission and ministry throughout the world, especially noting their developing new teaching formats and programs to address changing needs and opportunities. We celebrate their development of an online M.A. in Ministry Leadership, their partnership with Christian Schools International for certification in Bible instruction, their work with Calvin College in the Calvin Prison Initiative, their providing of resources through the Center for Excellence in Preaching, and their very recent approval of a Doctorate of Ministry program.

IV. Candidacy Committee

A. Materials

1. Candidacy Committee Report (including the Appendices A-B), pp. 251-314
2. Candidacy Committee Supplement, including the Appendix

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. David R. Koll, director of Candidacy; and to an additional member of the Candidacy Committee if one is present

C. Recommendations

1. That synod adopt the following recommendations concerning Church Order Articles 8, 23, 24, and 82-84, and their Supplements:
 - a. That synod adopt the reformatted Church Order Articles 23-24 as proposed by Synod 2018 and as presented in this report (III, A).
 - b. That synod approve the proposed reformatted Supplements to Church Order Articles 23-24 as acknowledged by Synod 2018 and as presented in this report (III, B).
 - c. That synod approve the proposed changes to Church Order Supplement, Articles 82-84, sections e and f, as presented in this report (III, C).
 - d. That synod adopt the revised statements of Church Order Supplement, Article 8, sections E and F, as presented in this report (III, D).

- e. That synod receive the comments offered by the Candidacy Committee in section III, E of this report regarding guidelines for video examinations and regarding the use of Church Order Article 8 for receiving an individual ordained by an independent congregation, as fulfilling its assignment by Synod 2018 (*Acts of Synod 2018*, p. 488), and instruct the committee to place these comments in appropriate sections of the Commissioned Pastor Handbook and the Journey Toward Ordination document.
- f. That synod approve a change of title for Church Order Supplement, Article 8, section E, "Calling Ministers Ordained Outside of the Christian Reformed Church in North America," along with related editorial changes in the text of that section and in the Journey Toward Ordination document.
- g. That synod approve the updated Commissioned Pastor Handbook, as presented in Appendix A (III, F).
- h. That synod approve the updates to the Journey Toward Ordination document, as presented in Appendix B (III, G).
- i. That synod instruct the Candidacy Committee to work with the Office of Synodical Services in making both the Commissioned Pastor Handbook and the Journey Toward Education document readily available in PDF format on the CRCNA website, and also, potentially, available in print-on-demand format through Faith Alive Christian Resources.
- j. That synod approve the following changes to Church Order Article 8, as discussed in section IV of this report (underlining indicates changes to the text):
 - 1) Ministers ordained outside of the CRCNA who desire to become ministers in the Christian Reformed Church shall be required to complete a learning plan endorsed by the Candidacy Committee.
 - 2) Ministers ordained outside of the CRCNA who have not been declared eligible for a call shall not be called unless all synodical requirements have been met.
- k. That synod approve the following two proposals related to the orderly exchange of ministers agreement between the CRC and the RCA, as discussed in section V of this report:
 - 1) That the executive director be instructed to work with the appropriate bodies in the CRC and the RCA to bring the text of the orderly exchange of ministers agreement into consistency in both denominations, including statement 12 as found in Church Order Supplement, Article 8, section D.
 - 2) That Synod 2019 approve that, in the meantime, the following note be placed after Church Order Supplement, Article 8, D, 12: "Due to unknown factors, this statement currently does not appear in the RCA Book of Order; yet it is accepted as valid within the CRC."
- 2. That synod take note and give thanks of the various initiatives and challenges identified by the Candidacy Committee in this report, and give thanks for the Candidacy Committee.

3. That synod allow that four of the candidates presented by the Candidacy Committee remain anonymous and listed only by their initials at the request of the respective candidates as presented by the Candidacy Committee and synod advisory committee.

Grounds:

- a. These candidates will be working in sensitive geographical areas which could endanger themselves, their families, and the people they minister with if their ministerial status was public.
 - b. They have fulfilled all the requirements of the Candidacy Committee and have been reviewed by the synod advisory committee.
 - c. These candidates have requested anonymity.
 - d. These candidates will be known by their calling church and the classis which will examine them when they are called.
4. That synod instruct the Candidacy Committee to develop guidelines to deal with future candidates who wish to remain anonymous. These guidelines will be presented to the Synod of 2020.
 5. That synod declare the following persons as candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church:

Joel S. Altena
Israel Alvarado
Ram Aryal
Seth A. Atsma
Jonathan K. Bosma
Christopher Bouma
J.C.
Luke M. Carrig
John Cleveringa
Jason D. Crossen
Zack J. DeBruyne
Cara L.C. DeHaan
Christopher J. Ganski
Daniel J. Gregory
Nathan J. Groenewold
Aaron J. Gunsaulus
John Kyu Hahn
Chris S. Harper
Elizabeth L. Huizenga
Mark A. Janowski
Daniel Joo

Seokwon (Shaun) Jung
S.K.
Kiseok (Daniel) Kang
C.L.
L.L.
Aaron Mamuyac
Timothy J. McHugh
Matthew Mulder
Shawn I. Richardson
Kyle J. Sandison
Garrett Saul
Terence R. Schilstra
Mitchell R. Sheahan
Hilary Smith
Loretta Stadt
Jaleesa J. Stanford
Brad C. Stolman
Kathy Vana
Klaas J. Walhout
Chad E. Werkhoven
William (Bill) R. Whitt

6. That synod approve the extensions of candidacy for the following persons:

Steven Berkenpas
 Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi
 Daniel Crapo
 Abigail DeZeeuw
 Elisabeth A. De Vries
 Brad Diekema
 Steven Dykstra
 Ben Gresik
 Robert J. Gruessing
 Sarah Kim Hoos
 Jeffrey Michael Hoos
 Joseph Hwang
 JungSeong (Samuel) Kim
 Noah Kruis
 Marcel Kuiper
 Hannah Ryou Lee

Anthony Matias
 Courtney Mooney-Saldivar
 Katrina J. Olson
 Jennifer L. Palkowski
 Janet Arlene Ryzebol
 Ivan K. Santoso
 Bailey Breanne Sarver
 Sharon R. Smith
 Jason R. Terpstra
 Gale Tien
 Rebecca L. Tjapkes
 Thomas J. Van Wyk
 Nicole Veenkamp
 Jantje Fenna (Femke) Visser-Elenbaas
 Josiah Youngquist

7. That synod reinstate the candidacy of Mr. Ryan Schreiber and Mr. Kristopher Walhout, as described in the Candidacy Committee Supplement, section I, C.
8. That synod endorse the action of the Candidacy Committee in correcting a clerical error regarding the extended candidacy in 2018 for Ms. Nicole Veenkamp.
9. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee in declaration of *need* for the persons listed in the Candidacy Committee Supplement, section II for affiliation under Church Order Article 8.
10. That synod approve the following with regard to the EPMC Task Force report presented in the Appendix to the Candidacy Committee Supplement:
- a. That synod take note of the growth of the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC) and affirm with appreciation the need to evaluate the goals and effectiveness of the program and request that the Candidacy Committee provide an update on the survey and study to Synod 2020.
 - b. That synod encourage delegates to Synod 2019 to complete the EPMC Survey of Delegates that is available on the Synod Site for delegates and advisers. Delegates are requested to complete the survey by June 30, 2019.

V. Dordt University (as of May 13, 2019)

A. *Materials*: Dordt University Report, pp. 377-78

B. *Recommendation*

That synod give praise to God for the Spirit's work at Dordt University. We rejoice with Dordt for the evidence of fruitfulness through the 1,600 students on campus and the alumni scattered around the globe. We rejoice specifically for the Christian vocational and technical

program that was recently instituted. Let us commit to pray for continued effectiveness at developing kingdom citizens serving Christ Jesus, with God helping us.

VI. Institute for Christian Studies

A. *Materials:* Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 379-81

B. *Recommendation*

That synod celebrate the relocation of the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) into the middle of the University of Toronto's downtown St. George campus. We celebrate the highest level of enrollment in the past six years and the recent development of several programs including a partnership with the Christian Teachers Academy of Advance, launching an "Educational Leadership" stream for their M.A program, and offering affordable distance education versions of Master of World View Studies classes.

VII. The King's University

A. *Materials:* The King's University Report, pp. 382-83

B. *Recommendation*

That synod express thanks to God with The King's University's for their student growth, their recommitment to liberal arts, launching of the Justice Fellowship Program, and their struggle with being an accredited Christian university in Canada. We celebrate their 40th year of training students to glorify God and their bringing renewal and reconciliation in Christ's name. We appreciate their efforts to keep the university affordable, and are elated to hear that more than ninety percent of their graduates find meaningful employment after graduation. Together we pray that God will direct their search committee to find a new Vice President of Academic Research who will bring energy, wisdom, and growth.

VIII. Kuyper College

A. *Materials:* Kuyper College Report, pp. 384-85

B. *Recommendation*

That synod celebrate with Kuyper College its 80th anniversary and continued dedication to root its students in a robust knowledge and life application of God's Word. We pray for Kuyper in its efforts to prepare a growing and diverse demographic of students to be globally competent leaders in an innovative and engaging learning community while ensuring long-term financial viability of the college. We express gratitude for the mutually supportive partnership between the CRCNA and Kuyper College in equipping students for service in God's church and world.

IX. Redeemer University College

A. *Materials:* Redeemer University College, pp. 386-87

B. Recommendation

That synod celebrate with Redeemer University College the inauguration of Dr. Robert J. Graham as the university's fourth president. In its final year of a strategic plan the university celebrates programs in media and communications studies, urban and intercultural ministry, a new Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers, and having received a substantial gift to assist students with tuition costs allowing for a 42 percent reduction in tuition for Canadian undergraduate students. We pray for God's continued blessing on Redeemer's Reformed mission and vision to remain vibrant, strong, and relevant for the next generation of students.

X. Trinity Christian College

A. Materials: Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 388-90

B. Recommendation

That synod give praise to God with Trinity Christian College for the strong support from CRCNA congregations. Trinity is grateful for recent highlights like new strategic partnerships, a new campus master plan, as well as impressive rates of graduate employment, graduate school placement, and alumni satisfaction. Also, Trinity celebrates its CPA passage rates and the distinction of having the top-rated B.S.N. program in Illinois. With the abundant opportunities faculty, students, and graduates have in Chicago, Trinity is honored to be in partnership with other Reformed, Christian places of higher education that seek to integrate faith, emotion, and intellect.