

ARTICLE 35

The chair welcomes Dr. Peter Harkema, director of denominational advancement, who shares information on the Ministry Share Promotion Task Force. The task force surveyed the denomination with the help of outside communications and design assistance. The results show the following: (1) a paradigm shift in financial giving; (2) goals to raise more money in ministry shares and change the attitude to understanding and engagement; (3) the main audience will be church leaders, lead pastors, younger members of the church; (4) shifting the mindset; and (5) theme: You add, God multiplies.

ARTICLE 36

Advisory Committee 9, Faith Formation, Rev. Jacob M. Van de Hoef reporting, presents the following:

I. Faith Formation Committee

A. *Materials*: Faith Formation Committee Report, including Appendices A-D, pp. 541-621, Overtures 26-27, pp. 689-692

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod endorse “Affirming Baptism and Forming Faith” as a guiding document for the work of denominational agencies and congregations in the area of faith formation (*Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 550-69).

Grounds:

- a. The document is consistent with Scripture and the Reformed confessions.
- b. The document has received substantial input from the denomination over the past four years, including a plenary discussion of the document by Synod 2009 and a request from Synod 2010 that congregations review the report and offer feedback to the committee.
- c. The document offers timely perspectives on important challenges facing congregations.

—Adopted

2. That synod adopt the changes to the Church Order and its Supplement as presented (*Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 572-76), with the following editorial changes in Article 59-c and Supplement, Articles 78-81-b (changes noted in italics):

a. Article 59-c

Proposed by Advisory Committee

“Privileges include but are not limited to presentation of children for holy baptism, the right to vote at congregational meetings, and eligibility to hold office.”

b. Supplement, Articles 78-81-b

Proposed by Advisory Committee

“The privileges of confessing membership include but are not limited to *presentation of* children for holy baptism, the right to vote at congregational meetings, and eligibility to hold office.”

Grounds:

- 1) These changes provide for the implementation of the decision of Synod 2010 about age- and ability-appropriate participation in the Lord's Supper.
- 2) These changes have been before the churches for an adequate amount of time, according to the requirements of Church Order Supplement, Article 47-b. Therefore, they can be adopted by Synod 2011.
- 3) These changes acknowledge that while profession of faith is a vital practice for faith formation, neither Scripture nor the confessions require that it take place prior to participation in the Lord's Supper.
- 4) These changes promote a consistency of terminology within the Church Order to guide our churches in their practice of faith formation.
- 5) The editorial changes provide for consistent language in reference to baptism and are supported by the Faith Formation Committee.

—Adopted

- c. Amendment to Article 59-b: Delete the sentence in proposed change to the new Article 59-b: "This public profession of faith includes a commitment to the creeds and confessions of the Christian Reformed Church" (*Agenda for Synod 2011*, p. 573).

—Adopted

3. That synod declare this to be its answer to Overtures 26 and 27.

—Adopted

II. Response to Overture 24: Alter Wording for Church Order Articles Proposed by the Faith Formation Committee

A. *Materials:* Overture 24, p. 688

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 24.

Ground: The concerns raised in the overture regarding requirements for eligibility for office are adequately addressed in Church Order Article 3.

—Adopted

III. Response to Overture 25: Do Not Adopt the Proposed Church Order Supplement, Article 59-c within the Faith Formation Committee Report

A. *Materials:* Overture 25, pp. 688-89

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 25.

Ground: The proposed Church Order Article 59-a refers to profession of faith in age- and ability-appropriate ways. The proposed Church Order Supplement, Article 59-c, refers to the privileges and responsibilities of