

Third Wave Pentecostalism II

A. Materials

1. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism II Report (majority report, including Appendices A-C), pp. 335-405
2. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism II Report (minority report, including Appendix A), pp. 393-99, 406-32
3. Communication 2, pp. 469-70; Overture 6, Supplemental materials

B. Observations

We gratefully acknowledge the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and affirm that all the Spirit's work is for God's glory and purpose. We also recognize that misuses of spiritual gifts and charismatic ministries sometimes cause pain, and therefore we greatly appreciate the pastoral wisdom of these reports. Both stand on the shoulders of Report 34 of the *Acts of Synod 1973* and provide valuable insight into what is commonly known as the third wave of the Holy Spirit movement. They fundamentally agree on far more than they differ.

Though there are hermeneutical differences in approach, both reports are valuable resources for engaging this movement. The minority report takes a more cautious approach. It accepts only the Spirit's work and ministry expressions as described in Scripture. The majority report is willing to consider the Spirit's work and ministry expressions not found in Scripture, so long as they do not contradict Scripture.

In their discussions, both reports affirm that prophecy is a human articulation of God's revelation. The reports differ on whether gifts of prophecy as discussed in the New Testament are identical with the gifts of prophecy as discussed in the third wave movement.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Jeff Stam, reporter, when the report on Third Wave Pentecostalism is discussed.

Ground: Ray Vander Kooij, reporter for the committee, is unable to attend.

—*Granted*

2. That synod provide the following counsel to the churches regarding the contemporary Christian renewal movement known as the third wave:
 - a. Gratefully accept all the ways in which the Holy Spirit manifests his work in this movement for God's glory, notably in demonstrating the present reality of the spiritual gifts (charismata) recorded in Scripture and of being filled with the Holy Spirit in different ways and on multiple occasions.

—*Adopted*

- b. Beware of any tendency to make dramatic emotional or miraculous experiences the center of the Christian life, to underplay the foundational value of the fruit of the Spirit in sanctification, to restrict the things of the Spirit to charismatic phenomena, or to minimize the positive way God uses suffering for our good.

—*Adopted*

- c. Acknowledge the gift of prophecy today, subject to the overriding authority of Scripture and the discernment of the Christian body.

A motion carries to table Recommendation 2, c of the majority report to consider the following recommendation of the Third Wave Pentecostalism minority report, Rev. Timothy Brown, reporting:

That synod insert the following in place of section VI, B, 3 in the majority report: Note that it is not clear that what the third wave calls the gift of prophecy is indeed the gift of prophecy described in the New Testament. Urge that whenever a believer claims to have received a message or “leading” from God, he or she should search the Scriptures and seek the counsel of fellow believers before acting on it.

—*Defeated*

Synod returns to consideration of Recommendation 2, c of the majority report.

- c. Acknowledge the gift of prophecy today, subject to the overriding authority of Scripture and the discernment of the Christian body.

—*Adopted*

- d. Beware of any claim to prophecy that goes beyond Scripture, that does not respect the authority of the church leadership, or that fosters dis-sension rather than loving edification.

—*Adopted*

- e. Be fervent in prayer and expect God to do great things as a result. Think of prayer as a dialogue, not a monologue, and be attentive to what God is saying as you pray.

—*Adopted*

- f. Accept with gratitude that God continues to give physical and emotional healing in response to prayer, both through his gift of medical science, and through medically inexplicable ways. At the same time, accept that when God, in his sovereignty, does not heal, he manifests his love in and through suffering and death. Such present healing points us to the complete healing Christ accomplished and will bring to fullness at his return.

—*Adopted*

- g. Beware of misuses associated with healing ministries, since they detract from God’s glory and hold potential for doing great damage. Avoid healing techniques that fail to recognize the multifaceted nature of the brokenness and the context of specific suffering.

—*Adopted*

- h. Acknowledge the reality of the believer’s warfare against his or her sinful nature, temptations of the world, and demonic powers. With discernment and caution, be willing to engage in scripturally sound deliverance ministry against demonic powers in the authority and name of Jesus Christ.

—*Adopted*

- i. Affirm that the Apostolic Office, which belongs to the foundational period of the church, gave rise to the canonical writings of the New

Testament. Reject all claims of contemporary leaders to this Apostolic Office.

—Adopted

3. That synod receive both reports of the study committee and recommend them to the churches for study and discussion.

—Adopted

4. That synod declare the work of the committee completed and dismiss the committee with thanks.

—Adopted

5. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 6 and Communication 2.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 40

The evening session is adjourned at 8:13 p.m. Rev. Vorise (Jake) L. Jacobs leads in closing prayer.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 17, 2009

Seventh Session

ARTICLE 41

Elder delegate Emily R. Brink leads in singing *Sing! A New Creation* 4, vv. 1-3, "Come, All You People." Ms. Emma Matson reads from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Dr. Brink announces *Psalter Hymnal* 486, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing." Rev. John A. Algera leads in prayer. Rev. Andrew C.S. Narm reads 1 Corinthians 12:12-20, and delegates join in singing *Sing!* 179, "Somos Uno en Cristo/We Are One in Christ Jesus." Dr. Brink leads in *Sing!* 226, "Psalm 116" (responsive reading). Ms. Betty Palmore leads in singing *Sing!* 227, vv. 1-2, "I Love the Lord." Rev. Emmett A. Harrison reads from Ephesians 2:14-22, and delegates respond with *Sing!* 177, vv. 1-4, "O Christ, the Great Foundation." Mr. John Sebestyen and Mr. Dan Diephouse present a dramatic reading combining selections from Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4-5. The time of worship concludes with the singing of *Psalter Hymnal* 249, v. 1, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

The roll indicates that the following delegates are absent: Edward H. Gerber (Atlantic Northeast), Derek Van Dalen (Arizona), E. Corinne Meeks (Central California), Bruce A. Persenaire (Central California), Nancy J. Kwasteniet (Chicago South), Sarah H. Cook (Eastern Canada), Leonard T. Riemersma (Lake Erie), Theo Verbeek (Lake Erie), David A. Zylstra (Minnkota), and Norman Chee (Red Mesa). Bert Slofstra (B.C. South-East) had to leave to return home for a funeral.

ARTICLE 42

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 35.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services 1, Rev. Paul R. De Vries reporting, presents the following: