

## ARTICLE 70

The morning session adjourns at 12:10 p.m. Rev. William G. Vis (Pacific Northwest) leads in closing prayer.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON, June 16, 2016

### Thirteenth Session

## ARTICLE 71

The afternoon session convenes at 1:20 p.m. Mr. Mark Charles (Doctrine of Discovery Task Force member) leads in opening prayer.

## ARTICLE 72

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 19.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Support Ministry I, Rev. Daniel Zylstra reporting, presents the following:

### I. Doctrine of Discovery Task Force

#### A. Materials

1. Doctrine of Discovery Task Force Report (including Appendices A-B), pp. 475-543
2. Overture 14: Suspend Moving Forward with Adoption of the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force Report, pp. 579-87
3. Communications 1 and 2, pp. 659-62

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Mike Hogeterp, chair, and designated task force members when the report of the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force is addressed.

#### C. Recommendations

1. That synod acknowledge the need for great sensitivity, discernment, and long-term commitment in addressing the legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery, particularly in addressing CRCNA mission work among Indigenous peoples.

—Adopted

2. That synod acknowledge that the existing Doctrine of Discovery is a heresy and we reject and condemn it. It helped shape western culture and led to great injustices.

—Adopted

3. That synod, nevertheless, recognize also the gospel motivation in response to the Great Commission, as well as the love and grace extended over many years by missionaries sent out by the CRCNA to the Indigenous peoples of Canada and the United States. For this we give God thanks, and honor their dedication.

—Adopted

4. That synod recognize the pain of those who suffered from their experiences in the residential schools of the United States and Canada, including Rehoboth Christian School, and lament any of our mistakes that caused pain.  
—*Adopted*
5. That synod affirm the actions of Rehoboth Christian School in publishing its “Statement of Confession and Reconciliation” upon its 100th anniversary, and its promises and fulfillment of promises to serve well the diverse community in McKinley County, New Mexico.  
—*Adopted*
6. That synod celebrate the current culture at the Rehoboth Christian School, the Zuni Christian Mission School, and our Urban Aboriginal Ministries along with the many stories of renewal, transformation, grace, and cultural exchange as together God’s people remain committed to mutual learning, encouragement, and healing.  
—*Adopted*
7. That synod direct the executive director to work with the appropriate agencies and offices in committing the CRC to walk alongside affected parties, listen to their stories, lament, and weep with them until such time as we can “walk in beauty together.”  
—*Adopted*
8. That synod affirm initial actions for justice and reconciliation of the CRC in Canada that are already in process:
  - the public acknowledgment of “systemic evils behind colonialism,” the confession of the CRC’s “sins of assimilation and paternalism,” and the commitment to live “into a sacred call of unity and reconciliation,” as expressed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada.
  - follow-up initiatives on the calls to action of the TRC.—*Adopted*
9. That synod direct the executive director, working in conjunction with denominational agencies to consider a denomination-wide annual Day of Justice for the purpose of coming together as a body of Christ to recognize the plight of those who are oppressed, marginalized, and suffer in a culture of discrimination. On this day, people of the Christian Reformed Church would come together to confess, lament, and listen to the stories of those who have experienced pain at the hands of others, read the Belhar Confession, and then open the doors to promoting just solutions to the problems created by the evils of racism. Through this Day of Justice, as the body of Christ, we would resolve to transform our world, seek to change hearts through Christ’s redeeming love, and promote the welfare of our brothers and sisters who cry out for justice.  
—*Adopted*
10. That synod declare this to be its response to the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force report, Overture 14, and Communications 1 and 2.  
—*Adopted*
11. That synod dismiss the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force with thanks.  
—*Adopted*