

C. *Recommendation*

That synod designate up to 100 percent of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 2017 as housing allowance for United States income-tax purposes (IRS Ruling 1.107-1) but only to the extent that the pension is used to rent or provide a home.

Ground: This meets the requirements of the IRS Code and is declared annually by synod.

—Adopted

III. Response to Overture 11: Add Harvest USA to the List of CRCNA-Recommended Agencies

A. *Materials:* Overture 11, pp. 573-74

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 11.

Ground: While aspects of Harvest USA's ministry are good and are needed, their bylaws (Article III) express a view of homosexuality that is in conflict with the CRC position (*Acts of Synod 1973*, pp. 50-53).

—Tabled

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 81.)

ARTICLE 45

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Schoon reporting, presents the following:

Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty

A. *Materials:* Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty Report, pp. 444-74

B. *Privilege of the floor:* Kevin R. den Dulk, chair, and other members of the committee

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod encourage each congregation to appoint a prayer coordinator or team who will keep up on religious persecution and religious liberty issues, advise officebearers about developments, and foster regular prayer for people suffering religious persecution.

—Adopted

2. That synod direct the Board of Trustees to instruct the Office of Social Justice to continue and expand the practice of urging every congregation to participate in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, devoting worship services that day to the pressing issue of religious persecution.

—Adopted

3. That synod instruct the EIRC and direct the BOT to instruct World Renew and the Centre for Public Dialogue to consider their work with interfaith

and refugee groups and to strategize ways in which to communicate about the injustice of persecution with the rest of the denomination.

—Adopted

4. That synod direct the BOT to ask the Office of Social Justice (OSJ) to ensure the collection and distribution of up-to-date information about religious persecution and liberty to CRC congregations and to those who join the OSJ network.

—Adopted

5. That synod accept this report as fulfilling the mandate of the Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty and dismiss the committee with thanks for their work.

—Adopted

6. That synod encourage all members of the Christian Reformed Church to actively live out their love for God and for others in every area of life, despite the relative threat of persecution.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 46

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Jonathan L. Spronk reporting, presents the following:

Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections II, A, 5, 12-14), pp. 26, 30-31
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section I, D, including Appendix B)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Ms. Katherine M. Vandergrift, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the Board for synodical deputies and alternate synodical deputies (II, A, 5), as well as to the agency boards as needed.

—Adopted

2. That synod adopt the report of the Committee Reviewing Church Order Articles 82-84 and their Supplements and its recommendations as outlined in the following (BOT Supplement section I, D and Appendix B):

- a. That synod adopt the following proposed changes to the Church Order and Its Supplements:

Proposed changes to Supplement, Articles 82-84

New sections a and b, indicated by italics (the former sections a-g would remain unchanged and would be relettered as sections c-i):

- a. *An administrative leave may be imposed without prejudice by the council in order to investigate allegations of deviation from sound doctrine*