

THURSDAY MORNING, June 16, 2005
Eleventh Session

ARTICLE 59

Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr., announces *Sing! A New Creation* 42, “We Bow Down” and *Psalter Hymnal* 410, “Crown Him with Many Crowns.” He introduces Rev. Gerald Erffmeyer, pastor of Orland Park CRC, Orland Park, Illinois. Rev. Erffmeyer reads from 1 Kings 18 and addresses synod regarding “God Still Answers Prayer.” He leads delegates in a time of prayer.

Rev. Hamstra announces *Sing! A New Creation* 175, “I Believe in God Almighty.”

ARTICLE 60

The roll indicates that all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 61

Advisory Committee 10, Restorative Justice, Rev. Joel E. Kok reporting, presents the following:

I. Committee to Study Restorative Justice

A. *Materials*: Committee to Study Restorative Justice Report including the Appendix, pp. 529-65

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. John De Vries, Dr. Clayton Libolt, and Ms. Gail Rice.
—*Granted*
2. That synod affirm the justice principles listed in section IV, A of the Restorative Justice report. (We note an editorial change that IV, A, 5, b should begin by saying “Take seriously the harm done to the victim. . . .”)
—*Adopted*
3. That synod call our churches to preach and teach restorative justice as a biblical perspective and to apply the principles of restorative justice to the problems of crime in our communities and countries.
—*Adopted*
4. That synod encourage the active participation of churches and church members in restorative justice efforts in order to restore and reconcile victims and offenders where possible, and to effect, as far as possible, the establishment of justice for all members of our societies.
—*Adopted*
5. That synod ask the Board of Trustees to request that the denominational Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action work with CRC Publications and our educational institutions, including Calvin Theological Seminary, to provide materials and create opportunities for our members to learn the practices and principles of restorative justice (including the maintenance of a suitable website) so that they can better witness to and work within our societies to promote and practice restorative justice.
—*Adopted*

6. That synod commend current efforts of churches, classes, and denominational agencies for planting churches and ministering in low-income areas and recommend increased efforts in these areas.
—*Adopted*
7. That synod request the Board of Trustees to recruit through the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action a limited number of regional restorative justice representatives and that these representatives inform and encourage restorative justice efforts in churches and individuals and that these representatives periodically come together for encouragement and planning.
—*Adopted*
8. That synod request the Board of Trustees to give serious consideration to allocating the needed resources to develop a vital restorative justice capacity within the CRC.
—*Adopted*
9. That synod urge congregations, schools, denominational offices, other Christian institutions, and homes to employ restorative justice practices.
—*Adopted*
10. That synod dismiss the committee with thanks.
—*Adopted*
11. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 19 and Communication 2.
—*Adopted*

II. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*

1. BOT Report Appendix B, pp. 46-52; Clarification of Membership and Organized Status of Congregations
2. BOT Supplement II, C, G, and Appendix A

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the following criteria, to be used by classes when they grant organized status to a congregation (Church Order Article 38-b), and that they become Church Order Supplement, Article 38-b:
 - a. Ordinarily the congregation shall have been in existence at least three years.
—*Adopted*
 - b. Ordinarily the congregation shall have seventy-five or more active confessing members.
—*Defeated*
 - c. The congregation shall include a sufficient number of members who meet the biblical requirements for church office and are committed to use their personal and spiritual gifts in providing leadership and support to the congregation and its ministry.
—*Adopted*