

Sixth Session

ARTICLE 31

The afternoon session convenes at 1:15 p.m. Mr. Nicholas Chuba, young adult representative, leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 32

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 29.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Greg S. Janke reporting, presents the following:

I. Board of Trustees

A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections I, A-C; II, A, 1-15, 17-18, 20-23; B, 1, 4; Appendices A-D), pp. 21-34, 36, 42-72
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections I, A-F, including Appendices A-B)

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Sheila E. Holmes, chair of the Board of Trustees; Rev. Joel R. Boot, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Darren C. Roorda as Canadian ministries director, effective August 4, 2014 (BOT Supplement section I, E).
—Adopted
2. That synod express its thanks to Mr. Ben Vandezande for his faithful service as interim Canadian ministries director.

—Adopted

II. Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture

A. Materials: Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture report (including Appendices A-C), pp. 351-80

B. Privilege of the floor: Rev. Joel R. Boot, chair, and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, reporter

C. Recommendation

That synod allow up to thirty minutes to hear an update report from members of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture and, in addition, allow up to thirty minutes for a guided table discussion on the TFRSC report during a plenary session to be determined by the officers of synod.

—Granted

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 40.)

ARTICLE 44

The president of synod welcomes the candidates to Synod 2014. Rev. David Koll, director of the Candidacy Committee, presents the 2014 candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church. (Names in **bold** print indicate those present at Synod 2014; names in *italics* indicate those not present.)

Bradley J. Bierma

Richard C. Boomsma

Richard J. Braaksma

Daniel S. De Graff

Adrian R. de Lange

Nevada L. DeLapp

Jonathan H. DeRuiter

Paul D. DeWeerd

Woodrow P. Dixon

Jun K. Eo

Joseph M. Groeneveld

Robert J. Gruessing

Patrick N. Guarracino

Byung Soo (Paul) Han

Gareth P. Harker

Ryan Hoogerbrugge

Erik W. Kamp

T. Brent Kladder

Joel H. Klingenberg

Michelle J. Kool

Jeremy D. Kreuze

Victor S. Laarman

Mark E. Langenbach

C. Gregg Lawson

Dae J. Lee

Ezra Lee

Samuel Y. Lee

Timothy Leferink

John C. Medendorp

Dena E. Meyerink

Brady Mulder

Cornelius M. Muasa

Michael D. Nanninga

Brent W. Pollema

David A. Reynolds

Kyle D. Sanford

Kurt C. Schaefer

Sarah E. Schreiber

Paula S. Seales

Eunchong (David) Shin

Evan D. Steensma

Jay E. Stringer

Lesli L. van Milligen

Cory L. Van Sloten

Dayna J. Vreeken

Albert K. Wu

Luke B. Wynja

Leo H. Yoon

Andrew D. Zylstra

Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, addresses the candidates and delegates about the stories that are represented by all the candidates. He shares a passage from John 15:4 and encourages candidates to remember “who” they are and “whose” they are—“remain in God, and he will remain in you.”

Delegates respond by singing “There’s No God as Great” followed by a Litany of Celebration and Dedication (taken from Psalm 118:23, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, 1 Peter 2:9, Romans 12:36, Heidelberg Catechism Q and A 1 and 32, and the Contemporary Testimony, para. 1, 56) and the singing of “Day by Day.” President Greenway offers prayer, and the celebration concludes with singing “God Be with You Till We Meet Again.”

ARTICLE 45

Vice president Jake Kuipers assumes the role of chair.

As adopted by synod, Rev. R. Scott Greenway and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, members of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture, give a presentation and provide an update on the work of the task force. Delegates participate in a time of table conversation regarding the report of

the task force as found in the *Agenda for Synod*, to provide feedback to the task force in its work.

ARTICLE 46

The morning session adjourns at 11:46 a.m. Rev. Doug MacLeod (Grand Rapids East) leads in closing prayer.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 17, 2014

Ninth Session

ARTICLE 47

The afternoon session convenes at 1:20 p.m. The vice president assumes the role of chair.

The fraternal delegate from the Reformed Churches in Argentina, Mr. Gustavo García Escardó, addresses synod and expresses gratitude for being a part of Synod 2014.

Rev. Jay Pruim (Grandville) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 48

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 40.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Greg S. Janke reporting, presents the following:

Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture

A. *Materials*: Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture Report (including Appendices A-C), pp. 351-80

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Joel R. Boot, chair, and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, reporter

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod recommend this report to the churches and, in particular, the “range of proposals” presented in section VII for further discussion and discernment within the church, its agencies, boards, and planning groups. This discussion and discernment will occur in the coming year, led by the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture, and continuing to incorporate the Five Streams (*Agenda for Synod 2014*, p. 375). A final proposal will be presented to Synod 2015.

—Adopted

2. That synod ask the Board of Trustees to explore the development of a nominating committee that would not only identify potential persons to serve on denominational boards/committees but also keep a list of persons who have served previously on denominational boards and advisory committees.

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: Glenn Palmer (Hackensack).

3. That synod ask the Board of Trustees to explore the opportunity to train all board members, including the present Board of Trustees, in board governance—policy development, strategic planning, decision-making, and models of governance.

—Adopted

4. That synod thank Mr. Terry Vander Aa and Mrs. Jane Vander Haagen for their service on the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture from 2011 until 2013. Both of these individuals resigned from the task force because of personal health matters that arose. We are glad to report that both have experienced a measure of healing and improved health.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 49

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 15.)

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Douglas N. Bratt reporting, presents the following:

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

A. *Materials*

1. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report, including Appendices A-E, pp. 255-86
2. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Ms. Rebecca Warren (chair), Rev. Joel R. Boot, and Dr. Peter Borgdorff

C. *Recommendations*

1. That Synod 2014 express its gratitude to Rev. Peter Slofstra and Ms. Rebecca Warren for serving the cause of ecumenicity for the CRC.

—Adopted

2. That Synod 2014 approve the following amendment to the Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers with the RCA to be reflected in Church Order Supplement, Article 8, D, 7 (proposed change indicated by *italics*):

Approval for extended service must be done in consultation with and with the concurrence of the sending body. (In the CRC, the sending body is the calling church council; in the RCA, it is the classis holding the pastor's membership.) The minister remains accountable to the sending body for continuation of ministerial status. *In the event of termination of a call, the polity of the calling church shall be followed, in consultation with the sending church.*

Grounds:

1. There have been situations recently in which clarification of procedure for a separation of an RCA pastor from a CRC congregation was needed.
2. The original 2005 Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers—Christian Reformed Church in North America and Reformed

IV. Service committees

A. Candidacy Committee

Rev. Melvin Jackson (2015/2), Rev. Joel Kok (2015/1), Ms. Kristin Pikaart (2015/2), Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma (2016/2), Dr. LaVerne Jordan (2016/1), Rev. Ken Koeman (2016/2), Rev. Fernando Valencia (2016/1), Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen (2017/2), Rev. Chang Guk (Joseph) Byun (2017/1), Rev. David R. Koll (staff), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (*ex officio* as ED), Rev. Julius T. Medenblik (*ex officio* as Calvin Theological Seminary representative).

B. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Committee

Mr. Scott K. Ritsema (2015/1), Mr. Jon Swets (2015/2), Ms. Chery De Boer (2016/1), Mr. Kenneth J. Stienstra (2016/1), Ms. Andrea P. Kaarsten (2017/2), Mr. Thomas J. Sinke (2017/2), Mr. David E. Veen (*ex officio* member).

C. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

Rev. Karen Norris (2015/1), Dr. James Payton (2015/1), Dr. Shirley Roels (2015/2), Dr. Robert Sweetman (2015/1), Rev. Emmett Harrison (2016/1), Mr. Anthony Elenbaas (2016/1), Ms. Debra Vasquez (2016/2), Rev. Jay Shim (2017/2), Rev. Andrew E. Beunk (2017/1), Ms. Sharon Jim (2017/1), Dr. Peter Borgdorff (*ex officio* member), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (*ex officio* member), Dr. Darren C. Roorda (*ex officio* member).

D. Historical Committee

Dr. Robert Schoone-Jongen (2015/1), Rev. Paul Bremer (2016/1), Dr. Kristin Kobes DuMez (2016/1), Dr. Lyle Bierma (2017/2), Dr. Richard Harms, secretary (*ex officio*).

E. Judicial Code Committee

Ms. Deb De Jong (2015/2), Mr. Joel P. Hoekstra (2015/2), Mr. Charles C. Adams (2016/2), Ms. Rita Buitendorp (2016/1), Mr. Ron Nightingale (2016/1), Dr. John Van Schepen (2016/2), Mr. Joel D. Vos (2016/1), Ms. Laura B. Bakker (2017/2), Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg (2017/1).

F. Ministers' Pension Funds committees

Canadian Pension Trustees

Mr. Henry Eygenraam (2015/1), Ms. MaryAnn Kokan-Nyhof (2015/1), Rev. Kevin te Brake (2015/2), Mr. Keith Oosthoek (2016/2), Ms. Cynthia Stutski (2016/1).

U.S. Board of Pensions

Mr. Jack Byeman (2015/2), Mr. Thomas Dykhous (2015/1), Mr. Kurt Knoll (2015/2), Rev. Joel Sheeres (2016/1), Mr. Howard Van Mersbergen (2016/2).

G. Sermons for Reading Services Committee

Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins (2015/2), Rev. John H. Noordhof (2016/1), Rev. Kory Plockmeyer (2017/1), Rev. Colin Vander Ploeg (2017/1).

V. Synodical study committees and task forces

A. Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture (scheduled to report in 2015)

Dr. Calvin J. Aardsma, Rev. R. Scott Greenway, Ms. Tammy Heidbuurt, Mrs. Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, Mr. Peter Meerveld,

Mr. William Terpstra, Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, Ms. Katherine Vandergrift, Mr. Colin Watson, Rev. Joel R. Boot (chair).

B. Task Force to Study the Offices of Elder and Deacon (scheduled to report in 2015)

Ms. Amanda Bakale, Rev. Roy Berkenbosch, Dr. Henry De Moor, Dr. Chris Ganski, Mr. Rudy Gonzalez, Dr. Calvin Hoogendoorn, Dr. George Monsma, Rev. Nick Monsma, Ms. Rosetta Polk-Pugh, Dr. Mick Vanden Bosch, Mr. Terry Woodnorth, Mr. Andy Ryskamp (staff).

C. Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty (scheduled to report in 2016)

Prof. Jane Bruin, Dr. Kevin den Dulk, Dr. Rob Joustra, Rev. Jonathan Kim, Ms. Cele Mereness, Dr. James Payton, Jr., Mr. Stephen Snow, Rev. Naji Umran, Rev. Ken Van De Griend, Ms. Ruth Veltkamp.

D. Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance re Same-sex Marriage (scheduled to report in 2016)

Rev. Rolf Bouma, Mr. Joseph Bowman, Ms. Jessica Driesenga, Ms. Wendy Gritter, Dr. John Rottman, Ms. Julia Smith, Dr. Karl Van Harn, Mr. Curtis Witte.

E. Doctrine of Discovery Task Force (scheduled to report in 2016)

Ms. Carissa Bakker-Johnson, Mr. Mark Charles, Mr. Mike Hogeterp (chair), Mr. Steve Kabetu, Mr. Harold Roscher, Ms. Susie Silversmith, Mr. Peter Vander Meulen.

VI. Recommendation

That synod approve the list of boards and committees.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 73

Rev. Reinier Noppers, fraternal delegate from the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, shares parting words as he prepares to return home.

ARTICLE 74

The afternoon session adjourns at 5:15 p.m. Rev. Cornelius Pool (California South) leads in closing prayer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 18, 2014

Thirteenth Session

ARTICLE 75

Synod resumes at 7:05 p.m. Elder delegate Dickson Corro (Toronto) leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 76

The president of synod, Rev. R. Scott Greenway, on behalf of synod expresses thanks to his fellow officers: Rev. Jake Kuipers, Rev. John Tenyenhuus, and Rev. Jerome Burton. He thanks Mr. Lowell Olivier-Shaw