

ARTICLE 44

The morning session is adjourned at 11:53 a.m. Elder delegate Jose Rayas leads in closing prayer. Delegates close with the singing of the “Doxology.”

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 13, 2007

Eighth Session

ARTICLE 45

Mr. Gary Mulder, director of Faith Alive Christian Resources, introduces Ms. Jolanda Malburg, trainer and consultant for churches, who leads in reading of a litany and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 145, “There Is a Redeemer.” She leads in prayer and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 282, “Song of Hope.”

Mr. Mulder, along with Rev. Leonard Vander Zee, theological editor of Faith Alive, and Rev. Bob DeMoor, *Banner* editor in chief, give an update of the work of Faith Alive through multimedia presentation.

ARTICLE 46

The vice president assumes the chair.

Dr. Peter Borgdorff introduces Rev. Evert Overeem, ecumenical guest from the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, who addresses synod. Dr. Borgdorff responds.

Rev. Bruce Adema introduces Pastor Lawrence B. de los Trinos, fraternal delegate from the Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines, who addresses synod. Rev. Adema responds.

Dr. Philip De Jonge introduces Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, fraternal delegate from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), who addresses synod. Dr. De Jonge responds by offering prayer for the EPC.

Dr. Peter Borgdorff introduces Dr. Kobus J.J. Gerber, fraternal delegate from the Dutch Reformed Church – South Africa, who addresses synod. Dr. Borgdorff responds.

Dr. Borgdorff notes that letters of greeting have been received from the following: the Reformed Churches in South Africa, the Dutch Reformed Church in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), the Reformed Church in Japan, the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, and the Reformed Church in Africa – South Africa.

The vice president offers prayer for the churches represented by these ecumenical guests.

ARTICLE 47

Advisory Committee 9, Third Wave Pentecostalism, elder delegate Bruce A. Hekman reporting, presents the following:

Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism

A. Materials

1. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism Report – Majority Report, including appendices, pp. 331-62; Minority Report, including appendices, pp. 363-88
2. Overture 36, pp. 478-82

B. Observations

The Reformed tradition affirms the Spirit's powerful work in the lives of believers and the corporate life of the church. Yet, the CRC must thoughtfully and seriously test the tenets and practices of the third wave movement against Scripture and our confessional tradition.

The advisory committee is grateful to the Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism for laying the groundwork for assisting our churches in wrestling with the manifestations of the Holy Spirit's work as expressed in the third wave. This advisory committee affirms the gracious openness of the majority report and believes it is the beginning of a thoughtful dialogue concerning a movement that already has significant influence in the denomination. Nevertheless, the advisory committee notes that the study committee's majority report must go further in grounding its recommendations biblically, confessionally, and theologically so that it will become a more useful pastoral tool.

Finally, the advisory committee discussed the concerns raised by the minority report but chose not to adopt its recommendations.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod withhold action on the recommendations of both the majority and minority reports of the Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism.

Grounds:

- a. By not providing sufficient biblical study and theological reflection on key aspects of the third wave movement, both reports fail to adequately fulfill the synodical mandate "to examine the biblical teaching, Reformed confessions, theological implications, and pastoral dimensions related to third wave Pentecostalism (spiritual warfare, deliverance ministries, and so forth), with a view to providing advice to the churches" (*Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 608).
- b. Overture 36 raises significant issues and questions that need to be addressed.

—Adopted

2. That synod recommit the majority report and augment the membership of the majority study committee in order to fulfill the study committee's original mandate, answer the significant issues and questions raised by Overture 36, and report to Synod 2009.

Grounds:

- a. The current majority study committee recognizes the limitations of the majority report and supports this recommendation.
- b. The original study committee reached an impasse that the advisory committee judged could not be bridged.
- c. The majority report needs to:
 - 1) Address the issues and questions raised in Overture 36 in the areas of prophecy, prayer, healing, and spiritual warfare by providing adequate biblical study and theological reflection to ground the affirmations, cautions, and recommendations of the report.

- 2) Incorporate key elements of Report 34 of 1973, and address the relevance of that report to the specifics of the third wave movement.
- 3) Provide a more fully developed biblical-theological rubric (guidelines) to assist pastors and others in the church to exercise discernment when they encounter specific manifestations of the Spirit that could be identified as third wave.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod regard the above recommendations as synod's response to Overture 36.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod add the following people to the reconstituted majority study committee membership re third wave Pentecostalism:

Dr. Carl J. Bosma
Rev. Timothy J. Brown
Rev. Jeff Stam

—*Adopted*

5. That synod dismiss the authors of the minority report with thanks.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 48

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 22.)

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Timothy J. Brown reporting, presents the following:

I. Christian Reformed World Missions

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed World Missions Report, pp. 230-45

B. *Observations*

Dr. Gary J. Bekker, director of Christian Reformed World Missions; Ms. Joy Engelsman, president of World Missions-USA; Mr. Al Karsten, director of North America Ministries; and Rev. John Tenyenhuis, president of World Missions-Canada, met with the advisory committee. The following are highlights of their presentation:

- Christian Reformed World Missions supports and unites the efforts of our churches in the work of intercultural missions.
- World Missions works with many different international partners in church planting and in the development of churches and leaders.
- In the ministry of intercultural missions, World Missions also collaborates with agencies such as CRWRC and The Back to God Hour.
- Great challenges and opportunities for missions exist throughout the world. China was singled out as a country that provides many opportunities and challenges.
- This year, the following missionaries will be retiring after long and faithful service: Gord Buys, John and Jerre De Young, Dick and Margaret

U.S. Board of Pensions

Mr. James Clousing (2008/1), Mr. Ray Vander Weele (2009/2), Mr. Alan Van Noord (2009/1), Mr. William Terpstra (2010/2), Rev. William G. Vis (2010/1).

F. Sermons for Reading Services Committee

Rev. John Kerssies (2008/1), Rev. Gordon Pols (2008/1), Rev. Paul Stadt (2008/1), Rev. Richard J. deLange (2009/1), chairman/secretary.

G. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee

Rev. Henry Jonker (2008/1), Mr. Rudy Gonzalez (2009/2), Dr. Annalee Ward (2009/2), Rev. Emmett A. Harrison (2008/2), Dr. Albert Wolters (2009/1), Rev. Thea Leunk (chair) (2010/2), Dr. Jay J. Shim (2010/2), Dr. Peter Borgdorff (ex officio for the ED), Dr. Paul L. Bremer (staff), Dr. Duane Kelderman (ex officio as the Calvin Seminary representative).

V. Study committees

A. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism II (scheduled to report in 2009)

Rev. Amanda J. Benckhuysen, Dr. Carl J. Bosma, Rev. Timothy J. Brown, Rev. Jeff Stam, Dr. Paul Tameling, Rev. Ray Vander Kooij, Dr. Al Wolters, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra.

B. Committee to Study the Migration of Workers (scheduled to report in 2010)

Dr. Joel Carpenter, Ms. Rose Dekker, Ms. Kathy Hanenburg, Rev. Andrew Narm, Rev. Ramon Orostizaga, Mr. Duane Postma, Mr. Chris Pullenayegem, Ms. Theresa Renkema, Mr. Daniel Vink, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra (ex officio), seminary adviser.

Recommendation: That synod approve the list of the boards and committees.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 79

The president of synod, Rev. Joel R. Boot expresses thanks to his fellow officers—Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis, vice president; Dr. Henry J. Baron, first clerk; and Rev. Jake Kuipers, second clerk—for all the hard work and support that they have given during the past week. He also expresses appreciation to the faculty advisers, ethnic advisers, women advisers, and staff advisers for the important role they play during deliberations. The president gives special recognition to Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director, for his contribution to synod. He thanks Dr. Gaylen Byker and the Calvin College staff for doing a wonderful job of hosting synod. He expresses gratitude to the synod prayer coordinator, the organist, the synod office staff, and the synod news office staff.

The vice president, Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis, expresses thanks on behalf of synod to the president for his leadership during Synod 2007.

The executive director expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

ARTICLE 80

The president emphasizes that it is a privilege to serve synod, especially in this 150th anniversary year. He reads from John 17 and addresses synod re the importance of being one, asking delegates to “remember this room.” He announces Psalter Hymnal 267, “And Can It Be” and leads in closing prayer. Synod is adjourned at 4:07 p.m.