

**Council of Delegates Statement of Agreement with the Beliefs
of the
Christian Reformed Church in North America**

We gather as the Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America to deliberate and decide on the issues presented as the COD's agenda. We promise to do this work in obedience to the revealed will of our Lord Jesus Christ and in full agreement with what the congregations of the Christian Reformed Church in North America confess.

We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule for faith and life. We affirm three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we recognize the following Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, adopted by synod as contemporary testimonies: the call for unity, justice, and reconciliation of the Belhar Confession and the witness of *Our World Belongs to God*.

As we deliberate and make decisions consistent with these beliefs, to the best of our ability and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we promise to seek the unity and well-being of the church of Jesus Christ, who prayed that all his own may be one in him (John 17:20-23).

Note: The members of the Council of Delegates or the Christian Reformed Church in North America will rise and read the above statement in unison at the start of the fall meeting of the COD. Each new member will also be required to sign the statement. In addition, nominees to the Council of Delegates will be sent a copy of the statement to ensure that they will be able to sign if appointed.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees
September 25, 2015
Updated July 2017