

*Grounds:*

- a. This explains the expectations of the relationship between our churches.
- b. Memorandums of Understanding have become the preferred way for denominations to formalize their relationships.

—Adopted

5. That synod approve the “Common Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Baptism” (*Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 354-55). (Appendix B will reflect the changed signatory as Rev. Joel R. Boot, Interim Executive Director.)

*Grounds:*

- a. The “Common Agreement” officially affirms a longstanding CRC practice of recognizing the validity of Roman Catholic baptisms (see Church Order Article 58; *Acts of Synod 1944*, p. 351).
- b. The CRC, by entering into this “Common Agreement,” would help testify to and remind us that we are baptized members not first of all of the CRC but of the “one holy catholic church.”

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: Doug Shank (Lake Superior).

6. That synod encourage CRC congregations to use the language of the common “Certificate of Baptism” (*Agenda for Synod 2011*, p. 356) in the issue of all future baptismal certificates.

*Grounds:*

- a. “Compatibility in the form and content of these [certificates] would be a sign of ecumenical cooperation and a safeguard of the validity of what we celebrate together as Christians” (“These Living Waters”).
- b. Use of this common certificate would remove unnecessary obstacles when Roman Catholics join the Christian Reformed Church or vice-versa.

—Adopted

7. That synod receive “These Living Waters” (*Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 357-440) as an ecumenical document on baptism and recommend it to the churches for further study and reflection.

*Grounds:*

- a. These documents have been prepared through extensive dialogue between representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and representatives of the CRC and other Reformed churches.
- b. These documents offer detailed study of convergences and divergences between Roman Catholic and Reformed views of baptism.

—Adopted

8. That synod receive “This Bread of Life” (*Agenda for Synod 2011*, pp. 440-510) as an ecumenical document on the Lord’s Supper and recommend it to the churches for further study and reflection.