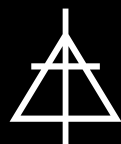




# ACTS OF SYNOD 2004



CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED  
CHURCH

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# ACTS OF SYNOD 2004

June 12-17, 2004  
Fine Arts Center Auditorium  
Calvin College  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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The *Acts of Synod 2004* contains the following:

- Supplementary reports of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and those agencies and committees authorized to file them
- Supplementary overtures and communications to synod re matters completed at a spring classis meeting
- Financial reports
- The minutes of Synod 2004
- An index

It will be necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 2004* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2004* at hand for ready reference. The *Agenda* is not reprinted in the *Acts*. The pagination continues from the *Agenda* to the *Acts*. Supplementary materials begin on page 451, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 511. Minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 533. The index references both volumes; the numbers in boldface type refer to pages in the minutes of Synod 2004.

May all who read the reports of the ministries and study committee and the minutes of Synod 2004 discover the ways in which the Lord is leading the Christian Reformed Church in North America and give him thanks for its many opportunities to minister in the areas of education, missions, mercy, publications, and pastoral care.

David H. Engelhard, general secretary

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPLEMENT

## I. Polity matters

### A. Interim appointments

1. The Board of Trustees approved on behalf of synod the following appointees chosen by their respective classes to serve as delegates to the denominational boards:

Board	Classis	Member	Alternate	Term
Synodical Deputies	Arizona		Rev. Paul J. Van Dyken	
	Central California	Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra	Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire	2007(1)
	Hackensack	Rev. Clair Vander Neut	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	2006(1)
	Heartland		Rev. David L. Heilman	
	Illiana		Rev. Gerrit Veenstra	
	Kalamazoo		Rev. Hendrik De Vries	
	Minnkota	Rev. Lee G. Christoffels	Rev. William D. Vis	2007(1)
	Northcentral Iowa	Rev. Frank E. Pott		2007(1)
	Northern Michigan	Rev. Robert D. Steen		2007(1)
	Southeast U.S.		Rev. Lawrence J. Howerzyl	
CRC Publications	Northcentral Iowa Northern Illinois	Mr. Paul Delger	Rev. Matthew D. Ooms Mrs. Mae Cooper	2007(1)
Home Missions	Columbia Illiana Lake Superior	Mr. Gerald Vrieling Mr. Harley Ver Beek		2007(1) 2006(2)
			Rev. David J. Swinney	
World Missions	Atlantic Northeast Heartland Illiana Southeast U.S.	Mr. Paul Theule Mr. Byron Noordewier Rev. Eric Schering Rev. Manny Bersach	Rev. Nathan De Vries Rev. Gary Schipper Mrs. Kathy Boldenow	2007(1) 2007(1) 2007(1) 2007(1)
CRWRC	Illiana Thornapple Valley	Mr. Dan Zandstra Mr. Chris Van Spronsen	Ms. Mary Dornbos Mr. Lee De Vries	2005(1) 2007(1)

### B. Board of Trustees membership

1. Trustees whose terms expire in 2004:

District	Member	Alternate
At-large (Canada)	Mrs. Verney Kho	Mrs. Patricia Storteboom
At-large (U.S.)	Mrs. Mamie Thomas	Mrs. Cindy Vander Kodde
Region 11	Rev. Calvin D. Compagner	(Vacant)

## 2. Words of thanks

Words of thanks are in order for Mr. Paul Dozeman, Mr. Hessel Kielstra, Rev. Al Machiela, Mr. Enno Meijers, Rev. Robert J. Timmer, and Rev. Bart Velthuizen, who are completing their first terms of service on the Board; for Mrs. Verney Kho who is completing her first term but is not able to serve a second term due to her move to China; for Rev. James C. Dekker who moved out of his region; for Rev. Calvin D. Compagner who served one year to complete the term of another; and for Mrs. Mamie Thomas who is completing her second term. We recognize with gratitude the contribution these members have made and thank them for the many hours they have given to the service of Christ and his church as members of the Board.

### C. *Women advisers to synod*

In addition to the women advisers named in the *Agenda for Synod 2004*, the Board has also appointed the following to serve at synod:

Dr. Nell DeBoer  
Mrs. Marlys Popma  
Mrs. Beth Ripmeester

### D. *Supplement for Church Order Article 15*

Synod 2003 adopted a recommendation from the trustees of the Ministers' Pension Funds (MPF) that required many churches to alter both the way in which they needed to pay to the MPF and the amount they needed to pay to the MPF. Synod adopted the following:

That synod amend the plan so that all organized churches be required to pay church assessments determined at an amount per professing member age 18 and older, or, if greater, the direct costs of their "first or only" pastor's participation in the plan. For first or only pastors serving organized churches, the grant of credited service in the plan would be conditioned on timely payment of amounts billed. This change is to be effective January 1, 2004 (see *Agenda for Synod 2003*, pp. 211-13).

Church assessment amounts per active, confessing member age 18 and over and the direct costs of participation will continue to be determined annually by the pension trustees based on actuarial and other information available to them.

(*Acts of Synod 2003*, p. 600)

The report submitted to Synod 2003 by the pension trustees discussed a number of reasons why these changes were necessary (see *Agenda for Synod 2003*, pp. 206-12). Since the conclusion of Synod 2003, the pension trustees have had numerous occasions to explain synod's action and to help churches understand the need for consistent and full funding of the pension. The pension funds' report to Synod 2003 alerted the churches to several implications of the changes, including the following:

The proposed change would require employers (organized churches) to assume responsibility for payment of the retirement-related cost of employing an ordained minister. At present, such employers are responsible for all other costs of employment, including salaries, allowances, medical insurance, and employment-related taxes. As mentioned before, emerging churches are already responsible for payment of all employment-related costs, including the cost of retirement.

(*Agenda for Synod 2003*, p. 212)

The discussion that has ensued in the churches has indicated that some (maybe many) councils do not clearly understand the extent of their responsi-

bilities for providing proper support for their ministers. Church Order Article 15 articulates the basic principle when it says: “Each church through its council shall provide for the proper support of its minister(s).” That principle is not expanded upon, and there seems to be some serious differences of opinion as to what is included.

The Board of Trustees is recommending that an interpretative statement regarding the meaning of “proper support” be included in a Supplement to Church Order Article 15. The Board of Trustees recommends:

That synod adopt the following statement and append it to Church Order Article 15 as a supplement:

Proper support of a church’s minister is to include an adequate salary, medical insurance, a housing provision, payment to the denomination’s ministers’ pension plan, a continuing education stipend, and other employment-related items.

*Grounds:*

1. This will assist classes and their church counselors in advising the congregations regarding proper support for a minister.
2. This will assist churches in knowing which employment-related expenses they are expected to pay.
3. This will assist pastors so that they are not required to negotiate yearly regarding which elements need to be part of their support package.

*E. Revision to Church Order Article 84*

The Church Order is an invaluable tool to the assemblies of the Christian Reformed Church. As weighty issues come before councils, classes, and synod, the Church Order provides biblical teaching, sound advice, and practical guidelines. Church leaders rely on the Church Order because they place a high value on conducting church life in a “fitting and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14:40). Furthermore, church leaders have learned the importance of adhering to the Church Order to ensure a consistent response that could mitigate the risk of personal and church liability.

In the past, when the church grew more aware of a specific problem, revisions to the Church Order may have been necessary to facilitate the church’s response. Here is a recent example. Synod 1998 approved the “Guidelines for the Suspension and/or Deposition of Ministers of the Word” after a previous synod requested new guidelines “against a background of increasing numbers of separations and a lack of clear guidance for councils, church visitors, and pastors when there are suspensions and/or depositions.” These added guidelines have assisted numerous councils, church visitors, classes, and pastors with wise pastoral and ecclesiastical advice when the matter of suspension or deposition arose in a congregation.

Today, as the church’s awareness of the dynamics of sexual misconduct grows, the church is becoming more concerned about its pastoral response and its legal responsibilities in misconduct situations. Assemblies seek out the Church Order for guidance. Council members, pastors, and church visitors have requested guidance when responding to questions of whether or not to reinstate an officebearer found guilty of sexual misconduct. The assemblies want to trust that consistent application of the Church Order will facilitate

healing and restoration to those affected by the sin of sexual misconduct, thereby bringing further glory to God.

Presently, Church Order Article 84 deals with the reinstatement to office of those officebearers who have been suspended or deposed. The Church Order and the *Manual for Christian Reformed Church Government* address the following conditions to consider:

- Sufficient evidence of genuine repentance from the behavior that led to suspension and deposition.
- A determination of whether the sinful behavior of the past hinders the deposed person from effective service.
- Evidence that a return to service is both glorifying to God and in the true welfare of the church.

When the issue that led to deposition is sexual misconduct by an officebearer, the above conditions may not be sufficient when considering a request for reinstatement. While genuine sorrow and remorse may be expressed by a sexual offender, sexual offenders often lack empathy for their victim(s) or blame the victim(s) or fail to see the damage they have caused, and they cannot articulate why they chose to offend against a particular victim. The sexual offender typically minimizes, rationalizes, or justifies misconduct, all of which leaves a high risk for reoffending.

In addition, the widespread damage caused by the betrayal of trust and the misuse of power when an officebearer is guilty of sexual misconduct hinders effective service. Those who submit to the authority of officebearers must be able to trust them and believe that the power afforded any ecclesiastical office will not be misused again, particularly against vulnerable members of the congregation. The sacred trust once violated cannot be restored easily and without a hesitation that it could happen again. When a pattern of misconduct is revealed, it becomes even more difficult to believe that trust could be restored enough to ensure effective service.

The spiritual restoration of any broken human being brings glory to God and benefits the church. It is difficult to judge, however, when to restore someone to an ecclesiastical office because the signs of repentance and restoration are not always clear. Thus, reinstatement to office can place the congregation at risk, which is contrary to its true welfare.

Therefore, additional guidelines are needed in the consideration of discipline and reinstatement of a sexual abuser because the decision-makers need to look beyond one specific offense and the remorse of the offender. Issues to be addressed include the following:

- A pattern of sexual misconduct.
- A pattern demonstrating a mixture of sexual misconduct and related ungodly conduct such as pornography and exhibitionism.
- A disregard for civil laws protecting minors.
- A real possibility that the personality and character traits of the offender increase the likelihood of reoffense and therefore put the congregation at risk.

The Board of Trustees recommends that synod adopt the following amendments to Article 84 of the Church Order and its appropriate Supplement:

A. That synod alter Church Order Article 84 by adding the following sentence:

Requests for reinstatement to office on the part of those deposed for acts of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct shall be dealt with according to guidelines adopted by synod.

B. That synod adopt the following guidelines and add them to Church Order Supplement, Article 84:

When reinstatement is requested by a former officebearer who confessed to or was determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct leading up to suspension and deposition from office:

1. Reinstatement to office shall be denied to individuals who:
  - a. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct against a minor.
  - b. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct against more than one victim in a single church or community.
  - c. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct in more than one community or church.
  - d. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct *and* other related ungodly conduct.

Examples of related ungodly misconduct include but are not limited to engaging in adult or child pornography, engaging a prostitute for sexual contact, exhibitionistic or voyeuristic behavior, attending a nudist camp, sexual addiction, and so forth.

2. Councils and classes shall not reinstate a former officebearer suspended or deposed for sexual misconduct or ungodly conduct not covered in items 1, a-d without receiving the advice of legal counsel concerning the church's liability.

*Grounds:*

- a. The conditions listed in Church Order Article 84 to evaluate restoration to office neither adequately address the unique behavior of sexual misconduct nor recognize the present clinical knowledge regarding care and treatment of a sexual offender.
- b. The potential for civil liability and litigation against a council and classis that restores a determined abuser to office is significant.
- c. The importance of protecting the congregation has grown significantly because of incidents of abusers who reoffend, incidents of multiple victims of a lone abuser, and incidents of known abusers who move from congregation to congregation.

*Note:* In Church Order Article 84 and its Supplement, the expression *sexual misconduct* is defined as "the sexual exploitation of a parishioner, minor or adult, regardless of age or consent, for the purposes of sexual gratification and maintaining control over the person." The expression *determined abuser* is

defined as “an officebearer who either confesses to or is adjudicated to be guilty of sexual misconduct by a civil court or ecclesiastical assembly.”

#### *F. Week of prayer for peace*

The Board of Trustees considered the appropriateness of synod’s declaring a special week of prayer for peace. After much discussion, it was decided to recommend to synod that a letter be sent by the officers of Synod 2004 to all CRC congregations declaring June 27 to July 4, 2004, as a “week of prayer for peace” (see Appendix A for a copy of a draft letter). The week recommended includes both Canada Day (July 1) and Independence Day (July 4) in our respective countries.

#### *G. Multiethnic Conference*

The Multiethnic Conference Planning Committee met on May 19 and, in the course of that meeting, made the difficult decision to cancel the conference for 2004. For reasons still unknown to the committee, fewer than twenty people registered for this year’s conference.

A letter has been sent to those who had been invited to attend this conference asking them to assist the committee by giving us some idea as to why they chose not to attend this year. The committee was deeply disappointed because the conference has been a blessing to the CRC’s ethnic communities over the years as well as being a blessing for synod delegates. The date of the next Multiethnic Conference has not yet been set, but there has been some discussion about holding the next one in 2007 in connection with the sesqui-centennial (150th) anniversary of the CRC.

## **II. Program and finance matters**

### *A. Encouraging and assisting smaller churches*

Synod 2003 instructed the BOT to propose to Synod 2004:

1. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to propose to Synod 2004 criteria for the organization, de-organization, and appropriateness for subsidy of emerging and existing congregations. Specifically, such criteria will help classes and synodical deputies to determine whether, by such standards, a ministry ought to receive financial assistance or retain its status as an organized congregation. Included in establishing such criteria is a mandate to review the widely divergent practices of how membership is counted.
2. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees
  - a. To propose to Synod 2004 a list of ministries throughout the denomination that are located in high-need and /or in urban areas that reflect the CRC’s commitment to minister among the poor and disenfranchised in our society. Specifically, such ministries shall qualify for special assistance that will sustain and enhance the gospel witness and reflect God’s care for the poor, as well as reflect the CRC’s commitment to learn together how to minister in urban and other ministries in high-need settings.
  - b. To review and revise such a list annually.
3. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to propose to Synod 2004 a funding stream to support the ministries of smaller or needy congregations that do not qualify for assistance now available through Home Missions.

#### *Grounds for recommendations 1-3:*

- a. The historic commitment of the CRC to retain, at all costs, the life and ministry of practically all congregations must be reexamined.

- b. Many congregations presently lack long-term viability and have fallen below the margin of sustainability.
- c. There are those ministries that reflect the presence of God in high-need areas where most CRC congregation cannot effectively minister. Such ministries deserve a broader base of support that can be generated locally.
- d. Special provisions must be made for the financial support of qualifying ministries in the light of the denominational priorities.

*(Acts of Synod 2003, pp. 641-42)*

Parallel to the issues listed above is the current study of the BOT to implement the ministry priority to encourage the development of healthy congregations. Because these concerns are so closely related, and because the task of addressing them is substantial, the BOT is requesting an additional year to respond to items 1-3 listed above.

### ***B. Race Relations***

The ministry of Race Relations has been undergoing a significant transition during the past year. At the time of this writing, we are conducting a search for a new Race Relations director. The BOT has also approved a revised statement of Vision and Mandate for Race Relations. Because the original mandate for Race Relations was approved by Synod 1971, the BOT judges that this revision needs the approval of synod. Therefore, the following revision is recommended for synod's approval.

#### ***Statement of Vision***

Because the Christian Reformed Church's unity and diversity must mirror that of God; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the members and agencies of the Christian Reformed Church are called to be reconciled with one another as a community of racially and ethnically diverse people of God. It is the vision of the Christian Reformed Church to live out this calling by:

- Rejecting and resisting the practice and tolerance of racism in all its forms.
- Confessing that racism diminishes us all and putting into practice biblical principles of sharing insight, courage, access, power, and resources.
- Celebrating the image of God in all people of every race and culture.

#### ***Mandate***

CRC Race Relations will initiate and provide effective and collaborative training, programs, and organizing actions in ways that mobilize Christian Reformed agencies and educational institutions, as well as classes and congregations to recognize, expose, and dismantle racism in all its forms and to experience true biblical reconciliation as a diverse and unified people of God.

### ***C. Mandate approvals***

While the BOT is submitting the revised mandate for Race Relations to Synod 2004, it believes that previous synods intended such matters to be handled by the BOT but never explicitly approved that understanding. Therefore, at the BOT's last meeting, a motion carried to recommend to synod that synod permit the Board of Trustees to alter and update the Statements of

Vision and/or Mandates of the specialized ministries (e.g., Abuse Prevention, Chaplaincy, Disability Concerns, Pastor-Church Relations, Race Relations, Social Justice and Hunger Action) of the denomination when necessary. Such action, when taken on behalf of synod, will be reported to synod.

*D. Succession report*

Subsequent to the release of the printed *Agenda for Synod 2004*, the BOT adopted an official title for what the printed reported called the *executive director and general secretary* (ED&GS). The BOT now informs synod that it has chosen the title of *Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America* for the single chief executive being proposed to synod.

*E. Alternate Routes to Ministry*

Having received and studied the Alternate Routes to Ministry Report, the Board of Trustees (BOT) by way of the communication in Appendix B submits its concerns regarding this report for synod’s consideration. The comments are directed to the study committee’s recommendations that specifically affect the ministry and goals of the BOT, both in its service to synod and to our denomination as a whole. We respectfully request that synod take note of these concerns as it discusses this significant study committee report.

*F. Agency board changes*

The BOT informs synod that it has approved the plans of CRC Publications, Christian Reformed Home Missions, and CRWRC as they have restructured the makeup of their respective boards. The BOT also approved a change in the bylaws of Calvin College that permits members-at-large to serve three consecutive three-year terms. The bylaws of Calvin Theological Seminary were similarly adjusted.

*G. Financial matters*

1. Stated supply compensation

The BOT is recommending that synod approve that the stated supply compensation for 2005 be set as follows: not less than \$445 per week for churches in the United States; and not less than \$460 per week for churches in Canada.

2. Agency budgets and ministry share requests

The BOT approved the individual budgets of the agencies and educational institutions, as well as the unified budget, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005. These budgets are based on an aggregate ministry share request for 2005 in the amount of \$266.09 (an increase over 2004 of \$3.93 or 1.5 percent).

3. The denominational salary grid

The *Agenda for Synod 2004*, p. 22, contained the incorrect salary grid for reporting purposes. The grid that should have been printed is as follows:

Level	U.S. 2004 Range			Canadian 2004 Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$80,754	\$100,944	\$121,132	\$104,023	\$130,029	\$156,034
19	\$73,474	\$91,841	\$110,209	\$90,243	\$112,803	\$135,364
18	\$67,339	\$84,174	\$101,008	\$78,633	\$98,291	\$117,950
17	\$62,164	\$77,706	\$93,246	\$68,840	\$86,050	\$103,261
16	\$57,833	\$72,291	\$86,750	\$60,643	\$75,804	\$90,965

15	\$54,204	\$67,756	\$81,306	\$53,775	\$67,218	\$80,662
14	\$47,480	\$59,474	\$71,369	\$47,971	\$59,962	\$71,955
13	\$42,024	\$52,529	\$63,035	\$43,096	\$53,869	\$64,644

Note: The shaded areas are not currently in use.

Hay Associates suggested, and the BOT approved, a recommendation that Synod 2004 adjust the denominational salary grid for 2004-2005 by 3.5 percent of midpoint over the present 2003-2004 approved grid.

Level	2004-2005 Salary Grade and Range Structure			2004-2005 Salary Grade and Range Structure		
	Proposed U.S. Range			Proposed Canadian Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$83,581	\$104,477	\$125,371	\$107,664	\$134,580	\$161,496
19	\$76,045	\$95,055	\$114,067	\$93,401	\$116,751	\$140,102
18	\$69,696	\$87,120	\$104,543	\$81,385	\$101,732	\$122,078
17	\$64,340	\$80,426	\$96,510	\$71,249	\$89,062	\$106,875
16	\$59,858	\$74,821	\$89,786	\$62,766	\$78,457	\$94,149
15	\$56,101	\$70,127	\$84,152	\$55,657	\$69,571	\$83,485
14	\$49,245	\$61,556	\$73,867	\$49,650	\$62,061	\$74,473
13	\$43,495	\$54,368	\$65,241	\$44,604	\$55,755	\$66,907

Note: The shaded areas are not currently in use.

#### 4. Agencies recommended for financial support

Each year the BOT recommends such agencies that qualify to be placed on the denominationally approved offering list. The organizations listed below fall into the following categories:

- Denominational Ministries recommended for one or more offerings
- New requests recommended for approval
- New requests not recommended for approval
- Renewals of previously approved organizations

#### a. Denominational Ministries recommended for one or more offerings

##### 1) Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Back to God Hour – above-ministry-share needs

CRC TV – above-ministry-share needs

Calvin College – above-ministry-share needs

Calvin Theological Seminary

a) Above-ministry-share needs

b) Ministry Assistance Program (formerly Revolving Loan Fund)

CRC Publications

World Literature Ministries – above-ministry-share needs

Denominational Services – above-ministry-share needs

Ministry Programs:

Abuse Prevention

Chaplaincy Ministries

Disability Concerns

Pastor-Church Relations

Race Relations

Above-ministry-share needs

Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund

Social Justice and Hunger Action

Home Missions – above-ministry-share needs  
World Missions – above-ministry-share needs  
World Relief Committee – one offering per quarter because  
CRWRC receives no ministry-share support

- 2) Denominationally related youth agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Dynamic Youth Ministries

- a) GEMS
- b) Calvinist Cadet Corps
- c) Youth Unlimited/Early Teens

- b. New requests recommended for approval

- 1) United States

- a) Hope Haven

The statement of purpose of Hope Haven is to assist persons' with mental and/or physical disabilities locally, nationally, and abroad to reach their potential. This purpose is accomplished through vocational evaluation, training, and support as well as through independent living evaluation, training, and support. Ancillary services are available in-house or within the community service delivery system.

Audited financial statements as of June 30, 2003, and 2002, indicate a stable asset position with revenues of \$16.9 million and \$15.9 million exceeding expenses of \$16.3 million and \$14.6 million, respectively. Support services represented less than 12 percent of total expenditures in 2003.

It is recommended that this request be approved.

*Ground:* Hope Haven is a ministry consistent with our Reformed principles and services the needs of people world-wide.

- b) IN Network (formerly The Inter-National Needs Network)

This is a binational ministry with offices in both Canada and the United States. It is described as “an interdenominational Christian evangelistic organization” whose purpose is to “provide ministry and financial assistance to affiliated organizations throughout the world in order to carry on Christian missionary work through evangelism, vocational training schools, literature distribution, and disaster relief.” This activity is carried on in many areas not serviced by our denominational agencies. In addition, the agency “supports individual missionaries and Bible college students.”

Audited financial statements have been received for both the U.S. and Canadian entities. For the year ended December 31, 2003, the Canadian entity reported revenues of approximately \$990,000 and in the U.S. approximately \$1,164,000. The corresponding expenses were \$913,000 and \$1,132,000. Neither balance sheet indicates any excess amounts of cash or investments.

It is recommended that this request be approved.

*Ground:* This ministry is consistent with the ministry values of the CRC and is similar to other organizations already on the approved list.

2) Canada

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada

The following purpose statement was adopted by the Board of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) Canada in November 2002 and is consistent with previous purpose statements:

Being shaped by God's Word and led by the Holy Spirit, the purpose of IVCF Canada is the transformation of youth, students and graduates into fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.

IVCF Canada owns and operates six youth camps across Canada, and they work with high school and university students as facilitators and coaches. Their counterpart in the United States is already included on the approved agency list.

The audited financial statements for the fiscal years ended March 2003 and 2002 show revenues of \$10.7 million and \$11.4 million respectively and expenses of \$10.7 and \$11.5 respectively. The organization has an appropriate level of financial reserves.

It is recommended that this request be approved.

*Ground:* IVCF Canada was previously approved but failed to apply last year. The ministry is worthy of CRC support.

c. New requests not recommended for approval

1) International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education

This is an organization of individuals and institutions whose purpose is to foster, worldwide, the development of integral Christian higher education through networking and related academic activity. The organization is funded primarily via membership dues. Over 50 percent of expenditures are for support services versus program. No audit or review was completed by an independent certified public accountant. There is no significant outreach beyond the membership of the organization.

It is recommended that this request be denied.

*Ground:* While the organization's goals are laudable, its programs are primarily for the benefit of its member participants rather than its being an organization that delivers specific services.

2) Lutheran Aid to Medicine, Bangladesh (LAMB)

The mission of the organization is to serve the poor or underprivileged people, particularly women and children of Bangladesh. This is a mission that is served by the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. As such, this organization's ministry focus duplicates that of a denominational agency.

It is recommended that the application be denied.

*Ground:* The approved list is not intended to support ministries that duplicate CRC efforts.

3) New Focus National

New Focus National is a faith-based training organization that provides a biblically based financial skill-training program to churches. The target of the program is people who are experiencing generational or situational poverty. New Focus National equips churches to grow in effective outreach and service to people experiencing financial crisis.

New Focus National was founded in 1994 and has trained over 100 churches in 18 states in 21 denominations. Support is primarily by donations and grants plus training fees. Income peaked in 1998 at \$175 thousand. In 2002 and 2003, income was under \$90 thousand. Audited financial statements are available only for the 2001 year. The organization receives audits only every two years. The organization has not met the requirements of audited or reviewed financial statements.

NFN recognizes that it needs to transition from a small struggling organization to one that has lasting national impact. Currently, however, it has questionable ability to operate on anything but a local or at best a regional basis.

It is recommended that the application be denied.

*Ground:* This organization does not meet our minimum financial solvency and accountability standards.

d. Previously approved organizations recommended for renewals

Nondenominational agencies recommended for financial support but not necessarily for one or more offerings

The following organizations have been evaluated for accreditation as agencies to be included for possible support through church offerings in the Christian Reformed Church. Each agency provided detailed program and financial information that was considered in the evaluation. The evaluation followed procedures and guidelines generally defined by synod in past years.

1) United States

a) Benevolent Agencies

Bethany Christian Services  
Calvary Rehabilitation Center  
Cary Christian Center, Inc.  
Christian Health Care Center  
Elim Christian Services  
Hope Haven  
International Aid, Inc.  
The Luke Society  
Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS)  
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

b) Educational Agencies

Center for Public Justice  
Christian Schools International  
Christian Schools International Foundation  
Dordt College  
Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of ICS)  
ITEM-International Theological Education Ministry, Inc.  
The King's University College  
Reformed Bible College  
Rehoboth Christian School  
Roseland Christian School  
Trinity Christian College  
Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Worldwide Christian Schools

c) Miscellaneous Agencies

Audio Scripture Ministries  
The Bible League  
Crossroad Bible Institute  
Friendship Ministries  
Gideons International - US  
IN Network  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (for specified staff support only)  
Lord's Day Alliance of The United States  
Mission India  
Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC)  
The Tract League  
Wycliffe Bible Translators

2) Canada

a) Benevolent Agency

Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario

b) Educational Agencies

Canadian Christian Education Foundation, Inc.  
Dordt College  
Institute for Christian Studies  
The King's University College  
Redeemer University College  
Reformed Bible College  
Trinity Christian College  
Worldwide Christian Schools - Canada

c) Miscellaneous Agencies

The Bible League - Canada  
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
Friendship Groups - Canada  
Gideons International - Canada

IN Network  
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada  
Work Research Foundation  
Wycliffe Translators of Canada

#### *H. Pension matters*

The BOT received as information the communication from the Pension Trustees reporting as follows:

Annually, pastors serving in the parish ministry are asked to report compensation information. This information provides the basis for the determination of an “average salary” amount that, in turn, is used by the Ministers Pension Plans for the calculation of “final average salary” amounts used by the pension plans’ benefit formula. The final average salary used by the plans is based on reported average salary amounts in the United States and Canada for the three preceding years.

For 2004, the average salary amount was determined to be \$41,269 and \$43,531 in the United States and Canada, respectively. Based on this information and on similar information for 2002 and 2003, final average salaries applicable to the year 2005 were calculated to be \$40,498 and \$42,443.

The BOT expressed its concurrence with the actions of the Pension Trustees relative to the pension assessments for 2005 as follows:

Actuaries are asked to furnish information needed to determine the total annual cost of the U.S. and Canadian plans. This information is used to determine the amount of participant and member assessments.

The pension trustees adjusted participant and member assessments by approximately 2.5 percent as follows:

The 2005 per-member assessment for the Canadian plan was increased from \$26.40 to \$27.00 and the per-participant assessment was increased from \$6,600 to \$6,764.

The 2005 per-member assessment for the U.S. plan was increased from \$22.80 to \$23.40 and the per-participant assessment was increased from \$5,160 to \$5,288.

#### *I. Summary of denominational investments and compliance with investment policy*

Synod 1998 approved a number of measures dealing with investment guidelines and disclosures. The BOT’s response to these requests is found in Appendix C.

### **III. Recommendations**

A. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the Board to the agency boards (BOT Supplement section I, A, 1).

B. That synod adopt the following statement and append it to Church Order Article 15 as a supplement:

Proper support of a church’s minister is to include an adequate salary, medical insurance, a housing provision, payment to the denomination’s ministers’ pension plan, a continuing education stipend, and other employment-related items.

*Grounds:*

1. This will assist classes and their church counselors in advising the congregations regarding proper support for a minister.
2. This will assist churches to know which employment-related expenses they are expected to pay.
3. This will assist pastors so that they are not required to negotiate yearly regarding which elements need to be part of their support package.

C. That synod alter Church Order Article 84 by adding the following sentence:

Requests for reinstatement to office on the part of those deposed for acts of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct shall be dealt with according to guidelines adopted by synod.

D. That synod adopt the following guidelines and add them to Church Order Supplement, Article 84:

When reinstatement is requested by a former officebearer who confessed to or was determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct leading up to suspension and deposition from office:

1. Reinstatement to office shall be denied to individuals who:
  - a. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct against a minor.
  - b. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct against more than one victim in a single church or community.
  - c. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct in more than one community or church.
  - d. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct *and* other related ungodly conduct.

Examples of related ungodly misconduct include but are not limited to engaging in adult or child pornography, engaging a prostitute for sexual contact, exhibitionistic or voyeuristic behavior, attending a nudist camp, sexual addiction, and so forth.

2. Councils and classes shall not reinstate a former officebearer suspended or deposed for sexual misconduct or ungodly conduct not covered in items 1, a-d without receiving the advice of legal counsel concerning the church's liability.

*Grounds:*

1. The conditions listed in Church Order Article 84 to evaluate restoration to office neither adequately address the unique behavior of sexual misconduct nor recognize the present clinical knowledge regarding care and treatment of a sexual offender.
2. The potential for civil liability and litigation against a council and classis that restores a determined abuser to office is significant.
3. The importance of protecting the congregation has grown significantly because of incidents of abusers who reoffend, incidents of multiple victims of a lone abuser, and incidents of known abusers who move from congregation to congregation.

E. That synod declare June 27, 2004, to July 4, 2004, a week of prayer for peace and authorize the officers to send the letter found in BOT Supplement, Appendix A.

F. That synod grant the BOT an additional year to respond to provisions for assisting smaller churches (BOT Supplement II, A).

G. That synod approve the following statement of vision and the revised mandate for Race Relations as proposed (BOT Supplement II, B):

***Statement of Vision***

Because the Christian Reformed Church's unity and diversity must mirror that of God; the Father, Son; and Holy Spirit; the members and agencies of the Christian Reformed Church are called to be reconciled with one another as a community of racially and ethnically diverse people of God. It is the vision of the Christian Reformed Church to live out this calling by:

- Rejecting and resisting the practice and tolerance of racism in all its forms.
- Confessing that racism diminishes us all and putting into practice biblical principles of sharing insight, courage, access, power, and resources.
- Celebrating the image of God in all people of every race and culture.

***Mandate***

CRC Race Relations will initiate and provide effective and collaborative training, programs, and organizing actions in ways that mobilize Christian Reformed agencies and educational institutions, as well as classes and congregations to recognize, expose, and dismantle racism in all its forms and to experience true biblical reconciliation as a diverse and unified people of God.

H. That synod authorize the BOT to alter and update vision statements and mandates as needed for the specialized ministries of the denomination (BOT Supplement II, C).

I. That synod approve the title for the new chief executive position as being the *Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America* (BOT Supplement II, D).

J. That synod approve the stated supply compensation for 2005 as follows: not less than \$445 per week for churches in the United States; and not less than \$460 per week for churches in Canada (BOT Supplement II, G, 1).

K. That synod approve an aggregate ministry share request for 2005 in the amount of \$266.09 (an increase over 2004 of \$3.93 or 1.5 percent) (BOT Supplement II, G, 2).

L. That synod approve a 3.5 percent of midpoint adjustment to the denominational salary grid for 2004-2005 (BOT Supplement II, G, 3).

M. That synod approve the list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for the agencies and institutions of the CRC and for denomina-

tionally related youth agencies and recommend these to the churches for consideration (BOT Supplement II, G, 4, a).

N. That synod add to the accredited list the following organizations (BOT Supplement II, G, 4, b):

Hope Haven  
IN Network  
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada

O. That synod not approve the following applicants for accreditation (BOT Supplement II, G, 4, c):

International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education  
Lutheran Aid – Bangladesh  
New Focus International

P. That synod approve the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have renewed their applications and are recommended for 2005 accreditation (BOT Supplement II, G, 4, d).

Board of Trustees of the  
Christian Reformed Church in North America  
David H. Engelhard, general secretary  
Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries

## Appendix A Letter re Week of Prayer for Peace



CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED  
CHURCH

June 21, 2004

Dear Congregations and Members of the CRCNA,

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called sons [children] of God"  
Matthew 5:9

The synod of the Christian Reformed Church meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, declares June 27 to July 4, 2004, a week of prayer for peace. As a week of prayer, these dates bridge our two national holidays: Canada Day and Independence Day.

We grieve with and for those who experience the devastation of violence in its many forms and guises. We weep with victims of poverty, starvation, abortion, terror, and war—especially at this time for those who are victims of terror and war. The recent wars and persecutions in various countries bring this vividly to our attention. The injuries and loss of life on all sides of these conflicts brings sorrow and a need for confession.

We confess and repent at this time because sin pervades even our best intentions and efforts. Sin runs through every human heart, every human structure, and every national government. We ask our heavenly Father to forgive us for our sins and to send his Spirit to awaken in us a love for our neighbor that brings us to our knees in prayer for his battered creation.

Remembering that our primary allegiance is to Christ's kingdom and not to any nation or state, we ask the members and congregations of the Christian Reformed Church in both Canada and the United States to pray for the needs of the international community. Pray for:

- An end to violence
- Peace in war-torn places
- Victims of war
- Leaders of nations
- All who serve in government
- Fellow believers who influence policy
- All those risking their lives to build peace

Pray that families who mourn the loss of loved ones are comforted, and pray for those who are maimed and wounded that the Spirit of God will bring comfort and healing.

Our world belongs to God, and we commend it to his care. Let us come together for a week of hearing what the Spirit has to say to the church. Let us listen to the Word of God. Let us listen to the voices of those who bear God's image. Let us in humility ask God for help to bring violence to an end, to tame the hearts of the vengeful, and to bring peace. We plead with our covenant God to manifest the majesty of his name, to maintain his fidelity as our covenant partner, and to bring peace from his loving heart of compassion.

Signed by Officers of Synod 2004

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Grand Rapids MI 49560  
Voice: 616-241-1691  
Fax: 616-224-5895

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PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1  
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## **Appendix B**

### **Communication re Alternate Routes to Ministry Report**

#### **I. Denominational cohesiveness**

The BOT has a growing concern that some decisions and practices are advanced or implemented in isolation of how such decisions or practices will impact the cohesiveness of the denomination. There are a variety of reasons why cohesiveness is a diminishing characteristic of the CRC, and many such reasons are beyond anyone's control. That, however, does not diminish the importance of cohesiveness in a time when society is less so, and regionalization (social, political, even religious) is common in our time. The reality in which we live is that loyalty to established institutions is not what it once was. Even when a situation is as it is, however, specific decisions can enhance or diminish the effect of such a reality.

There are several significant reasons why denominational cohesiveness is still what it is. Our confessional basis, perhaps more than any other factor, binds the CRC together into a denominational fellowship. There are other, more pragmatic influences as well. *The Banner* contributes its part, as do assemblies (classis and synod), ministry share participation, and board member participation in agency ministries. Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary also contribute significantly to that sense of denominational loyalty. The combination of these factors, rather than any one factor by itself, accounts for and contributes to the measure of cohesiveness we still enjoy. It is our conviction, as we trust it is that of synod, that denominational cohesiveness is an essential quality of our life together and that it is important to avoid decisions or practices that tear at the fabric of the kind of denomination we want to be.

More specifically, we believe that a very significant factor in denominational cohesiveness has been the fact that in the past a vast majority of CRC pastors were graduates of Calvin Seminary and shared a common journey toward being credentialed for the pastoral ministry. Another significant factor, among the clergy at least, is that nearly all of them have had to meet the same standards and qualifications for being a leader in the CRC. There is great value in such commonality, especially in a denomination the size of the CRC. We are, by all standards, a small denomination, and that fact dictates that our decisions as a church should encourage, rather than diminish, the degree of cohesiveness that is still possible.

#### **II. The expenses involved in the committee's recommendations**

The study committee acknowledges that its proposals will incur additional costs. In our opinion, however, the committee's estimates are very conservative at best. The report suggests that there can be substantial cost-recovery through the assessment of student fees, but it is unlikely that such assessments will meet the additional financial outlay required to implement the committee's recommendations. The following examples will suffice to demonstrate the point.

The committee proposes that the general secretary provide administrative oversight to the proposed structure. There appears to be no accurate estimate of the time that is required to provide such oversight, but it is not unreasonable

to assume that it will be substantial. In addition, the service of a part-time administrative assistant is proposed. Is it realistic to think that a structure as complex as is being proposed can be managed in a few hours per week? Even if that were assumed to be an accurate estimate, it is most likely that the portion of the general secretary's time required will be substantially greater than the \$6,000 per year stated in the report. The expense of a part-time administrative assistant is more difficult to estimate, but we do know that a full-time qualified assistant costs annually in the neighborhood of \$40,000 when salary and benefits are calculated into the expense. Then, of course, one needs to add the work-related expenses associated with any position. It is our experience that up-front expenses are generally higher than they are once a structure is functional and operational. Therefore, the phase-in of these expenses is more likely to come earlier rather than—as the report states—in years four through eight.

Other major expenses that need to be anticipated are the training and operational costs associated with the proposed classical and denominational committees. It is difficult to estimate how much money is required to implement and maintain the proposed structure, but, again, it is likely to be substantial. The study committee's proposal essentially doubles present costs in providing church leaders for the CRC; Calvin Theological Seminary will continue to incur its present costs in providing such leaders. Even if Calvin Seminary could reduce its expense because of the work of the proposed committees, there is no mechanism to allocate such savings to a separately operated structure.

Finally, there is no recommendation in the study committee's report as to how these additional expenses are to be met. The denominational office budget is already severely strained and additional funds will be needed to cover these expenses if synod should adopt the study committee's report.

### **III. The impact of the committee's recommendations on the present and proposed denominational staffing structure**

The BOT at its February 2004 meeting adopted a plan for the restructuring of the denominational offices that is included in the *Agenda for Synod 2004* (pp. 45-46, 81-102). While it is not necessary to detail that plan for you in this document, the BOT notes that the study committee in its recommendations could not have taken the restructuring proposal of the BOT into consideration because the new structure had not yet been designed.

It needs to be recognized, however, that the proposed restructuring runs counter to the recommendations of the study committee. The short version of that counter-direction is (1) the proposed executive director's office will have a different function than that of the current executive director of ministries, and (2) the new director will not be in the position to administer and oversee the development of the study committee recommendations.

We also question the wisdom of having the denominational offices so centrally involved in the ministerial candidacy process. Besides the significant responsibility that would be added to the already heavy duties of the executive director's office, we judge that it would be politically untenable to assign to this office the work suggested by the study committee recommendations. Perhaps routine candidacies, while very time consuming, would not present much of a problem, but problematic candidacies could quickly embroil the

denominational office in undesirable conflicts and absorb far too much of the executive director's time, and the synodical committee would meet too infrequently to be of much help.

The proposed restructuring of the denominational offices is intended to provide more time for the senior person to build solid relationships with congregations and classes in the denomination. Making that person the center of the proposed candidacy process, combined with the very real potential of further overloading that position with conflictual situations, will largely undo what the proposed restructuring is intended to accomplish.

Finally, even if the present general secretary were to be assigned to initially implement the recommendations of the Alternate Routes to Ministry Committee, it is not a long-term solution. Soon the restructuring, if approved, would take full effect and then all of the above-mentioned limitations would be realized.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

There is much in the study committee's report that the BOT can affirm, and we agree that an essential issue facing the CRC is the need for more church leaders. The comments in this communication are not intended to undermine the report but are provided as a way of ensuring that what the BOT regards as significant issues affecting its ministry on our denomination's behalf—cohesiveness, cost, and staffing—will be adequately discussed and taken into consideration when synod discusses this report. May the Lord give all of us wisdom and grace as we together seek to raise up and develop new leaders to equip all of his people for ministry.

### **Appendix C**

#### **Summary of Denominational Investments and Compliance with Investment Policy**

Synod 1998 approved a number of measures dealing with investment guidelines and disclosures. Two of these appear on page 440 of the *Acts of Synod 1998*, as follows:

That the BOT annually provide synod and classical treasurers with a summary of all investments owned by the agencies and institutions of the CRCNA. The summary is to include groupings of investments listed in the investment policy.

That the BOT annually provide synod with a statement that the agencies and institutions are in compliance with the investment policy; any exception to the policy will be reported.

The accompanying summary and related footnotes constitute the Board of Trustees' response to the first of these requests. In response to the second request, the Board of Trustees reports that on December 31, 2003, all of the agencies and institutions are in compliance with the denomination's investment policy, including the guidance it provides for assets received as a result of gifts or gift-related transactions.

The Board of Trustees' discussions regarding these matters included the following:

1. As requested by synod, the investment summary contains information regarding assets held by the agencies and institutions of the denomination. In addition to these investments, the denomination is responsible for the administration of investments held by various benefit plans, including retirement plans. The BOT reports that assets held by the benefit plans also are in compliance with the denomination's investment guidelines.
2. As requested, the summary includes investments only. It tells nothing of the commitments, restrictions, and purposes attached to the investments. Persons interested in a full understanding of these aspects are encouraged to refer to the financial statements of the agencies and institutions on file with each classical treasurer or to direct their inquires to the agencies and institutions themselves.

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA  
Agencies and Institutions  
Investment Summary in US\$  
As of December 31, 2003

	The Back to God Hour	Calvin College	Calvin Seminary	CRCPublications	Denominational Services	CRC Foundation
<b>Categories Specified by Investment Policy:</b>						
<b>SHORT TERM</b>						
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>						
Cash	\$ 256,812	\$ 7,475	\$ (132,390)	\$ 21,018	\$ 297,630	\$ 37,442
Money-market mutual funds	-	17,336,247	368,834	1,839,507	2,461,562	476,997
Certificates of deposit	47,813	100,521	468	9,243	1,130,239	2,397
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b>						
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	1,359,527	-	-	-	-	-
Other short term	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)</b>	2,911,441	-	-	-	-	213,295
<b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b>						
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	53,938	1,251,884	13,535,832	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	11,376 (3)	76,572,958	-	-	-	-
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b>						
US treasuries or Canadian govt bonds	-	3,133,691	-	-	5,370,950 (10)	-
Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	-	3,147,197 (10)	-
Bond mutual funds	-	18,165,406	-	-	(8,728,628) (10)	-
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Interagency Investments (Obligations):</b>						
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	-	-	-	516,784	(1,146,000)	138,125
<b>Other Investments:</b>						
Private equity fund	-	4,002,441 (6)	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	245,344 (4)	-	-	-	-	-
Land contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	268,514 (5)	103,597 (5)	193,113 (5)	-	-	2,720 (5)
Notes receivable	-	739,192 (7)	-	-	-	-
Common stock—nonlisted	-	245,175 (8)	-	-	-	-
Real estate (nonoperating)	25,000 (9)	167,500 (9)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	\$ 5,179,765	\$ 121,848,087	\$ 13,965,857	\$ 2,386,552	\$ 2,532,949	\$ 870,976

Numbers in parentheses are footnote numbers. See the footnotes that follow.

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA  
Agencies and Institutions  
Investment Summary in US\$  
As of December 31, 2003

	Fund for Smaller Churches	Home Missions	Loan Fund	World Missions	World Relief
<b>Categories Specified by Investment Policy:</b>					
<b>SHORT TERM</b>					
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>					
Cash	\$ 531,765	\$ 650,520	\$ 229,405	\$ 859,898	\$ 1,703,822
Money-market mutual funds	617,860	358,879	6,816,416	2,572,049	1,041,109
Certificates of deposit	2,407	1,803	25,560	10,311	9,231
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES</b>					
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	-	1,260,690	-	-	912,581
Other short-term	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)</b>					
	-	561,993	-	1,388,197	1,526,990
<b>COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS</b>					
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	-	-	-	194,056	(3)
<b>FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)</b>					
US (treasuries or Canadian govt bonds Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated) Bond mutual funds CIBC / TAL overcraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	174,225	(3)
-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Interagency Investments (Obligations):</b>					
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	-	103,921	-	85,694	301,476
<b>Other Investments:</b>					
Private equity fund	-	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	-	2,881,829	(4)	-	-
Land contracts	-	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	-	-	-	-	20,446
Notes receivable	-	53,394	(7)	5,581	(7)
Common stock—nonlisted	-	-	-	-	-
Real estate (nonoperating)	-	42,957	-	70,000	(9)
Total	\$ 1,152,032	\$ 6,015,986	\$ 7,072,381	\$ 5,360,011	\$ 5,541,485

Numbers in parentheses are footnote numbers. See the footnotes that follow.

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

Benefit Plans

As of December 31, 2003

	Employees' Retirement Plan - U.S. in U.S. \$	Ministers' Pension Plan U.S. in U.S. \$	Special Assistance Fund U.S. in U.S. \$	Consolidated Group Insurance U.S. in U.S. \$	Employees' Retirement Plan - Canada in Canadian \$	Ministers' Pension Plan Canada in Canadian \$	Special Assistance Fund Canada in Canadian \$	Consolidated Group Insurance Canada in Canadian \$
\$	-	3,197,636	103,741	1,742,965	134,670	1,809,507	110,674	111,075
	5,768,162	-	-	-	63,077	-	-	-
	-	56,851,972	-	-	-	12,501,443	-	-
	7,882,128	-	-	-	1,329,645	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	327,039	-	-	-
	2,462,075	26,570,118	-	2,805,018	-	8,762,892	-	-
	-	-	-	-	123,435	-	-	-
Total	16,132,365	88,619,726	103,741	4,548,003	1,877,866	23,067,842	110,674	111,075

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:

- SHORT TERM  
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS  
Cash, CDs and money-market mutual funds
- FIXED-INCOME ISSUES  
Guaranteed investment contracts  
Stable Asset Income Fund
- COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS  
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock  
International mutual fund  
Equity mutual funds
- FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)  
US treasuries, Canadian gov't bonds or publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)  
Bond mutual funds

**Footnotes to the December 31, 2003, Investment Summary**

1. Foundation pooled/unitized fixed income account for agencies.
2. Foundation pooled/unitized balanced account (fixed income 54%, equities 46%) for agencies.
3. Donated mutual funds.
4. Estimated value of JCM (IRM) partnership investments.
5. Cash value of life insurance contracts received as gifts.
6. Interest in private equity funds, including unrealized gains and reinvestments.
7. Includes promissory notes received in the sale of real estate and land received as a gift and notes outstanding on a life insurance policy.
8. Includes investment in Creative Dining Services, owned jointly with Hope College.
9. Real estate received as a gift.
10. These investments, which provide security for the overdraft accounts, are part of a Canadian agency concentration/netting for interest cash management and investment program.

# AGENCY AND COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTS

## Calvin College Supplement

The Calvin College Board of Trustees met May 20-22, 2004, and presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the college.

At its meeting, the board had a dinner honoring retiring trustees; retiring faculty and staff; and two distinguished alumni, Ms. Lois Ackerman Raap, and Dr. James Gage. The board interviewed four faculty members for reappointment and reviewed and approved the Self Study Report for accreditation prepared for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association 2004. This accreditation review takes place every ten years. The board also attended commencement, which honored 890 graduates of Calvin College.

### I. Faculty matters

A. *Retirees* (see III, Recommendations B, 1)

B. *Faculty reappointments* (see III, Recommendations B, 2)

C. *Administrative reappointments*

The college made the following administrative appointments and reappointments:

1. Janel M. Curry, Ph.D., Dean for Research and Scholarship (three years)
2. Cherith Fee Nordling, Ph.D., Co-director of Spiritual Leadership Development (two years)
3. Robert G. Nordling, B.A., Co-director of Spiritual Leadership Development (two years)
4. Thomas L. Steenwyk, M.A., Registrar (four years)
5. Lissa Schwander, M.S.W., Director of Cross Cultural Engagement (one year, partial load)

### II. Election of college trustees

A. *Regional trustees*

The terms of Rev. Charles J. DeRidder, Rev. John W. DeVries, Rev. John Joldersma, Mr. Arnold Morren, and Dr. Henry J. Stronks expire in 2004. The following slates of nominees were submitted to their respective regions for vote. The results of those elections will be ratified at Synod 2004.

1. Region 4 (Chatham, Hamilton, Niagara, Huron)  
*Ms. M. Nancy Booy*; B.C.S., Redeemer College; B.A., Calvin College  
Ms. Booy has worked on numerous workshops, seminars, conventions, and local community college courses and serves as an elementary school

teacher in Jarvis, Ontario. She is a member of the Aylmer, Ontario, CRC, where she has served as church photo directory coordinator, children's Sunday and vacation Bible school teacher, and on school promotion and building committees. Ms. Booy is currently an adult Bible study leader and is on the contract partnership and computer committees at her school.

*Mr. Peter Schuurman*; B.A., Calvin College; M.A., Queens University; M.Div., McMaster University

Mr. Schuurman has served as a campus minister at Brock University and is a member of Jubilee Fellowship CRC, St. Catharines, Ontario. He has served on the classical ministries committee and the Anastasis editorial board and currently serves on the campus ministries committee, the CRC Campus Ministry Association, and the Anastasis editorial board. In June 2004, he will assume the position of Educational Ministry Leader for CRC Home Missions.

2. Region 6 (California South, Central California, Greater L.A., Pacific Hanmi)  
*Mrs. Mavis A. Moon*; B.A., Calvin College; Human Resource Management Certificate, Lotus Notes Development Professional and various information technology certificates

Mrs. Moon is currently an information technology manager in San Jose, California. She and her family are members of the San Jose CRC, and she has served on the board of San Jose Christian School and the board of the Calvin College Alumni Association. She has chaired several committees and is currently chair of the accreditation committee of the board of San Jose Christian School.

*Mrs. Karen Wynbeek*; B.A., Calvin College; M.A., Montclair State University

Mrs. Wynbeek is a science teacher at San Jose Christian Middle School and a member of the Palo Alto (California) CRC. She has served on the board of the Calvin Alumni Association, with CRC Publications as a church education consultant, on the board of San Jose Christian School, and on the executive committees of the Eastern Christian Teachers Association and the Southwest Christian Teachers Association. Currently, Mrs. Wynbeek is a member of the education committee of Palo Alto CRC and the local chapter of Calvin Alumni Association. Last summer she was an advisor to Synod 2003.

3. Region 8 (Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior, Minnkota, N. Central Iowa, Pella)  
*Mrs. Kimberly Brinks-Starkenburg*; B.A., Calvin College; coursework at the University of Northern Colorado

Mrs. Brinks-Starkenburg is currently a teacher at Orange City (Iowa) Christian School and a member of Immanuel CRC, also in Orange City. She has served as president of both the Heartland Convention Planning board and the Theater Arts Patrons board at Northwestern College (Orange City), on the Christian education committee at Immanuel CRC, and as children in worship chair. She is currently serving on the advisory committee for the Education Department at Northwestern College.

*Rev. David A. Zylstra*; B.A., Calvin College; M.Div., Calvin Seminary

Rev. Zylstra is the pastor of First CRC in Prinsburg, Minnesota, and has previously served three other congregations in the Midwest. He has served

as a member of the board of Dordt College; as board president of Metropolitan Chorale of Waterloo, Iowa; and as a delegate to synod six times. He currently serves as a classical deputy for Classis Lake Superior. He, his wife, and three children are all Calvin graduates.

4. Region 10 (Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, N. Michigan)  
*Mrs. Nancy Van Antwerpen Mulder*; B.A., Calvin College

Mrs. Van Antwerpen Mulder is a member of and church organist at Fourteenth Street CRC in Holland, Michigan, where she has served on the worship committee. She is a homemaker and plays the organ in area churches. She has participated in several workshops and in the Symposium on Worship and the Arts at Calvin College. Two of her children are Calvin graduates, and one currently attends Calvin.

*Mr. Bill Rykbost*; B.A., Calvin College; M.B.A., University of Notre Dame

Mr. Rykbost is Vice President of Purchasing and Logistics at Gentex Corporation and is a member of Fourteenth St. CRC in Holland, Michigan. He has served on the board of the Calvin College Alumni Association (one year as president); the board of Holland Christian band, orchestra, choir; and the board of the Theatre Arts Patrons at Holland Christian High School. Since 1999, Mr Rykbost has served as chair of the Calvin Alumni Lakeshore Chapter. He has been a member of the interview board of the Michigan Second Congressional District Military Academy since 1993 and of several business associations. At his church, he has served as assistant treasurer, treasurer, and chair of deacons; on the worship committee; as clerk of council; and on the executive committee.

5. Region 11 (GR East, GR North, GR South, Grandville, Lake Erie, Thornapple Valley)

*Mr. Craig Klamer*; B.A., Calvin College

Mr. Klamer is the Vice President of Merchandise Administration for Family Christian Stores and a member of Ada CRC in Ada, Michigan. He has taught Reformed confessions, directed the adult choir, and served on the search committee for the national director of GEMS. Currently, he is serving his second term as an elder at Ada CRC and as co-chair of worship ministries with the senior pastor.

*Mr. Max Van Wyk*; B.A., Calvin College; M.B.A., Western Michigan University

Mr. Van Wyk is CEO and Chairman of the Board of Van Wyk Risk and Financial Management and a member of Woodlawn CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has served on the board of the Grand Rapids Christian Schools, as chair of the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Capital Campaign, as chair of the Better Business Bureau, as chairman of the CNA Grand Rapids PACER panel, and on many other committees. He also previously served as chair of deacons at Brookside CRC.

*B. Alumni trustee* (see III, Recommendation C, 1)

Mrs. Marjorie Youngsma has served one three-year term, and the board recommends her for a second three-year term.

*Mrs. Marjorie Youngsma*; coursework at Calvin College, graduate of St. Luke's Hospital School of X-Ray Technology

Mrs. Youngsma has served Calvin College on the board of the Alumni Association (1997-2000) as finance committee chair and as a member of the development committee. She was on the board of Bethesda PsycHealth Systems from 1983-1994 and served as the vice president. She has received numerous honors and awards as a volunteer in the Denver area and has been a deacon and church treasurer. Mrs. Youngsma was president of SpeechMasters Inc., from 1987-1993. From 1995-2004, she served as ministries coordinator for Third Christian Reformed Church of Denver. She is married to Curt Youngsma, and they have four children, all Calvin graduates.

C. *At-large trustees* (see III, Recommendation C, 2)

The first term of Mrs. Elsa Prince Broekhuizen expires in 2004. The board recommends her for a second three-year term.

*Mrs. Elsa D. Zwiep Prince Broekhuizen*; B.A. Calvin

Mrs. Elsa Prince Broekhuizen previously served two terms on the board of Calvin College (1992-1998). She was married to Edgar Prince for forty-one years until his death in 1995. She married Rev. Rensselaar Broekhuizen (Calvin, 1956) in 2000. Her work has included teaching in elementary schools in Colorado, Michigan, and South Carolina. As a homemaker and mother, she served on numerous boards, including Friendship Ministries, Calvin Presidential Advisory board, Holland Mainstreet, and Holland Arts Council. In addition, she volunteered for Holland area community and arts initiatives. After Mr. Prince's death, she was chair of Prince Corporation and currently is chair of EDP Management and Lumir Corporation. She is a member of Ridgpointe Church in Holland, Michigan.

Dr. Jack Harkema and Ms. Jackie VanderBrug have each served two three-year terms, and the board recommends each for an appointment to a third term.

*Dr. Jack Harkema*; B.S., Calvin College; M.S., Michigan State University; D.V.M., Michigan State University; Ph.D., University of California, Davis

Dr. Harkema has been Professor of Pathology and Director of the Laboratory for Experimental and Toxicology Pathology at Michigan State University since 1994. Dr. Harkema has published extensively and has received a number of grants and contracts. He and his wife, Laurie, and their two daughters are members of River Terrace CRC, East Lansing, Michigan, where he serves on the executive committee.

*Ms. Jacquelyn VanderBrug*; B.S., Calvin College; M.A., University of Michigan

Ms. VanderBrug currently serves at iBasis in Burlington, Massachusetts, as Director of Business Development. From 1994-1998, she did management consulting for CSC Index in Chicago, Illinois. In the summer of 1995, she served as a business assistance intern for Focus: Hope, located in Detroit, Michigan, and from 1990-92, she was a programming analyst for the Congressional Budget Office of the United States Congress. Ms. VanderBrug has served as a worship planner and liturgist in her church and as a tutor for the Neighborhood Learning Center. She also currently serves as executive director of Work In Progress, a Boston area nonprofit.

### III. Recommendations

A. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Mr. Milt Kuyers; the vicechair of the board, Rev. Charles DeRidder; the secretary of the board, Ms. Cynthia Veenstra; and the president of the college, Dr. Gaylen J. Byker when matters pertaining to education are presented.

#### B. Faculty matters

1. That synod give appropriate recognition to the following for service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church and confer on them the titles listed below:

John E. Hamersma, S.M.D., Professor of Music, Emeritus  
Beverly H. Morrison, Ph.D., Counselor, Student Academic Services, Emerita  
Larry R. Nyhoff, Ph.D., Professor of Computer Science, Emeritus  
Davis A. Young, Ph.D., Professor of Geology, Emeritus  
Marvin A. Zuidema, P.E.D., Professor of Physical Education, Emeritus

2. That synod ratify the following reappointment with tenure (*italics indicate promotion to that rank*):

Ruth E. Groenhout, Ph.D. *Professor of Philosophy*

C. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect the following nominees for membership on the board (terms to begin and end on the convening date of the first full board meeting following the meeting of synod):

1. Alumni trustee

Mrs. Marjorie Youngsma 2007

2. At-large trustee

Mrs. Elsa Prince Broekhuizen, second term 2007

Dr. Jack Harkema, third term 2007

Ms. Jacquelyn VanderBrug, third term 2007

Calvin College Board of Trustees  
Cynthia Rozendal Veenstra, secretary

This report includes actions and recommendations of the seminary board of trustees resulting from its May 20-21, 2004, meetings.

## **I. Information**

### **A. Board of Trustees**

The trustees, at their meeting on May 21, 2004, elected the following officers for 2004-2005: Sidney J. Jansma, Jr., president; Jacob E. Nyenhuis, vice president; and Ruth Hofman, secretary.

### **B. Graduates, licentiates, candidates**

Sixty-one students were graduated from our degree programs on May 22, 2004, and five graduates from other seminaries successfully completed their ecclesiastical program requirements at Calvin Theological Seminary and are included in the list of candidates.

Successful interviews were conducted with thirty-one new candidacy applicants recommended by the faculty (see Recommendations III, A).

Three candidates from previous years, Mr. Peter Choi, Mr. Mark Klompfen, and Mr. Winston Visser, each requested an extension of candidacy. The board so recommends to synod (see Recommendations III, B, C, and D).

Twenty-seven students were granted either regular or temporary licensure to exhort.

### **C. Finances**

The budget of \$5,758,900 was approved as presented for 2004-2005.

## **II. Communication to synod**

The Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary adopts the following communication to Synod 2004:

The Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary wishes to express to synod its appreciation for the denomination's financial support of the seminary, to call synod's attention to some long-term trends in seminary funding and denominational ministry shares, and to seek synod's affirmation of the historic relationship between the denomination and Calvin Theological Seminary.

The board is grateful for the CRCNA's faithful support of its denominational seminary. By any comparison with other denominations and seminaries, the CRCNA's financial support of Calvin Theological Seminary is strong and unparalleled. This support flows from the fact that Calvin Theological Seminary is owned and operated by the denomination and from the denomination's long-standing conviction that great blessing and strength come to the seminary and the church when there is a deep interdependence of seminary and church upon one another.

At the same time, the board points out to synod two rather dramatic trends that have evolved over the years:

- First, the portion of the seminary budget that comes from denominational ministry shares continues to be smaller, not because ministry shares have declined in actual dollars but because operational costs continue to rise.

Because of this trend over many years, the ministry-share portion of the seminary budget has dropped from 90 percent in 1981, to 75 percent in 1991, to 45 percent in the 2004-2005 budget.

- Second, whereas the ministry-share system began as a means of providing education for ministers (see p. 103 in the *Agenda for Synod 2004* where the Ministries Priorities Committee Report explains the origins of the ministry-share system), the scope and size of denominational ministries have so expanded that the seminary portion of ministry shares today represents only 11 percent of the total denominational ministry share and 7.5 percent of the total denominational program.

We bring these incremental, but dramatic, trends to synod's attention because we have concerns that the long-term impact of these trends, especially if one projects these trends into the future, is to weaken the interdependence of the seminary and church upon one another, a development that we believe is not in the interest of either the seminary or the CRC as a whole. It is especially significant that, while annual synods do adopt ministry-share levels, *synod has never specifically decided to set aside the long-standing denominational value of strong interdependence of seminary and church*. As the ministry-share portion of the seminary budget now drops well below 50 percent, and the seminary portion of total ministry shares hovers around the 10 percent level, it seems timely, if not urgent, for synod to affirm this long-standing denominational value and address the implications of this value for future financial support of the seminary.

Finally, this trend also translates into acute financial pressure on the seminary and on its students, who face steep tuition increases each year. Endowments are a key component to the financial viability of any seminary. CTS has been proud to say that the Christian Reformed Church is its *living* endowment. The seminary administration, nonetheless, is working tirelessly to adapt to the changing financial realities of denominational support, including short-term efforts to balance each annual budget and long-term efforts to raise endowment funds.

The board expresses to synod not only the seminary's gratitude but also its deep need for the church's ongoing financial support, as well as its concern that synod maintain the long-standing denominational value of the strong interdependence of seminary and church.

### III. Recommendations

A. That synod declare the following as candidates for the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to completion of all requirements:

Barton, Adam M. H.	Frielink, Harry J.
Bodini, Richard A.	Gerber, Edward H.
Borger, Joyce	Gifford, David S.
Brock, Ardean B.	Guikema-Bode, Beth E.
Broek, Craig E.	Heeres, Kevin S.
de Boer, Folkert (Frank)	Hoogland, Daniel
Fakkema, Douglas E.	Kamphuis, Joseph M.
Fisher, Jeffrey A.	King, Zachary J.
Fluit, Gregory A.	Kroon, David G.

Lamsma, Bret D.  
Meinders, Bradley A.  
Meinema, Leonard H.  
Moerman, Stephen D.  
Muller, Carol S.  
Raak, Randall C.  
Rodenhouse, Lucas A.

Steenwyk, Chad M.  
Timmer, Gregory P.  
Tinklenberg, Wendy S.  
Umran, Naji  
Van Boom, Michael  
Verhoef, Paul W.-T.

- B.* That Mr. Peter Choi be granted a one-year extension of his candidacy.
- C.* That Mr. Mark Klompien be granted a one-year extension of his candidacy.
- D.* That Mr. Winston Visser be granted a one-year extension of his candidacy.
- E.* That synod acknowledge with gratitude to God the years of faithful service of Dr. Sidney Greidanus and confer upon him the title of Professor of Preaching and Worship, Emeritus, effective August 31, 2004.

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees  
Sidney Jansma, Jr., secretary

**I. Update on relationship with the Reformed Church in America**

In CRC Publications' earlier report to synod, it was noted that CRC Publications and the Reformed Church in America (RCA) had agreed on a full partnership in providing resources to the CRC and the RCA, where full partnership was understood to mean total integration of all functions related to resource development and distribution. However, that decision included no details regarding the full partnership. An informal agreed-upon goal was to define this arrangement within three years.

Since that time, the two organizations have decided to put some key elements of this arrangement on a fast track and implement them by December 1, 2004. Some of the key items in the decision are the following:

A. The following functions of the full partnership will be centralized within CRC Publications and the CRC Product Services Department:

- Customer service/warehousing/shipping/invoicing
- Marketing
- Inventory

B. CRC Publications will purchase the RCA inventory of those products that both agree will continue to be sold. It will remit 5 percent (at least initially) to the RCA of all net sales to the RCA churches.

C. CRC Publications will add (possibly) an interim RCA liaison position (one-half time) to its staff.

D. Three at-large positions on the reconstituted CRC Publications Board will be designated as RCA appointments.

In developing the proposal for this partnership, several values on which the partnership would be based were agreed upon. Perhaps the key value is the following:

The partnership entity should serve the resource/publishing needs of both the RCA and the CRC equally well.

This arrangement will be advantageous to the churches from both denominations for several reasons. First of all, it will allow the two denominations, and ultimately the churches from both, to benefit from the efficiencies gained from combining two separate entities. Second, our churches will benefit from having access to the resources that are provided from the unique but complementary perspectives of leaders from both denominations.

**II. Today's New International Version (TNIV) of the Bible**

As CRC Publications develops its resources, it normally uses the version of the Bible that is most commonly used in CRC churches for Scripture references. That version is currently the New International Version (NIV).

A revised translation, called Today's New International Version (TNIV), will probably be available in the summer of 2005; the New Testament is already available in that version. It would be helpful for CRC Publications' planning purposes to know sooner rather than later whether this new version will become the preferred version for CRC churches. For example, as we

reprint our new *Walk With Me* curriculum, we would want to make sure we are using the Bible version that churches are moving toward.

The churches often wait until synod determines whether a new Bible version is acceptable for use in worship services before deciding whether to make a change. In the past, the process for bringing a recommendation specified that the Worship Committee of CRC Publications appoint a task force to examine a new version and develop a recommendation, which then was processed through the CRC Publications Board. The Worship Committee was disbanded several years ago, so, last September, the CRC Publications executive committee passed the following recommendation:

That the board president appoint a committee to develop a proposal for the CRC Publications Board's suggesting what it should recommend to synod regarding whether synod should designate Today's New International Version as one of the Bible versions acceptable for use in worship services.

At the time the executive committee made this decision, it was under the impression that the TNIV would be available by late last year.

This committee has met several times and is planning to have a recommendation ready for the CRC Publications Board in February 2005 so that the board can develop a recommendation for Synod 2005.

CRC Publications

Gary Mulder, executive director

**I. The Micah Call and the Micah Challenge**

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action (OSJHA) request that Synod 2004 endorse the Micah Call and encourage strong CRC participation in the Micah Challenge.

The Board of Trustees of the CRC, at their meeting of February 28, 2004, endorsed this request:

BOT 2821 Micah Challenge

CRWRC and the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action are requesting the endorsement of the BOT for its request to synod to officially adopt The Micah Challenge, a global antipoverty movement.

**A motion carries to endorse the request of CRWRC and the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action that Synod 2004 adopt The Micah Challenge.**

In order to facilitate a fruitful discussion and informed decision, CRWRC and the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action offer the following background information and rationale for this request: The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and the Micah Network have created this global evangelical campaign to mobilize Christians against poverty.

**A. What is the Micah Challenge?**

The Micah Challenge is a joint project of the Micah Network and the World Evangelical Alliance and is inspired by landmark statements reached by both of these organizations in 2001.

The campaign's goals look both inward, to a deepening of evangelical commitment to the poor, and outward, to influence leaders to implement policy changes that could dramatically and substantially reduce poverty. It will bring together millions of evangelical Christians to contribute a prophetic and powerful voice for the poor.

**B. What does it hope to accomplish?**

The campaign will target policy change at all levels needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a universally agreed roadmap toward the halving of key poverty indicators by 2015. The measures of success for the campaign will be policy change and participation by evangelicals in the campaign. Progress toward the achievement of the MDGs is being carefully benchmarked and tracked by the United Nations Development Program. The contribution made by evangelical Christians will be indicated by a register of churches, communities, organizations, and individuals who have signed the Micah Call (see below) and have participated in advocacy activities. The campaign will also raise awareness of, and track improvements in, direct contributions by evangelical Christian organizations toward achievement of the MDGs.

The initial phase of the campaign runs from 2004 through 2006, but, if participation is encouraging, it will likely run much longer.

The Micah Call is a cornerstone of the campaign. Individual Christians, denominations, organizations, and churches around the world will be asked to go to the [www.micahchallenge.org](http://www.micahchallenge.org) website and sign the Micah Call.

## THE MICAH CALL

This is a moment in history of unique potential,  
when the stated intentions of world leaders  
echo something of the mind of the Biblical prophets  
and the teachings of Jesus concerning the poor,  
and when we have the means  
to dramatically reduce poverty.

We commit ourselves, as followers of Jesus,  
to work together  
for the holistic transformation of our communities,  
to pursue justice, be passionate about mercy  
and to walk humbly with God.

We call on international and national decision-makers  
of both rich and poor nations  
to fulfill their public promise  
to achieve the Millennium Development Goals  
and so halve absolute global poverty by 2015.

We call on Christians everywhere to be agents of hope  
for and with the poor,  
and to work with others  
to hold our national and global leaders accountable  
in securing a more just and merciful world.

### *C. What would adoption of this challenge entail for the CRC?*

Synod's adoption of the Micah Challenge and the Micah Call statement would signify a general endorsement of the statement and goals, and it would serve as a strong encouragement to the agencies, institutions, and members of the CRC to work together with other evangelicals to accomplish these goals.

### *D. Why should the CRC participate?*

Because there is little chance of success in trying to meet the needs of the world in isolation, CRWRC and the OSJHA believe that fully participating in this worldwide effort offers the CRC a wonderful opportunity to be freed to:

- Join with other evangelical Christians in direct efforts to raise our voices and roll up our sleeves to reinvigorate the world's commitment to reducing hunger and poverty.
- Take another large step toward the vision of synod 1993 when it called for collaboration among *all* CRC agencies and institutions in meeting the needs of the world's poor and hungry ("Freedom to Serve: Meeting the Needs of the World").
- Use our participation to educate, motivate, and mobilize our congregations to renew their commitment—in Christ—to the world's poor and hungry.

### *E. How is the CRC already connected?*

CRWRC has been a member of the Micah Network since 2001.

The Micah Network brings together more than 250 evangelical Christian organizations that provide relief, development, and justice ministries throughout the world. The majority are community development agencies in the South. The Micah Network aims to:

- Strengthen the capacity of participating agencies to make a biblical response to the needs of the poor and oppressed.

- Speak strongly and effectively regarding the nature of the mission of the church to proclaim and demonstrate the love of Christ to a world in need.
- Prophetically influence the leaders and decision-makers of societies to maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed and to rescue the weak and needy.

The Micah Network's first International Consultation in Oxford in September 2001 developed the Declaration on Integral Mission. The Declaration sets out the biblical basis for the Micah Challenge. A key excerpt reads:

Integral mission or holistic transformation is the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. It is not simply that evangelism and social involvement are to be done alongside each other. Rather, in integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. If we ignore the world we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God we have nothing to bring to the world. Justice and justification by faith, worship and political action, the spiritual and the material, personal change and structural change belong together. As in the life of Jesus, being, doing and saying are at the heart of our integral task.

The CRC relates to the World Evangelical Alliance through our membership in the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) in the United States and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC).

The World Evangelical Alliance was founded in 1951 and now embraces 335 million evangelicals in 121 countries. In structural terms, the WEA is a global network of 128 national and regional evangelical church alliances, 104 organizational ministries, and 6 specialized ministries that serve the worldwide church.

The WEA General Assembly of 2001 reached the following resolution, which also provides a cornerstone for the Micah Challenge:

As a global Christian community seeking to live in obedience to Scripture, we recognize the challenge of poverty across God's world. We welcome the international initiative to halve world poverty by 2015, and pledge ourselves to do all we can, through our organizations and churches, to back this with prayerful, practical action in our nations and communities. We believe . . . if the poverty targets are to be met:

- There needs to be a commitment to achieve growing justice in world trade in the light of globalization; this must recognize the role of trade, particularly in arms, that fuels conflict and causes widespread poverty and suffering
- It is vital that a new deal on international debt is agreed by the G7 leaders as a matter of urgency and carried through by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank

. . . we urge governments and financial institutions of both North and South to act decisively, transparently and with integrity to combat corruption . . . taking the necessary steps to break the chains of debt and give a new start to the world's poorest nations.

## II. Summary

We believe that the kingdom of God, the hungry and the poor (an increasing number), and the CRC will be well served by our enthusiastic participation in this evangelical collaborative effort.

### **III. Recommendation**

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action request that synod endorse the Micah Call and encourage strong CRC participation in the Micah Challenge.

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
Andy Ryskamp, CRWRC-U.S.A. director  
Wayne deJong, CRWRC-Canada director

**I. Bilateral relationships—churches in ecclesiastical fellowship**

Below are the provisions of ecclesiastical fellowship and an updated list of churches with which the CRCNA has ecclesiastical fellowship.

*A. Provisions of ecclesiastical fellowship*

1. Exchange of fraternal delegates to major assemblies
2. Occasional pulpit fellowship
3. Fellowship at the table of the Lord
4. Join action in areas of common responsibility
5. Communication on major issues of joint concern
6. Exercise of mutual concern and admonition with a view to promoting the fundamentals of Christian unity

Ecclesiastical fellowship may involve fewer than all six elements. At present, the CRCNA is in full fellowship with the churches listed below unless otherwise indicated. Restrictions were placed on the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN/GKN) in 1983 relating to provisions 1 and 2. Further restrictions were placed on the RCN/GKN in 1996 relating to provisions 3 and 4.

*B. List of churches in ecclesiastical fellowship (with the year in which such fellowship was established)*

1. Africa
  - a. Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria (CRCN) (1974)
  - b. Church of Christ in the Sudan Among the Tiv (NKST) (1974)  
(Nongo U Kristu U Ken Sudan Hen Tiv)
  - c. Dutch Reformed Church in Africa (DRCA) (1983)  
(Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Afrika)
  - d. Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa (DRC) (2001)  
(Die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Suid Afrika)
  - e. Midlands Reformed Churches in South Africa (MRCSA) (1991)  
(Gereformeerde Kerke in Suide-Afrika—Sinode Middelande]
  - f. Reformed Church in Africa (RCA) 1982
  - g. Reformed Churches in South Africa (Synod Potchefstroom) (1974)  
(Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika)
  - h. Reformed Churches in South Africa (Synod Soutpansberg) (1989)
  - i. Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria (2003)
  - j. Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) (1982)  
(Verenigende Gereformeerde Kerk in Suider Afrika)
2. Asia, Australia, and Indonesia
  - a. Christian Reformed Church in Sumba (Indonesia) (1974)  
(Gereja Kristen Sumba)
  - b. Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines (1997)
  - c. Christian Reformed Churches of Australia (CRCA) (1974)
  - d. Dutch Reformed Church in Sri Lanka (1974)
  - e. Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ) (1974)

### 3. Europe

- a. Netherlands Reformed Churches (NRC) (1982)  
(Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken-Buiten Verband)
- b. Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN) (1974)  
(Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland)  
(Ecclesiastical fellowship restricted by CRCNA—1983, 1996)

### 4. North America

- a. Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) (1977)
- b. Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) (1986)
- c. Reformed Church in America (RCA) (1976)

### 5. Latin America

- a. Christian Reformed Church in Cuba (2001)  
(La Iglesia Cristiana Reformada en Cuba)
- b. Evangelical Reformed Church in Brazil (1974)  
(Ireja Evangelica Reformada no Brasil)
- c. Reformed Church in Argentina (1974)  
(Iglesias Reformadas en le Argentina)

## II. Bilateral relationships—churches in corresponding fellowship

- A. *Christian Reformed Church of Myanmar*
- B. *Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Nkhoma Synod) Malawi*
- C. *Evangelical Reformed Church of Burundi*
- D. *Reformed Church in Zambia*

## III. Reformed Ecumenical Council's International Assembly

The CRC has received its invitation to participate in the meetings of the next International Assembly of the Reformed Ecumenical Council to be held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, from July 12 to 26, 2005. In anticipation of that meeting, the Interchurch Relations Committee has appointed the following delegates to represent the CRC:

Dr. David H. Engelhard  
Dr. Bertha Mook  
Mrs. Teresa Renkema  
Rev. Ralph Wigboldus

## IV. Conversation with the Reformed Church in America

Synod 2002 instructed the Interchurch Relations Committee to engage in dialogue with the Commission on Christian Unity of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). The mandate is as follows:

That synod instruct the IRC, in consultation with appropriate agencies of the CRCNA to engage in a dialogue with the Commission on Christian Unity of the RCA, to ascertain how our ministry and mission throughout the world might be strengthened by greater cooperation between our two denominations and report its findings to Synod 2005.

*(Acts of Synod 2002, p. 498)*

The RCA's Commission on Christian Unity was also given a mandate by the synod in 2002 that reads as follows:

To instruct the Commission on Christian Unity to enter into dialogue with the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRC), exploring ways of moving toward greater unity between the CRC and the RCA in their ministry and mission, beginning with a discussion of the orderly exchange of ministers, and to report to the 2003 General Synod; and further, to encourage the agencies of the RCA to continue to expand their cooperative efforts with their CRC counterparts.

On March 4, 2004, representatives of both churches held their second meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The RCA was represented by Rev. David Alexander, Rev. David Baak, Rev. Sue Damon, Rev. Tom Danney, Dr. Douglas Fromm, Rev. Anna Jackson, and Rev. Pedro Windsor. The CRC was represented by Rev. Philip De Jonge, Dr. David H. Engelhard, Dr. David Rylaarsdam, Rev. Richard Vander Vaart, and Rev. Ralph Wigboldus. The agreed-upon agenda included those items that were identified at the conclusion of the first meeting (see *Agenda for Synod 2003*, pp. 236-37). A majority of this meeting was focused on the "exchange of clergy" between our denominations, the Belhar Confession, and ways to enhance cooperative ventures between us. Inasmuch as no final decisions were taken and no recommendations advanced, there are no proposals for synod at this time. Another meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2004.

Interchurch Relations Committee

Louisa Bruinsma  
Michiel De Berdt  
Philip De Jonge, vice president  
David H. Engelhard (ex officio)  
Bertha Mook  
Teresa Renkema  
David M. Rylaarsdam  
Carlos G. Tapanes  
Richard T. Vander Vaart  
William C. Veenstra (ex officio)  
Abraham J. Vreeke  
Ralph S. Wigboldus  
Michael Winnowski, president  
Simon Wolfert

# OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATIONS

**Overture 23: Revise Church Order Article 36-a**

Classis Hamilton overtures synod to revise Church Order Article 36-a to read as follows:

The council, consistory, and diaconate shall *ordinarily* meet at least once a month at a time and place announced to the congregation. Each body shall select its own president and other officers.

*Grounds:*

1. This change reflects what is already current practice in a significant number of CRC churches where the number of council, consistory, and diaconate meetings has been reduced to fewer than twelve per year.
2. This change allows for greater flexibility in scheduling meetings. Councils, consistories, and diaconates have found that they can continue to function effectively with fewer meetings.
3. Church visitors can ensure that the number of meetings held are sufficient for the ministry needs of the congregation.

Classis Hamilton  
Peter Zwart, stated clerk

**Overture 24: Continue Practice of Voting for Candidates as a Group****I. Overture**

Classis Grand Rapids East overtures synod to honor Synod 1995's decision regarding the declaration of candidacy by continuing Synod 2003's practice of voting on seminarians as a group when they are declared eligible for a call to the gospel ministry.

*Grounds:*

1. Voting on people as a group is the normal way synod votes in every other case, including the approval of the ordination of women candidates.
2. Voting on seminarians as a group deals seriously with current qualifications mandated by the denomination for candidacy and does not introduce something that is no longer a denominational qualification—a seminarian's gender.
3. Voting on seminarians as a group honors the 1995 synodical decision that, "in the declaration of candidacy delegates may exercise their right to abstain from voting" (Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, p. 24).

## II. Background

### A. *The decision of Synod 1995*

Synod 1995 voted to honor both convictions on whether women ought to serve in the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist. One of the results of this decision was that women who had already earned or were in the process of earning the Master of Divinity degree from Calvin Theological Seminary could be declared eligible for call. Even though some congregations might not call such candidates, and even though some classes might not permit them to serve in their regions, synod is obligated to declare these seminarians eligible for call. To state this in another way, even though some people do not agree, being male is no longer a requirement for being declared eligible for call in our denomination. No one may deny candidacy to a seminarian simply because of the seminarian's gender.

How would synod honor the convictions of those who thought that gender should still be a qualification? Should they be allowed to vote as if gender still was a qualification? That would be terribly contradictory and could create a grave injustice if the majority of synodical delegates voted against some seminarians solely on the basis of their gender, thus denying them candidacy even though they had met every qualification mandated by the denomination for entrance into the gospel ministry. Thus, synod declared, "In the declaration of candidacy delegates may exercise their right to abstain from voting" (Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, p. 24).

### B. *The decision of Synod 1995 violated by Synods 1996 and 1997*

Synod 1996 immediately violated the 1995 decision without citing sufficient and new grounds for reconsidering it (cf. Church Order Article 31, p.10). In the years prior to 1996, all seminarians were approved for candidacy as a group. Synod 1996, instead of informing delegates that they could exercise their right to abstain when this vote was taken, introduced a brand new and extremely unusual method of voting. It separated the seminarians into two groups, one containing males and one containing females. Thus, Synod 1995's decision that gender was no longer a denominational qualification for entrance into the ministry was undone, and delegates were permitted to vote against seminarians solely on the basis of a nonqualification—their gender. In 1997, the same procedure was used, and a large number of delegates recorded their negative votes on the female seminarians.

At Synods 1996 and 1997, the seminary faculty and board assured synod that *all* seminarians had fulfilled *all* the qualifications required by the denomination. At both synods there was not one second of discussion about how any seminarian failed to meet the denominationally required qualifications. Delegates who voted against particular seminarians voted on the basis of something that was no longer a denominational qualification—a seminarian's gender. Both of these synods violated the 1995 synodical decision that instructed delegates to abstain from voting if they were unable to vote on the qualifications now current in the denomination.

### C. *The decision of Synod 1995 violated by Synods 1998-2002*

When the method of voting used by Synod 1996 and 1997 was challenged at Synod 1998, this synod, too, violated the 1995 decision. It did not return to synod's traditional method of voting but introduced yet another brand new

and extremely unusual voting procedure. Though it no longer separated the seminarians into male and female groups as Synods 1996 and 1997 had done, it separated each seminarian from every other seminarian so delegates could vote on them individually. Again, the seminary faculty and board assured synod that *all* seminarians had met *all* the denominationally mandated qualifications. Again, not one second was spent discussing how any seminarian failed to meet the denominationally required qualifications. Again, synod permitted delegates to vote against some seminarians on the basis of a non-qualification, their gender, instead of honoring the 1995 decision and instructing delegates to abstain from the vote if they could not participate in it. Synods 1999-2002 continued to use this same new and unusual voting procedure.

#### *D. New and unusual voting procedures*

The brand new and extremely unusual voting procedures used by Synods 1996-2002 were used only when synod declared seminarians to be candidates. At no other time did synod take a group of people recommended to it and separate members of the group by gender or separate members of the group individually.

It is very instructive to note how synods vote on synodical deputy reports. Seminarians who are declared candidates are called by congregations and examined by classes in the presence of synodical deputies. Technically, these seminarians only enter the ministry when a following synod approves the work of the deputies. One would expect that delegates who claim that they must vote on seminarians individually when they are declared candidates would also claim that they must vote on candidates individually when synod approves their ordination. This has never happened. When synods voted on synodical deputy reports, they never changed the normal method of voting by forming a group of reports dealing with women candidates or by voting on each report individually so delegates could vote against the ordination of some candidates solely on the basis of gender. In this vote, synods always honored the 1995 decision by voting on the candidates as a group while permitting delegates to “exercise their right to abstain from voting” (Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, p. 24) if they did not wish to participate when the vote was taken.

At the opening session of Synod 2003 when delegates were asked to approve the membership of synod’s advisory committees, a delegate informed synod that his convictions would not allow him to vote on some of the people recommended and moved that synod vote on each member of the advisory committees individually. Essentially, this delegate asked synod to use the same voting procedure that synod was using in the declaration of candidacy. This motion did not even receive a second. One can only assume that synod did not want to vote in such an extremely unusual way. This stands in marked contrast to Synods 1996-2002 that violated Synod 1995’s decision by introducing new and unusual methods of voting in the declaration of candidacy instead of instructing delegates that they could abstain from the vote if they could not participate in it.

#### *E. The decision of Synod 1995 honored by Synod 2003*

Finally, Synod 2003 honored the 1995 decision. The seminary faculty and board assured synod that *all* candidates had met *all* the denominationally mandated qualifications. Instead of introducing a new and unusual voting

procedure, synod voted in the same way it traditionally votes on every other group of names presented to it. Synod voted on the group as a whole while permitting all delegates to “exercise their right to abstain from voting” (Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, p. 24) if they chose to do so.

#### *F. Request that Synod 2004 violate the decision of Synod 1995*

Synod 2004 is being asked to violate the 1995 decision by reintroducing one of the new and unusual voting procedures used by Synods 1996-2002. As this overture indicates, a return to the new and unusual voting procedures used by Synods 1996-2002 is not consistent with past or present methods of voting used by synod in every other case when a group of names is recommended to it. As this overture also indicates, a return to the new and unusual voting procedures used by Synods 1996-2002 violates the 1995 decision. Any delegate may abstain from any vote on any group of persons. No delegate may ask synod to separate people individually so he can vote against some of them because of something that is not a denominationally mandated qualification.

Synod 1995 decided that gender would no longer be a denominational qualification for entering the ministry. Women may attend our seminary and may secure an M.Div. degree. Synodical delegates may not decline to declare them candidates simply because of their gender. When delegates vote to extend candidacy to seminarians, they are not being asked, “Do you agree that women may serve as ministers?” All of us know that a number of delegates do not agree with that. Synod is being asked, “Do you concur in the judgment of the seminary faculty and board that *all* these seminarians have met *all* the denominationally mandated qualifications to enter the ministry?” If a delegate does not wish to answer that affirmatively, synod allows him to abstain from voting; something that synodical delegates have always done when the ordination of women candidates is approved and something synodical delegates should also do when the candidacy of women seminarians is approved.

May a seminarian ever be separated from all other seminarians to be voted on individually? Of course. This has happened a number of times in our history. Usually this separation is done by the seminary faculty or board itself because of reservations about a person’s qualifications, but such a motion may also be made by any delegate who has specific concerns about a person’s qualifications. However, no seminarian should be separated from her classmates because a delegate disagrees with current denominational qualifications. Gender is not a denominational qualification for ministry, and synod must not permit delegates to vote as if it is. Instead, in accordance with the decision of Synod 1995, synod must instruct delegates that they “may exercise their right to abstain from voting” (Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, p. 24) if they do not wish to participate when this vote is taken.

#### *G. Conclusion*

We request that Synod 2004 continue Synod 2003’s practice of voting on seminarians as a group when they are declared eligible for call to the gospel ministry. Voting on people as a group is the normal way synod votes in every other case, including the approval of the ordination of women candidates. Voting on seminarians as a group deals seriously with current qualifications mandated by the denomination for candidacy and does not introduce something that is no longer a denominational qualification—a seminarian’s gender. Voting on seminarians as a group honors the 1995 synodical decision that, “in

the declaration of candidacy delegates may exercise their right to abstain from voting” (Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, p 24).

Classis Grand Rapids East  
Philip R. Lucasse, stated clerk

## **Overture 25: Receive the BOT’s Report re the Succession Plan and Its Recommendations as Information**

### **I. Background**

In the *Agenda for Synod 2003*, the Board of Trustees advised that a number of denominational leadership positions are to undergo a change in the next several years and that, in order to address an orderly transition, they had appointed a Succession Planning Committee to develop a proposal that will place denominational leadership with a team of executives led by a leader who will replace the two senior executive positions of executive director of ministries and general secretary. The Board of Trustees outlined its rationale for developing a single-leader model as being its experiences since 1992 and its thinking that both it and synod would be more effectively serviced by a single leader. The Board of Trustees introduced the concept of a cabinet of senior denominational personnel to advise the leader. The Board advised that no action was required for Synod 2003 as recommendations would be presented to a future synod. In its report entitled Report re the Succession Plan (the report) at page 81 of the *Agenda for Synod 2004*, the Board of Trustees now requests approval of the restructuring of the Christian Reformed Church in North America’s administrative and governance structure on the basis set out in the report.

### **II. Overture**

Classis Hamilton overtures synod:

A. To receive as information the report re the Succession Plan in the *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 81-102 but to reserve a decision respecting the recommendations of the Board of Trustees contained therein.

B. To instruct the Board of Trustees to commission a study, on terms approved by synod, to assess the Christian Reformed Church in North America’s administrative and governance structural needs and requirements and to present such study directly to Synod 2006.

*Grounds:*

1. The *Agenda for Synod 2004* was not received by churches until late April 2004, leaving insufficient time for local churches and classes to fully consider the impact of the proposed structural changes to the governance and administrative structure of the Christian Reformed Church in North America on the church and its grassroots development as well as potential implications on regulatory agencies, including taxation authorities.
2. The proposed structural changes to the governance and administrative structure of the Christian Reformed Church in North America may be of great and far-reaching significance to local churches, including Canadian

churches. In addition, given the fundamental nature of the proposed structural changes, the consequences could be lasting with limited opportunity for prompt remedial action should the proposed changes adversely impact local churches.

3. The suggested position description for the Canadian Ministries Director (CMD) (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, p. 97) is significantly different from the position description approved by Synod 1997. This could significantly impact the ministry of the CRC churches in Canada.
4. The report and the Succession Planning Committee's Deliberations, Reflections, and Conclusions (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 85-90) include only consideration of a single-leader model without sufficient discussion and consideration of other alternative administrative and governance models. Indeed, the *Agenda for Synod 2003* appears to specifically direct the Succession Planning Committee to consider the single-leader model with limited apparent discussion of the singular merits of the model or of the deficiencies of other administration and governance models.
5. While there may be some succession planning issues to be addressed among the executives of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, such present issues should not unduly accelerate the consideration of fundamental structural issues of the nature proposed in the report.
6. A study would (1) enable synod to consider alternative forms of administrative and governance structures beyond the single-leader model contemplated in the report, (2) provide a means for meaningful discussion and dialogue among local and regional churches and church agencies prior to the development of recommendations, and (3) allow for a holistic consideration of regulatory and other factors that may be impacted by a restructuring.

Classis Hamilton  
Peter Zwart, stated clerk

## Communication 5

On the agenda this year is an extensive report dealing with routes to ministry in the CRC. There is much in the report that we as a classis would endorse. There is also much in the report that will require careful discernment and wisdom as synod weighs the needs and interest of the CRC at this point in history. Our prayers will be with you as you deliberate.

We wish to contribute to the discussion, advocating for the needs of the churches and emerging leaders in Southern California and, perhaps, other regions distant from Grand Rapids and Calvin Theological Seminary. Our traditional system of routes to ministry has required that some students spend time at our seminary. There are those who would extend this kind of requirement to everyone entering the ministry of the CRC no matter what their background is. In the case of those entering through Church Order Article 8 and many other situations, we believe that this requirement becomes unnecessarily expensive.

Even in the days of ready air travel and the coast-to-coast access that such travel allows, there are costs associated with our traditional system. The first cost is an economic cost: Many ethnic churches and individuals in our region cannot afford air travel and the related lodging expenses for a pastor in training. Our tradition is weighted toward the abilities of the affluent in this respect.

The second cost is a human cost: Requiring an extended time away from family does not feel like a necessary sacrifice for the CRC to demand. (The need for orientation to the CRC and the task of building loyalty and relationship can take place regionally with the use of adjunct faculty and/or some form of distance learning.)

Finally, a third cost is a ministry cost: This is paid when a pastor in training or an affiliating pastor is required to spend significant time in Grand Rapids away from his/her congregation. The ongoing ministry on the home front is interrupted, the churches face a resulting hardship, and the very ministries we seek to build up through our training are damaged by our requirement of traveling to the Midwest.

Thus, whatever the ultimate response that Synod 2004 makes to the routes to ministry report, we would ask, both humbly and passionately, that the value of regional and classical preparation and certification for affiliating ministers and students be recognized and embraced.

Classis Greater Los Angeles  
Gary M. Stevens, stated clerk

## Communication 6

Classis Hamilton, in session May 18, 2004, expressed appreciation for the Alternate Routes to Ministry Report but shares concerns expressed in the Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) report and the overture of Classis Grand Rapids East.

Classis' discussion of the report included the following nine points identified in this communication:

1. The shift from Calvin Theological Seminary, its Board of Trustees, and synod to a Classical Ministerial Candidacy Committee is huge. Most classes cannot be expected to oversee and supervise the entire process of ministry preparation and formation. These assemblies experience staff turnover throughout the three to eight years that students need to complete their academic and pastoral preparations.
2. Each home classis of most students cannot adequately supervise those students enrolled at a distant or lesser known seminary.
3. Currently, students tend to choose to enroll in an alternative seminary on the basis of personal advantages or convenience. They are not persuaded that CTS should be their preferred route.
4. In effect, the temporary material needs of individual candidates are weighted against (or outweigh) the communal enduring spiritual needs of the CRC and its ministries, both local and worldwide.
5. The synodical study offers the premise that the current Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy is not flexible enough to meet present-day needs of students. However, it offers no convincing evidence to substantiate the question-turned-to-assertion.
6. The concept of endorsed alternative seminaries is unclear. Criteria could include broad considerations of distance, theology, academic standing, and denominational affiliation. The combined criteria forces the conclusion that CTS is no longer the endorsed seminary that is uniquely qualified to serve the CRCNA and its full orb of ministries—precisely because the CRCNA has shaped and nurtured CTS confessionally, academically, and in the application of the Reformed and biblical view of life and the world.
7. The report extrapolates trends toward a critical shortage of ministers. It fails to credit CTS and Christian Reformed Home Missions with recent new initiatives in recruitment and curriculum (such as Facing your Future).
8. Fundamental to strong pastoral ministries in the CRC has been a solid grounding in the languages of the Old and New Testaments and in Reformed theology. These key components will be downgraded in value with a transcript of English Bible courses furnished by an endorsed alternative seminary.
9. For this inescapable erosion in denominational unity, confessional identity, and clarity of biblical witness, the churches will need to pay much more than the rough calculation offered in the report. Maintenance of staff and

travel for the proposed Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee and for the every-classis Classical Ministerial Candidacy Committee are expensive inasmuch as these bodies must be flexible in regard to candidates' applications.

It is safe to say that the proposal of these structures is not the answer to the needs of our church and even less to the concerns expressed by CTS about recent applications of Church Order Articles 7, 8, and 23.

For these reasons, the tried-and-trusted route to ordination via Church Order Article 6 should be maintained. Synod may yet wish to examine critically whether the current application of Church Order Articles 7, 8, and 23 support the call to gospel ministries in the light of the CRC's intent to remain true to its vision and mission, which are rooted in the Scriptures as confessed in the historic confessions of the Calvinist Reformed branch of the Protestant Reformation.

Classis Hamilton  
Peter Zwart, stated clerk

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2004-2005**

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,435	\$ 4,081	\$ 4,140	\$ 4,090
% of Total Income	48.3%	42.6%	42.7%	44.2%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 3,395	\$ 3,063	\$ 4,100	\$ 3,735
Estate Gifts	\$ 869	\$ 1,852	\$ 850	\$ 1,000
Total Gift Income	4,264	4,915	4,950	4,735
% of Total Income	46.5%	51.3%	51.1%	51.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants-Animation	\$ 398	\$ 237	\$ 400	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 80	\$ 339	\$ 200	\$ 425
Total Other Income	478	576	600	425
% of Total Income	5.2%	6.0%	6.2%	4.6%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9,177</b>	<b>9,572</b>	<b>9,690</b>	<b>9,250</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
English	\$ 2,875	\$ 2,702	\$ 2,760	\$ 2,525
FTEs	5	5	5	5
International	\$ 2,958	\$ 3,129	\$ 3,405	\$ 3,475
FTEs	12	12	13	13
Television	\$ 2,035	\$ 1,891	\$ 1,770	\$ 1,070
FTEs	10	10	10	5
Television - Animation	\$ 750	\$ 849	\$ 200	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
New Language Program Initiatives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 400
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 8,618	\$ 8,571	\$ 8,235	\$ 7,470
Total Program Service FTEs	27	27	28	23
% of Total \$	85.7%	84.2%	83.9%	80.8%
% of Total FTEs	79.4%	75.0%	75.7%	71.9%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 471	\$ 513	\$ 585	\$ 600
FTEs	3	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 964	\$ 1,093	\$ 990	\$ 1,180
FTEs	4	5	5	5
Total Support Service \$	1,435	1,606	1,575	1,780
Total Support Service FTEs	7	9	9	9
% of Total \$	14.3%	15.8%	16.1%	19.2%
% of Total FTEs	20.6%	25.0%	24.3%	28.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 10,053</b>	<b>\$ 10,177</b>	<b>\$ 9,810</b>	<b>\$ 9,250</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (876)</b>	<b>\$ (605)</b>	<b>\$ (120)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2004-2005**

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,201	\$ 2,519	\$ 2,736	\$ 2,480
% of Total Income	49.6%	47.6%	49.8%	43.1%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 736	\$ 873	\$ 900	\$ 1,157
Estate Gifts	\$ 79	\$ 91	\$ 50	\$ 50
Total Gift Income	815	964	950	1,207
% of Total Income	18.4%	18.2%	17.3%	21.0%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 1,264	\$ 1,318	\$ 1,439	\$ 1,659
Grants	\$ 25	\$ 369	\$ 300	\$ 357
Miscellaneous	\$ 133	\$ 124	\$ 73	\$ 56
Total Other Income	1,422	1,811	1,812	2,072
% of Total Income	32.0%	34.2%	33.0%	36.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>5,294</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>5,759</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Instructional	\$ 1,899	\$ 2,471	\$ 2,214	\$ 2,531
FTEs	28	27	27	27
Public Service	\$ 86	\$ 66	\$ 63	\$ 76
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Academic Support	\$ 727	\$ 655	\$ 856	\$ 774
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Student Services	\$ 477	\$ 490	\$ 484	\$ 523
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Student Aid	\$ 345	\$ 263	\$ 279	\$ 274
FTEs	2	1	2	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 3,534	\$ 3,945	\$ 3,896	\$ 4,178
Total Program Service FTEs	37	35	36	35
% of Total \$	77.0%	75.0%	70.9%	72.5%
% of Total FTEs	76.5%	77.8%	75.0%	77.8%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 571	\$ 544	\$ 725	\$ 789
FTEs	7	5	6	5
Plant Operations	\$ 260	\$ 311	\$ 376	\$ 345
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Fund Raising	\$ 366	\$ 460	\$ 501	\$ 448
FTEs	3	3	4	3
Total Support Service \$	1,198	1,315	1,602	1,581
Total Support Service FTEs	11	10	12	10
% of Total \$	25.3%	25.0%	29.1%	27.5%
% of Total FTEs	23.5%	22.2%	25.0%	22.2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 4,732</b>	<b>\$ 5,260</b>	<b>\$ 5,498</b>	<b>\$ 5,759</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (294)</b>	<b>\$ 34</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2004-2005**

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 521	\$ 583	\$ 605	\$ 575
% of Total Income	83.6%	94.6%	93.1%	93.5%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 60	\$ 33	\$ 45	\$ 40
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	60	33	45	40
% of Total Income	9.6%	5.4%	6.9%	6.5%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Income	42	-	-	-
% of Total Income	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>615</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Govt. Contact/Church in Soc.	\$ 26	\$ 45	\$ 59	\$ 70
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Indian Ministries	\$ 322	\$ 359	\$ 367	\$ 426
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Electronic Media	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Canadian Ministry Forum	\$ 23	\$ 2	\$ 20	\$ 18
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Other	\$ 27	\$ 23	\$ 27	\$ 29
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 398	\$ 429	\$ 473	\$ 543
Total Program Service FTEs	4	4	4	4
% of Total \$	91.5%	91.9%	93.7%	92.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 37	\$ 38	\$ 32	\$ 47
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	37	38	32	47
Total Support Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	8.5%	8.1%	6.3%	8.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 435</b>	<b>\$ 467</b>	<b>\$ 505</b>	<b>\$ 590</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 188</b>	<b>\$ 149</b>	<b>\$ 145</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>

## CRC Publications

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2004-2005

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 364	\$ 736	\$ 865	\$ 840
% of Total Income	6.3%	12.6%	15.1%	14.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 83	\$ 65	\$ 55	\$ 292
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	83	65	55	292
% of Total Income	1.4%	1.1%	1.0%	4.9%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 5,212	\$ 4,909	\$ 4,749	\$ 4,764
Grants	\$ 108	\$ 118	\$ 45	\$ 73
Miscellaneous	\$ 16	\$ 14	\$ 17	\$ 20
Total Other Income	5,336	5,041	4,811	4,857
% of Total Income	92.3%	86.3%	83.9%	81.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>5,842</b>	<b>5,731</b>	<b>5,989</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Banner	\$ 1,122	\$ 819	\$ 836	\$ 850
FTEs	5	4	4	4
Education	\$ 3,590	\$ 3,390	\$ 3,731	\$ 3,835
FTEs	23	20	18	19
World Literature	\$ 728	\$ 493	\$ 577	\$ 516
FTEs	5	3	2	2
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 5,440	\$ 4,702	\$ 5,144	\$ 5,201
Total Program Service FTEs	33	27	24	25
% of Total \$	89.5%	88.6%	88.5%	87.7%
% of Total FTEs	94.3%	93.1%	92.3%	92.6%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 636	\$ 603	\$ 666	\$ 727
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	636	603	666	727
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	2	2
% of Total \$	10.5%	11.4%	11.5%	12.3%
% of Total FTEs	5.7%	6.9%	7.7%	7.4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 6,076</b>	<b>\$ 5,305</b>	<b>\$ 5,810</b>	<b>\$ 5,928</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (293)</b>	<b>\$ 537</b>	<b>\$ (79)</b>	<b>\$ 61</b>

# Christian Reformed Home Missions

## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2004-2005

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,920	\$ 4,713	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,650
% of Total Income	64.1%	62.9%	64.5%	59.9%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 1,737	\$ 1,342	\$ 1,747	\$ 1,945
Estate Gifts	\$ 271	\$ 728	\$ 281	\$ 310
Total Gift Income	2,008	2,070	2,028	2,255
% of Total Income	26.2%	27.6%	27.2%	29.0%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 112	\$ 87	\$ 40	\$ 265
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 638	\$ 623	\$ 575	\$ 597
Total Other Income	750	710	615	862
% of Total Income	9.8%	9.5%	8.3%	11.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7,678</b>	<b>7,493</b>	<b>7,443</b>	<b>7,767</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
New-Church Development	\$ 4,778	\$ 4,077	\$ 3,783	\$ -
FTEs	12	13	12	-
Established-Church Develop.	\$ 1,798	\$ 1,645	\$ 1,506	\$ -
FTEs	16	17	17	-
Campus/schools	\$ 917	\$ 922	\$ 893	\$ -
FTEs	2	2	2	-
Ministry Teams	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,239
FTEs	-	-	-	12
Ministry Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,082
FTEs	-	-	-	16
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 7,493	\$ 6,644	\$ 6,182	\$ 6,321
Total Program Service FTEs	30	32	31	28
% of Total \$	84.8%	82.7%	81.0%	81.4%
% of Total FTEs	76.9%	78.0%	75.6%	73.7%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 700	\$ 725	\$ 702	\$ 684
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ 647	\$ 665	\$ 746	\$ 762
FTEs	6	6	7	7
Total Support Service \$	1,347	1,390	1,448	1,446
Total Support Service FTEs	9	9	10	10
% of Total \$	15.2%	17.3%	19.0%	18.6%
% of Total FTEs	23.1%	22.0%	24.4%	26.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 8,840</b>	<b>\$ 8,034</b>	<b>\$ 7,630</b>	<b>\$ 7,767</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (1,162)</b>	<b>\$ (541)</b>	<b>\$ (187)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## Fund for Smaller Churches

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2004-2005

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 356	\$ 261	\$ 265	\$ 250
% of Total Income	91.8%	91.3%	91.4%	89.3%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 5	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	5	1	-	-
% of Total Income	1.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 27	\$ 24	\$ 25	\$ 30
Total Other Income	27	24	25	30
% of Total Income	7.0%	8.4%	8.6%	10.7%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Subsidy Requests	\$ 211	\$ 405	\$ 328	\$ 393
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Auto & Moving Expenses	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Small Church Specialists	\$ 64	\$ 58	\$ 80	\$ 70
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Education	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Small Church Technology Upgrade	\$ 16	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Small Church Program Support	\$ 79	\$ -	\$ 160	\$ 140
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 400	\$ 463	\$ 628	\$ 603
Total Program Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	97.1%	96.9%	96.0%	89.6%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 26	\$ 70
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	12	15	26	70
Total Support Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	2.9%	3.1%	4.0%	10.4%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 412</b>	<b>\$ 478</b>	<b>\$ 654</b>	<b>\$ 673</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (24)</b>	<b>\$ (192)</b>	<b>\$ (364)</b>	<b>\$ (393)</b>

# Christian Reformed World Missions

## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2004-2005

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,858	\$ 4,623	\$ 4,735	\$ 4,500
% of Total Income	37.6%	36.9%	37.4%	38.7%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 5,645	\$ 5,424	\$ 6,136	\$ 5,887
Estate Gifts	\$ 609	\$ 1,139	\$ 646	\$ 650
Total Gift Income	6,254	6,563	6,782	6,537
% of Total Income	48.4%	52.3%	53.6%	56.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 891	\$ 716	\$ 500	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 913	\$ 635	\$ 630	\$ 592
Total Other Income	1,804	1,351	1,130	592
% of Total Income	14.0%	10.8%	8.9%	5.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,916</b>	<b>12,537</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>11,629</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Africa	\$ 3,051	\$ 3,362	\$ 3,136	\$ 3,061
FTEs	42	42	37	31
Asia	\$ 4,140	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,478	\$ 2,535
FTEs	29	25	25	19
Latin America	\$ 3,369	\$ 3,348	\$ 3,253	\$ 3,258
FTEs	36	33	29	26
Europe	\$ 709	\$ 700	\$ 583	\$ 607
FTEs	13	14	9	7
Education	\$ 503	\$ 608	\$ 614	\$ 515
FTEs	6	7	7	5
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 11,772	\$ 11,668	\$ 11,064	\$ 9,976
Total Program Service FTEs	125	120	107	89
% of Total \$	88.4%	87.0%	86.4%	85.8%
% of Total FTEs	91.0%	89.7%	88.1%	88.8%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 863	\$ 851	\$ 795	\$ 764
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 681	\$ 894	\$ 953	\$ 889
FTEs	7	9	9	6
Total Support Service \$	1,544	1,745	1,748	1,653
Total Support Service FTEs	12	14	14	11
% of Total \$	11.6%	13.0%	13.6%	14.2%
% of Total FTEs	9.0%	10.3%	11.9%	11.2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 13,316</b>	<b>\$ 13,413</b>	<b>\$ 12,812</b>	<b>\$ 11,629</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>NET INCOME /(EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (400)</b>	<b>\$ (876)</b>	<b>\$ (165)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2004-2005

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 9,534	\$ 8,897	\$ 9,145	\$ 9,466
Estate Gifts	\$ 896	\$ 1,568	\$ 800	\$ 1,000
Total Gift Income	10,430	10,465	9,945	10,466
% of Total Income	83.6%	76.1%	85.2%	85.9%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 1,809	\$ 3,160	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Miscellaneous	\$ 231	\$ 134	\$ 225	\$ 225
Total Other Income	2,040	3,294	1,725	1,725
% of Total Income	16.4%	23.9%	14.8%	14.1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,470</b>	<b>13,759</b>	<b>11,670</b>	<b>12,191</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Overseas programs	\$ 6,925	\$ 7,956	\$ 6,958	\$ 7,422
FTEs	54	54	55	61
No America programs	\$ 1,012	\$ 929	\$ 1,012	\$ 1,074
FTEs	8	8	9	10
Disaster relief programs	\$ 2,234	\$ 3,220	\$ 802	\$ 847
FTEs	8	8	8	8
Education	\$ 433	\$ 445	\$ 523	\$ 487
FTEs	4	2	2	3
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 10,604	\$ 12,550	\$ 9,295	\$ 9,830
Total Program Service FTEs	74	72	74	82
% of Total \$	83.0%	84.2%	80.9%	81.3%
% of Total FTEs	79.6%	79.1%	82.2%	81.2%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 1,033	\$ 1,165	\$ 1,036	\$ 1,039
FTEs	8	8	7	8
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ 1,141	\$ 1,198	\$ 1,157	\$ 1,225
FTEs	11	11	9	11
Total Support Service \$	2,174	2,363	2,193	2,264
Total Support Service FTEs	19	19	16	19
% of Total \$	17.0%	15.8%	19.1%	18.7%
% of Total FTEs	20.4%	20.9%	17.8%	18.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 12,778</b>	<b>\$ 14,913</b>	<b>\$ 11,488</b>	<b>\$ 12,094</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ (308)</b>	<b>\$ (1,154)</b>	<b>\$ 182</b>	<b>\$ 97</b>

## Denominational Services

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2004-2005

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 1,879	\$ 1,995	\$ 1,975	\$ 1,910
% of Total Income	18.4%	16.7%	19.6%	18.3%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 49	\$ 52	\$ 20	\$ 10
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	49	52	20	10
% of Total Income	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 4,758	\$ 4,111	\$ 4,503	\$ 4,578
Grants	\$ 87	\$ 2,183	\$ 49	\$ 73
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,420	\$ 3,596	\$ 3,536	\$ 3,870
Total Other Income	8,265	9,890	8,088	8,521
% of Total Income	81.1%	82.9%	80.2%	81.6%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,193</b>	<b>11,937</b>	<b>10,083</b>	<b>10,441</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Synodical Services & Grants	\$ 1,027	\$ 881	\$ 908	\$ 1,061
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Soc Just Ed./Communications	\$ 223	\$ 253	\$ 453	\$ 483
FTEs	2	2	5	4
CRCPlan/Lilly Grant	\$ 254	\$ 179	\$ 507	\$ 504
FTEs	2	2	2	2
CS/PS Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 5,119	\$ 4,633	\$ 4,646	\$ 4,775
FTEs	31	30	29	28
Finance/Payroll/Development	\$ 1,367	\$ 1,527	\$ 1,626	\$ 1,785
FTEs	17	17	18	19
Information Services	\$ 554	\$ 530	\$ 580	\$ 726
FTEs	7	7	7	7
Personnel	\$ 116	\$ 126	\$ 141	\$ 142
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Total Program Service \$	\$ 8,660	\$ 8,129	\$ 8,861	\$ 9,476
Total Program Service FTEs	66	65	68	67
% of Total \$	88.0%	85.9%	86.0%	86.2%
% of Total FTEs	88.0%	87.8%	89.5%	89.3%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 523	\$ 627	\$ 656	\$ 673
FTEs	5	5	4	4
Plant Operations/Debt Serv.	\$ 608	\$ 638	\$ 709	\$ 763
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Fund Raising (Foundation)	\$ 51	\$ 71	\$ 79	\$ 83
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Total Support Service \$	1,182	1,336	1,444	1,519
Total Support Service FTEs	9	9	8	8
% of Total \$	12.0%	14.1%	14.0%	13.8%
% of Total FTEs	12.0%	12.2%	10.5%	10.7%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 9,842</b>	<b>\$ 9,465</b>	<b>\$ 10,305</b>	<b>\$ 10,995</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>NET INCOME /(EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 351</b>	<b>\$ 2,472</b>	<b>\$ (222)</b>	<b>\$ (554)</b>

## Pastoral-Ministries Programs

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2004-2005

	Fiscal 01-02 Actual	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Budget	Fiscal 04-05 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ 1,232	\$ 1,310	\$ 1,255	\$ 1,210
% of Total Income	87.1%	85.0%	83.0%	88.4%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 138	\$ 172	\$ 214	\$ 154
Estate Gifts	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	139	173	214	154
% of Total Income	9.8%	11.2%	14.2%	11.2%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 4	\$ 7	\$ 3	\$ 5
Grants	\$ 40	\$ 52	\$ 40	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Income	44	59	43	5
% of Total Income	3.1%	3.8%	2.8%	0.4%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>1,369</b>
<b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Chaplaincy Services	\$ 262	\$ 267	\$ 233	\$ 187
FTEs	2	3	2	1
Race Relations	\$ 385	\$ 408	\$ 350	\$ 325
FTEs	4	4	4	3
Pastor-Church Relations	\$ 394	\$ 410	\$ 457	\$ 465
FTEs	2	3	3	3
Abuse Prevention	\$ 141	\$ 146	\$ 146	\$ 160
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Disability Concerns	\$ 172	\$ 180	\$ 167	\$ 194
FTEs	1	1	1	2
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 1,354	\$ 1,411	\$ 1,353	\$ 1,331
Total Program Service FTEs	10	12	11	10
% of Total \$	98.4%	98.5%	98.5%	98.1%
% of Total FTEs	90.9%	92.3%	91.7%	90.9%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ 22	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 26
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Total Support Service \$	22	21	21	26
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.9%
% of Total FTEs	9.1%	7.7%	8.3%	9.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 1,376</b>	<b>\$ 1,432</b>	<b>\$ 1,374</b>	<b>\$ 1,357</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$ 39</b>	<b>\$ 110</b>	<b>\$ 138</b>	<b>\$ 12</b>

## Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds - Canada

### Changes in Net Assets (000s) of Canadian \$

	MPF 2002 Actual	MPF 2003 Actual	SAF 2002 Actual	SAF 2003 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total Gift Income	-	-	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Participant Assessments	\$ 1,036	\$ 1,151	\$ -	-
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Miscellaneous	\$ (909)	\$ 2,698	\$ 2	3
Total Other Income	127	3,849	2	3
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>3,849</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 1,686	\$ 1,743	\$ 18	\$ 25
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 1,686	\$ 1,743	\$ 18	\$ 25
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	85.3%	85.7%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 290	\$ 290	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	290	290	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	14.7%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,976</b>	<b>\$ 2,033</b>	<b>\$ 18</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ (1,849)</b>	<b>\$ 1,816</b>	<b>\$ (16)</b>	<b>\$ (22)</b>

## Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds - U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s)

	MPF 2002 Actual	MPF 2003 Actual	SAF 2002 Actual	SAF 2003 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total Gift Income	-	-	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Participant Assessments	\$ 2,701	\$ 2,889	\$ -	-
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Miscellaneous	\$ (9,275)	\$ 15,139	\$ 4	2
Total Other Income	(6,574)	18,028	4	2
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>(6,574)</b>	<b>18,028</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 6,120	\$ 6,250	\$ 54	\$ 40
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,120	\$ 6,250	\$ 54	\$ 40
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	92.4%	90.8%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 505	\$ 633	\$ -	-
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	505	633	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	7.6%	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 6,625</b>	<b>\$ 6,883</b>	<b>\$ 54</b>	<b>\$ 40</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ (13,199)</b>	<b>\$ 11,145</b>	<b>\$ (50)</b>	<b>\$ (38)</b>



## Consolidated Group Insurance - U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s of US\$)

	2002 Actual	2003 Actual
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>		
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:		
Above Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:		
Participant Premiums	\$ 6,677	\$ 7,245
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 213	\$ 100
Total Other Income	6,890	7,345
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>6,890</b>	<b>7,345</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b>		
Program Services:		
Claims Expense	\$ 5,110	\$ 5,808
FTEs	-	-
Insurance Premiums	\$ 363	\$ 353
FTEs	-	-
TPA & PPO Fees	\$ 612	\$ 529
FTEs	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,085	\$ 6,690
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-
% of Total \$	97.0%	97.3%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:		
Management & General	\$ 185	\$ 187
FTEs	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-
Total Support Service \$	185	187
Total Support Service FTEs	3	3
% of Total \$	4.3%	4.3%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 6,270</b>	<b>\$ 6,877</b>
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ 620</b>	<b>\$ 468</b>



# REPORT OF SYNOD 2004

# SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Sunday, June 13, 2004  
3:00 p.m.  
Calvin College Chapel  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

## **We Gather for Worship**

- Prelude: "O God, Thou Faithful God" .....Bach  
Mr. Dick Gootjes, organist
- \* God's Greeting and Welcome .....Rev. Pedro Aviles  
Pastor of Grace & Peace Fellowship CRC
- \* Greeting One Another
- \* Profession of Our Common Faith: The Apostles' Creed
- \* Songs of Praise:  
*Sing! A New Creation* 12, "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"  
*Sing! A New Creation* 157, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"  
*Psalter Hymnal* 401, "Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord/  
Oh, Qué Bueno Es Jesús,"  
*Psalter Hymnal* 483, "How Great Thou Art"

## **We Spend Time in Prayer**

- For the World ..... Ms. Sari Mills  
Ethnic Adviser to Synod
- For the Church .....Rev. Emmett A. Harrison  
Vice President of Synod
- For the CRC and Synod .....Rev. Joel R. Boot  
President of Synod
- Solo: "Precious Lord" .....Dr. Charsie Sawyer  
Professor of Music, Calvin College  
Mr. Dan Richardson, Accompanist
- \* Songs of Praise  
*Sing! A New Creation* 16, "I Love You, Lord"  
*Sing! A New Creation* 223, "Shout to the Lord"

**We Listen to the Word**

- Drama .....\*\*GAP CRC Drama Team
- Scripture: John 20:1-18 .....Rev. Aviles
- Sermon: "Building Bridges" .....Rev. Aviles
- Prayer .....Rev. Aviles

**We Give Our Gifts**

- Offering: Race Relations Scholarship Fund
- Offertory: "The Love of God" .....Tead
- Gift of Song: "Make Us One, Lord" .....Dr. Sawyer

**We Celebrate the Lord's Supper**

*Leader:* .....Dr. David H. Engelhard, General Secretary

Lift up your hearts

*People:* We lift them up to the Lord.

*Leader:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

*Leader:* With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**The Institution**

*Leader:* We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until he comes again. At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me." For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Cor. 11:23-26). Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament.

*People:* Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

**Prayer of Consecration**

*Leader:* Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

(Lord's Prayer in unison).

### **The Invitation**

*Leader:* Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord, are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God!

*(Prayer warriors and communion servers go to their locations.)*

### **The Communion**

Please come forward as directed up the left aisle, take the bread, and dip it in the cup. When you hear the words “The body of Christ was given for you” and “The blood of Christ was shed for you,” you may wish to respond with “Amen.” Return to your seat using the right aisle.

*During Communion, the praise team will lead in song.*

### **We Depart to Serve**

\* Song of Praise: *Psalter Hymnal* 234, “Alleluia/Alabaré”

#### \* Benediction

Chinese .....	Rev. Paul Szto
Dutch .....	Dr. William T. Koopmans
English .....	Rev. Emmett A. Harrison
Korean .....	Rev. Chan Jeong
Navajo .....	Elder Theodore Charles
Spanish .....	Rev. Pedro Aviles

Postlude: “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” .....Spiritual

\* All who are able, please stand.

\*\**Note:* GAP Community CRC is a daughter church of Grace & Peace Fellowship CRC in Chicago, Illinois.

# MINUTES OF SYNOD 2004

## SATURDAY MORNING, June 12, 2004

### First Session

#### ARTICLE 1

President pro tem Rev. Pedro Aviles, pastor of Grace & Peace Christian Reformed Church, Chicago, Illinois, the convening church, welcomes the delegates to Synod 2004 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 249, "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty."

He reads selections from Proverbs (1:5, 11:14, 12:15, 15:22, 19:20, 20:18, and 24:6) and emphasizes that the wisdom of the team has always been better than that of one single person. He encourages delegates to listen to one another and be receptive to advice. Rev. Aviles leads in prayer and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 204, "Lord, Make Us Servants."

#### ARTICLE 2

The president pro tem requests the general secretary, Dr. David H. Engelhard, to call the roll of delegates listed on the credentials of the forty-seven classes:

#### DELEGATES TO SYNOD 2004

Classis	Ministers	Elders
Alberta North	Kirk M. MacNeil Raymond A. Blacketer	Ron L. Knol Henry Stikma
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	Curtis D. Korver Michael J. Vandyk	Durk DeJong Henry Bekkering
Arizona	Jeffrey A. Dykema Paul J. Van Dyken	Jose Rayas Rodney J. Hugen
Atlantic Northeast	Russell Palsrok Alvern Gelder	Kenneth Prol Calvin Hulstein
B.C. North-West	Richard C. Koopmans Harvey J. Roosma	Andy deRuyter Dirk Jol
B.C. South-East	Henry Jonker John Poortenga	Gordon J. Dykstra Gerrit Vaandrager
California South	Bruce Ballast William Verhoef	Jeffrey Hickox Phil Du Bois
Central California	Tony W. Koeman Paul H. Vander Klay	Paul W. Whatley, Sr. Lambert Veldstra
Chatham	Vic Vandermolten Ralph Wigboldus	Michael Talsma Arnold Deelstra
Chicago South	Phillip S. Leo Duane J. Van Loo	Richard A. Molenhouse William B. Weidenaar
Columbia	Alvin J. Machiela Carl J. Leap	Marion J. Boersma James J. Lane

Eastern Canada	Herbert Vanderbeek Henry G. Gunnink Joel R. Boot Robert Huisman	Peter Macaskill Bill Schuurmans Paul Tameling Cornelius Vander Kam
Georgetown	Everett J. Vander Horst Scott E. Hoezee Jerome Burton	Aldrich J. Evenhouse John Vanderburgh William Pettes
Grand Rapids East	Jonathan L. Huizenga	Loren Snippe
Grand Rapids North	David A. Struyk Ecko De Vries	James De Haan John A. De Jager
Grand Rapids South	Calvin Compagner Philip J. Boender	James Roskam Dick J. Palsrok
Grandville	Merle H. Bierma Gilbert Varela	Stanley W. Cole Arthur E. De Jong
Greater Los Angeles	Ricardo E. Orellana Brian W. Bolkema	Hernan Zapata David Vander Hart
Hackensack	Andrew Zantingh Shawn Brix	Fred Reitsma Ralph H. Luimes
Hamilton	David L. Heilman Ronald R. Sprik	Sherwyn R. Bolkema Donald H. Mulder
Heartland	Wayne A. Brouwer Marvin J. Hofman	Roger N. Brummel Ronald Baker
Holland	Kenneth J. Verhulst Paul M. Ingeneri	Paul Szto Harold K. Post
Hudson	Jack De Vries Stephen D. Tamming	Ralph J. Van Dalen Henry F. Exel
Huron	James Hoogeveen Peter De Jong	Mike Vanden Bosch Thomas Vanden Bosch
Iakota	Stephan R. Van Eck Joel J. Sheeres	Bernard Smit George Beezhold
Illiana	Daniel S. Sarkipato Simon A. Tuin	Wayne Terpstra Ellis C. Wykstra
Kalamazoo	Emmett A. Harrison Clayton G. Libolt	Martin V. Cunningham David Vander Haagen
Lake Erie	Evert Busink Henry Vander Beek	Griff DeGolier Tom VanEngen
Lake Superior	Bernard Dykstra William D. Vis	Lyle B. Ten Haken Leon Hanenburg
Minnkota	Larry D. Baar Robert L. Bierenga	Arley Bouwma John A. Frens
Muskegon	Pieter A. Heerema Andre F. Basson	Alex Krikke Cornelis Van Soelen
Niagara	Thomas J. Niehof Gary W. Brouwers	Gary W. Nibbelink Nick Verbrugge
Northcentral Iowa	John F. Schuurman Gregory D. Schuringa	John H. Bakker Hendrik Sliemers
Northern Illinois	Keith A. Mannes Robert D. Steen	Donald L. Boes Bradley W. Center
Northern Michigan	Chan M. Jeong	Abraham J. Jae Billy J.W. Yang
Pacific Hanmi	Gordon A. Terpstra Kenneth D. Koeman	John M. Oostra John A. Tibbits
Pacific Northwest	Aldon L. Kuiper Thomas E. Pettinga	Ken E. Slagter Paul R. Van Beek
Pella	William T. Koopmans John Veenstra	Hans Van Manen John Zomer
Quinte	John W. Dykhuis W. Keith Bulthuis	Theodore D. Charles Robert L. Jonkman
Red Mesa	Harold deJong Mark D. Timmer	Tim Phillips Nolan Vander Ark
Rocky Mountain		

Southeast U.S.	Thomas Dykstra Stanley J. Workman	Jose A. Lopez Owen Baas
Thornapple Valley	R. Scott Greenway Paul R. De Vries	Cornelius D. Korhorn Vince Bonnema
Toronto	John Tenyenhuis Mark Verbruggen	Albert Suk Fred Van Laare
Wisconsin	Peter T. Verhulst Robert A. Sizemore	Edwin J. Nonhof Bob Boomsma
Yellowstone	Jacob Weeda Randall D. Van Osdol	Marion Menning Harry Faber
Zeeland	Bernard F. Tol Gerry G. Heyboer	John De Leeuw Bernard Feenstra

The roll call indicates that the following delegates are absent with notice: Harvey J. Roosma (B.C. North-West), Paul Tameling (Georgetown), Gilbert Varela (Greater Los Angeles), Stanley W. Cole (Greater Los Angeles), Paul Szto (Hudson), Arley Bouwma (Muskegon), Gary W. Nibbelink (Northcentral Iowa), Chan M. Jeong (Pacific Hanmi), Billy J.W. Yang (Pacific Hanmi), Kenneth D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), Tim Phillips (Rocky Mountain), Thomas Dykstra (Southeast U.S.), Robert A. Sizemore (Wisconsin), Marion Menning (Yellowstone).

Elder Wilbur De Jong (Georgetown) is present for Dr. Paul Tameling. Elder Ronald J. Nyenhuis (Muskegon) is present for Mr. Arley Bouwma.

#### ARTICLE 3

The assembly proceeds to elect officers. The following are elected:

President: Rev. Joel R. Boot  
Vice President: Rev. Emmett A. Harrison  
First Clerk: Dr. William T. Koopmans  
Second Clerk: Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer

#### ARTICLE 4

The president pro tem welcomes the officers to the podium and congratulates them.

Rev. Joel R. Boot expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. Pedro Aviles for his participation in the opening of synod.

On behalf of himself and the other officers, Rev. Boot thanks synod for the confidence it has placed in them to lead the synod during the coming week.

#### ARTICLE 5

The president reads the Public Declaration of Agreement with the Forms of Unity. The delegates, while standing, give their assent.

#### ARTICLE 6

The president of synod welcomes the denominational officers (Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary, and Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries); the seminary faculty advisers; the college president; the ethnic advisers; and the women advisers

The general secretary welcomes and individually introduces to synod the ethnic advisers who are present: Mr. Joel Hill, Mrs. Verney Kho, Ms. Sari Mills, Mr. Chris Pullenayegem, Mr. Mack R. Randall.

The general secretary welcomes and individually introduces to synod the women advisers who are present: Mrs. Kathy Boldenow, Dr. Nell DeBoer, Mrs. Mary Beth Ripmeester, Ms. Bonnie B. Smith, Mrs. Patricia Storteboom, Mrs. Karen Wynbeek.

The general secretary welcomes and individually introduces the faculty advisers who are present: Dr. Mariano Avila, Dr. Lyle D. Bierma, Dr. John Bolt, Dr. John W. Cooper, Dr. Henry De Moor, Dr. Duane K. Kelderman, Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., Dr. Calvin P. Van Reken.

The general secretary introduces Ms. Diane (Dee) Recker, synod office assistant.

The executive director of ministries introduces Rev. William C. Veenstra, the Canadian ministries director, and Mr. John H. Bolt, the director of finance and administrative services. He introduces the representatives of denominational boards and agencies who are present, as well as the synod news office staff and the denominational office staff.

The executive director of ministries introduces Rev. Herman Keizer, Jr., director of Chaplaincy Ministries, who recognizes the chaplains present and thanks them for their services.

#### ARTICLE 7

The following schedule is adopted: morning session, 8:15-11:45 a.m.; afternoon, 1:15-5:00 p.m.; evening, 7:00-9:00 p.m.; coffee breaks at 9:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

#### ARTICLE 8

The general secretary calls the attention of delegates and visitors to the following matters:

##### **I. Confidentiality of the executive sessions of synod**

The Board of Trustees calls the matter of confidentiality to the attention of Synod 2004 and urges that all necessary precautions be taken to prevent violations of confidentiality.

Synod 1954 stated that “the very principle of executive sessions or sessions that are not open to the public, involves the practical implication that reporters may not ‘report’” (*Acts of Synod 1954*, p. 15). “If reporters are not permitted to report on executive sessions of synod, it is certainly a breach of confidentiality also for delegates to the synodical assembly to report—publicly, orally, or in print—on the discussions held in an executive session of synod” (*Acts of Synod 1982*, p. 16).

##### **II. Audio and video recordings of synod**

Synod 1979 authorized the making of an official audio recording of the entire proceedings of the general sessions of synod as a way to verify the written record of the synodical proceedings. Although the general sessions of synod are recorded, executive sessions are not taped. Delegates to synod are informed at the opening session of synod that all the general sessions are being taped. Synod has designated that the office of the general secretary be responsible for the use and storage of these materials.

The following regulations were adopted by Synod 1989 concerning audio and video recordings of synodical sessions by media representatives and visitors:

- A. Representatives of the media are permitted to make video recordings of synodical proceedings provided they observe the restrictions placed upon them by the synodical news office under the direction of the general secretary of synod.
- B. *Visitor privileges*
  1. Visitors are at liberty to make audio recordings of the public proceedings of synod provided they do so unobtrusively (i.e., in no way inhibiting or disturbing either the proceedings of synod, the synodical delegates, or other persons).
  2. Video recordings are permitted provided the following restrictions are observed:
    - a. Video cameras are permitted only at the entrances, not backstage or in the wings.
    - b. Auxiliary lighting is not permitted.
    - c. Videotaping is to be done unobtrusively (i.e., in such a way that it in no way inhibits or disturbs either the proceedings of synod, the synodical delegates, or other persons).

(Acts of Synod 1989, p. 445)

## ARTICLE 9

The general secretary presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 2004:

### *Committee 1—Synodical Services I - Polity Matters*

**Chairman:** Jacob Weeda; **reporter:** Bernard F. Tol; **ministers:** W. Keith Bulthuis, Evert Busink, Jack De Vries, Bernard Dykstra, Emmett A. Harrison, Robert A. Sizemore, David A. Struyk, Gordon A. Terpstra, Everett J. Vander Horst; **elders:** Arthur E. De Jong, Durk DeJong, Phil Du Bois, Dirk Jol, Ron L. Knol, James J. Lane, Donald H. Mulder, Bill Schuurmans, Paul Tameling, Paul W. Whatley; **adviser:** Chris Pullenayegem.

### *Committee 2—Synodical Services II - Program Matters*

**Chairman:** Aldon L. Kuiper; **reporter:** Scott E. Hoezee; **ministers:** Jerome Burton, Paul R. De Vries, Henry G. Gunnink, Gerry G. Heyboer, David L. Hielmen, Phillip S. Leo, Kirk M. MacNeil, Harvey J. Roosma, John Tenyenhuis; **elders:** Ronald Baker, Griff DeGolier, Jeffrey Hickox, Abraham J. Jae, Jose A. Lopez, Dick J. Palsrok, Fred Rietsma, Wayne Terpstra, John A. Tibbits, Thomas Vanden Bosch; **advisers:** Joel Hill, Duane K. Kelderman, Nell De Boer.

### *Committee 3—Education*

**Chairman:** Marvin J. Hofman; **reporter:** Carl J. Leep; **ministers:** Jeffrey A. Dykema, Pieter A. Heerema, Paul M. Ingeneri, Thomas J. Niehof, Stephen D. Tamming, Simon A. Tuin, Paul H. Vander Klay, Brian W. Bolkema; **elders:** Donald L. Boes, Sherwyn R. Bolkema, Vince Bonnema, Arley Bouwma, Arnold Deelstra, Gordon J. Dykstra, Leon Hanenburg, John M. Oostra, Tim Phillips, Albert Suk; **advisers:** Sari Mills, Gaylen Byker, Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., Marlys J. Popma.

### *Committee 4—Publications*

**Chairman:** R. Scott Greenway; **reporter:** Ralph Wigboldus; **ministers:** Larry D. Baar, Philip J. Boender, Peter De Jong, Robert Huisman, Randall D. Van

Osdol, Gilbert Varela, Kenneth J. Verhulst; **elders:** Owen Baas, George Beezhold, Martin V. Cunningham, James De Haan, Henry F. Exel, Bernard Feenstra, Gary W. Nibbelink, Hendrik Sliemers, Gerrit Vaandrager, Cornelis Van Soelen; **advisers:** Sheila Holmes, John W. Cooper, Karen Wynbeek.

*Committee 5—Missions*

**Chairman:** Stanley J. Workman; **reporter:** Calvin Compagner; ministers: Bruce Ballast, Harold deJong, Alvern Gelder, Alvin J. Machiela, Ricardo E. Orellana, John Poortenga, Ronald R. Sprik, Duane J. Van Loo; **elders:** John H. Bakker, Henry Bekkering, Bradley W. Center, John A. De Jager, Harry Faber, Peter Macaskill, Loren Snippe, Henry Stiksma, Mike Vanden Bosch, Tom VanEngen, Fred Van Laare; **advisers:** Mack R. Randall, Mariano Avila, Bonnie B. Smith.

*Committee 6—Financial Matters*

**Chairman:** Roger N. Brummel; **reporter:** David Vander Haagen; ministers: Gary W. Brouwers, John W. Dykhuis, James Hoogeveen, Chan M. Jeong, Richard C. Koopmans, Daniel S. Sarkipato, Paul J. Van Dyken, John Veenstra; **elders:** Marion J. Boersma, John A. Frens, Calvin Hulstein, Ralph H. Luimes, Marion Menning, Edwin J. Nonhof, Harold K. Post, Bernard Smit, Michael Talsma, Ralph J. Van Dalen; **adviser:** Calvin P. Van Reken

*Committee 7—Interdenominational Matters*

**Chairman:** Russell Palsrok; **reporter:** Shawn Brix; ministers: Andre F. Basson, Merle H. Bierma, Kenneth D. Koeman, Thomas E. Pettinga, Joel J. Sheeres, Herbert Vanderbeek, Michael J. Vandyk, Mark Verbruggen; **elders:** Theodore D. Charles, John De Leeuw, Andy deRuyter, Aldrich J. Evenhouse, Rodney J. Hugen, Richard A. Molenhouse, William Pettes, Lyle B. Ten Haken, Cornelius Vander Kam, Nick Verbrugge, Ellis C. Wykstra; **advisers:** Verney Kho, John Bolt, Kathy Boldenow.

*Committee 8—Church Order and Appeals*

**Chairman:** William B. Weidenaar; **reporter:** Ecko De Vries; ministers: Robert L. Bierenga, Thomas Dykstra, Curtis D. Korver, Gregory D. Schuringa, Robert D. Steen, Herbert Vander Beek, Vic Vandermolen, William Verhoef, William D. Vis; **elders:** Cornelius Korhorn, Alex Krikke, Ken E. Slagter, Paul Szto, Hans Van Manen, Nolan Vander Ark, John Vanderburgh, Lambert Veldstra, Hernan Zapata; **advisers:** Henry DeMoor, Mary Beth Ripmeester.

*Committee 9—Alternate Routes to Ministry*

**Chairman:** Henry Jonker; **reporter:** Clayton G. Libolt; ministers: Raymond A. Blacketer, Jonathan L. Huizunga, Tony W. Koeman, Keith A. Mannes, John F. Schuurman, Mark D. Timmer, Stephan R. Van Eck, Peter T. Verhulst, Andrew Zantinga; **elders:** Bob Boomsma, Stanley W. Cole, Robert L. Jonkman, Kenneth Prol, Jose Rayas, James Roskam, Paul R. Van Beek, David Vander Hart, Billy J.W. Yang, John Zomer; **advisers:** Fernando del Rosario, Lyle D. Bierma, Patricia Storteboom.

*Recommendation:*

That synod adopt the report of the Program Committee, including membership on the advisory committees for Synod 2004 as amended.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 10

The general secretary presents the Agenda Directory for Synod 2004, which contains a complete listing of every matter on the agenda that requires synodical action. He indicates where the materials may be found and to which advisory committee each item has been assigned.

## ARTICLE 11

The president of synod, Rev. Joel R. Boot, leads in closing prayer. Synod adjourns at 10:55 a.m. Synod will reconvene Monday at 8:15 a.m.

## MONDAY MORNING, June 14, 2004

### Second Session

## ARTICLE 12

Rev. John F. Schuurman announces *Sing! A New Creation* 14, “God, You Call Us to This Place” and opens with prayer. He introduces the devotional theme for this year’s synod: “Images of the Church.” Rev. Schuurman then reads from Hosea 2:21-23 and addresses delegates re “The People of God.” He leads in prayer. He leads in a reading of a litany from *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*, 22 and 37 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 272, vss. 1-3, “You Are Our God; We Are Your People.”

## ARTICLE 13

Dr. Gaylen Byker, president of Calvin College, welcomes delegates and advisers to the Calvin College campus and briefly addresses synod.

## ARTICLE 14

The roll call indicates that the following delegates who were absent on Saturday are now present: Harvey J. Roosma (B.C. North-West), Paul Tameling (Georgetown), Gilbert Varela (Greater Los Angeles), Stanley W. Cole (Greater Los Angeles), Paul Szto (Hudson), Arley Bouwma (Muskegon), Gary W. Nibbelink (Northcentral Iowa), Chan M. Jeong (Pacific Hanmi), Billy J.W. Yang (Pacific Hanmi), Kenneth D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), Thomas Dykstra (Southeast U.S.), Robert A. Sizemore (Wisconsin), Marion Menning (Yellowstone). They rise to express agreement with the forms of unity.

It is noted that the alternate elder delegate for Tim Phillips (Rocky Mountain) is unable to attend Synod 2004.

## ARTICLE 15

The officers of synod announce the following appointments:

Sergeant at Arms:

Elder Phil Du Bois

Hospitality Committee:

Mr. and Mrs. Michiel De Berdt

Minutes-Review Committee:

Rev. Paul M. Ingeneri

Elder Kenneth Prol

Devotions Committee:

Rev. Henry G. Gunnink

Woman adviser Karen Wynbeek

Worship Planning Committee:  
Rev. John F. Schuurman  
Woman adviser Bonnie B. Smith  
Rev. Everett J. Vander Horst

Testimonial Luncheon Committee:  
Rev. John Tenyenhuis  
Elder Mike Vanden Bosch

#### ARTICLE 16

Woman adviser Mrs. Karen Wynbeek leads in closing prayer. The morning session is adjourned at 9:02 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees.

### **MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 14, 2004** **Third Session**

#### ARTICLE 17

Woman adviser Mrs. Karen Wynbeek reads from Psalm 90 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 170, vss. 1, 2, and 6, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." She leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 18

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Ecko De Vries reporting presents the following:

### **I. Synodical vote on declaration of candidacy**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Overture 20, pp. 433-35
2. Overture 24, Supplementary Materials
3. Personal Appeal 2

#### *B. Background*

During much of CRC history, synod examined each candidate individually. When that practice was abandoned and assigned to the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, the board began to submit one motion with all the names of the candidates in one group. The board first began including the names of women candidates in the one list in 1996. From 1996 until 2003, the board has always presented them in one group. It was the synodical advisory committee in 1996 that first began to separate men and women into two groups and the synodical advisory committee in 1998 that first began voting on an individual basis. Synod in 2003 voted for all the candidates in one group.

Personal Appeal 2 is asking that synod express its dissatisfaction with the proceedings in 2003 and return to voting for candidates individually or in groups as the previous synods have. Overture 20 is asking synod to vote on the candidates individually. Overture 24 is asking synod to continue the procedure of 2003, voting for all the candidates in one group.

### C. Recommendations

1. That synod not sustain Personal Appeal 2 with respect to the actions of Synod 2003.

*Grounds:*

- a. The appellant has not sufficiently demonstrated that Synod 2003 acted unjustly or inappropriately in this matter.
  - b. The appellant has not demonstrated that previous synods adopted procedural policy with the intention of binding future synods rather than simply establishing a practice for its own procedures for that year.
  - c. It is not demonstrated and it is highly unlikely that the word *decisions* in Articles 29 and 31 of the Church Order refers to procedural decisions but rather to substantive or weighty ones.
  - d. Each synod is free within the bounds of appropriate order and synodical procedures to decide on its own method of voting on whether the potential candidates presented by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees have the required qualifications for office.  
—Adopted
2. That synod vote on each potential candidate presented by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees individually.

*Grounds:*

- a. This is in keeping with the original decision of Synod 1997 that gave delegates the right to abstain from voting on individual candidates as a matter of conscience.
- b. In spite of other attempts in recent years to change this method of voting, synod has consistently upheld this policy out of respect for the conscience of each of the delegates.
- c. Voting for the candidates as a group forces some delegates to abstain (or vote no) on *all* of the candidates—something they should not have to do.
- d. This very issue will most likely be dealt with by Synod 2005—when synod revisits other issues regarding women in office.  
—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: David Vander Haagen (Lake Erie).

3. That this be synod's response to Overtures 20 and 24 and the substance of Personal Appeal 2.

—Adopted

## II. Response to Overture 23: Revise Church Order Article 36-a

### A. Materials: Overture 23, Supplementary Materials

### B. Recommendation

That synod propose the following change in Article 36-a of the Church Order to include the word *ordinarily* so that it would read as follows:

The council, consistory, and diaconate shall *ordinarily* meet at least once a month, at a time and place announced to the congregation. Each body shall select its own president and other officers.

*Grounds:*

1. This change reflects what is already current practice in a significant number of CRC churches where the number of council, consistory, and diaconate meetings has been reduced to fewer than twelve per year.
2. This change allows for greater flexibility in scheduling meetings. Councils, consistories, and diaconates have found that they can continue to function effectively with fewer meetings.
3. Church visitors can ensure that the number of meetings held are sufficient for the ministry needs of the congregation.
4. We judge this change to be a substantial one and therefore propose that the churches have opportunity to consider its advisability prior to its adoption at a following synod (Church Order Article 47).

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 55.)

ARTICLE 19

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Carl J. Leep reporting, presents the following:

**Calvin Theological Seminary**

*A. Materials*

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report (excluding Sections IV, A and VII, and Recommendations H and I; including Appendices A and B); pp. 149-51, 152-55, 165-71
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement (excluding Section II)

*B. Recommendations*

1. That the Rev. Norman Meyer, chairman, and Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., secretary, be given the privilege of the floor when seminary matters are presented.  
—*Granted*
2. That synod acknowledge with gratitude to God the years of faithful service of Dr. Sidney Greidanus and confer upon him the title of Professor of Preaching and Worship, Emeritus, effective August 31, 2004.  
—*Adopted*
3. That the following faculty reappointments be approved (*italics indicates change in rank*):

Dr. Mariano Avila as *associate* professor of New Testament for two years.

Dr. David M. Rylaarsdam as *associate* professor of historical theology for two years.

Dr. Ruth A. Tucker as associate professor of missiology for two years.

Rev. Pieter C. Tuit as *associate* professor of missiology for two years.

Dr. Michael Williams from associate professor to *professor* of Old Testament.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod ratify the following reappointment of administrators with faculty status:

- Dr. Henry De Moor, vice president for academic affairs for three years;
- Rev. Donald E. Byker, director of field education for two years;
- Rev. Lugene L. Schemper, assistant director of the library-seminary related matters and theological librarian for four years.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 22.)

#### ARTICLE 20

The chair leads in closing prayer remembering especially the gifts and leadership of Calvin Theological Seminary staff. The afternoon session is adjourned at 2:17 p.m. so that the delegates can work in advisory committees.

### MONDAY EVENING, June 14, 2004

#### Fourth Session

#### ARTICLE 21

Rev. Thea Leunk announces *Psalter Hymnal* 610, vss. 1, 2, and 4, “God Is My Rock/El Señor Es Mi Fuerza.” She reads from Psalm 121 and leads in opening prayer. She announces *Psalter Hymnal* 567, “We’ve Come This Far by Faith.”

#### ARTICLE 22

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 19.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Carl J. Leep reporting, presents the following:

#### Calvin Theological Seminary

##### A. Materials

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report (excluding Sections IV, A and VII, and Recommendations H and I; including Appendices A and B); pp. 149-51, 152-55, 165-71
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement (excluding Section II)

##### B. Recommendations

1. That the interview for Dr. John D. Witvliet proceed as follows:
  - a. Rev. Paul Ingeneri will introduce Dr. Witvliet to synod.
  - b. Rev. Ingeneri will interview Dr. Witvliet for a maximum of thirty minutes.
  - c. Delegates will be permitted to ask questions for a maximum of thirty minutes.

—Adopted

Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure and, following the completed interview, enters into executive session to consider the flowing recommendation:

2. That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. John D. Witvliet as associate professor of worship (half-time) for three years.

—Adopted

Synod returns to open session. The president congratulates Dr. Witvliet.

3. That the interview for Dr. Rottman proceed as follows:
  - a. Rev. Jeff Dykema will introduce Dr. Rottman to synod.
  - b. Rev. Dykema will interview Dr. Rottman for a maximum of thirty minutes.
  - c. Delegates will be permitted to ask questions for a maximum of thirty minutes.

—Adopted

Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure and, following the completed interview, enters into executive session to consider the flowing recommendation:

4. That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. John M. Rottman as associate professor of preaching for three years.

—Adopted

Synod returns to open session. The president congratulates Dr. Rottman.

5. That synod declare Dr. John D. Witvliet a candidate for ministry of the Word and eligible for call.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 26.)

## ARTICLE 23

Woman adviser Mrs. Bonnie B. Smith leads in closing prayer. The evening session is adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

## **TUESDAY MORNING, June 15, 2004** **Fifth Session**

## ARTICLE 24

Dr. Peter Borgdorff announces *Sing! A New Creation* 14, “God, You Call Us to This Place” and leads in opening prayer. He announces *Sing! A New Creation* 241, “Sing! A New Creation” and reads from 2 Corinthians 5:15-21. He addresses delegates re “The New Creation/The New Humanity” and leads in prayer. Dr. Borgdorff leads in a reading of a litany from *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* 39, 41, and 42 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 510, vss. 1-3, “I Love Your Church, O Lord.”

ARTICLE 25

The roll call indicates that all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 26

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 22.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Carl J. Leep reporting, presents the following:

**I. Calvin College**

**A. Materials**

1. Calvin College Report, pp. 146-48
2. Calvin College Supplement

**B. Recommendations**

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Mr. Milt Kuyers; the vicechair of the board, Rev. Charles DeRidder; the secretary of the board, Ms. Cynthia Veenstra; and the president of the college, Dr. Gaylen J. Byker when matters pertaining to education are presented.

—*Granted*

2. That synod ratify the following reappointments with tenure (*italics indicate promotion to that rank*):

- a. Kevin J. Corcoran, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Philosophy*
- b. Laura G. DeHaan, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Psychology*
- c. Fred J. De Jong, Ph.D., *Professor of Social Work*
- d. Leonard P. DeRooy, P.E., *Associate Professor of Engineering*
- e. Herman J. De Vries, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures*
- f. Simona Goi, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Political Science*
- g. Ruth E. Groenhout, Ph.D. *Professor of Philosophy*
- h. Daniel C. Harlow, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Religion*
- i. Jennifer Steensma Hoag, M.F.A., *Associate Professor of Arts*
- j. Jong-Il Kim, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Physical Education*
- k. David S. Koetje, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Biology*
- l. Barbara Omolade, Ph.D., *Professor of Sociology, Dean for Multicultural Affairs*
- m. Charles W. Pollard, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of English*
- n. James K. Rooks, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Education*
- o. Elizabeth Vander Lei, Ph.D., *Associate Professor English*
- p. Kurt A. Ver Beek, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Sociology*
- q. Jolene E. Vos-Camy, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of French*
- r. David P. Warners, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Biology*

—*Adopted*

3. That synod give appropriate recognition to the following for service to Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church and confer on them the titles listed below:

- a. John E. Hamersma, S.M.D., Professor of Music, Emeritus
- b. Beverly H. Morrison, Ph.D., Counselor, Student Academic Services, Emerita
- c. Larry R. Nyhoff, Ph.D., Professor of Computer Science, Emeritus
- d. Davis A. Young, Ph.D., Professor of Geology, Emeritus
- e. Marvin A. Zuidema, P.E.D., Professor of Physical Education, Emeritus

—Adopted

4. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect the following nominees for membership on the board (terms to begin and end on the convening date of the first full board meeting following the meeting of synod):

a. Alumni trustee

Mrs. Marjorie Youngsma	2007
------------------------	------

b. At-large trustee

Mrs. Elsa Prince Broekhuizen, second term	2007
Dr. Jack Harkema, third term	2007
Ms. Jacquelyn VanderBrug, third term	2007

—Adopted

## II. Calvin Theological Seminary

A. *Materials*: Calvin Theological Seminary Report pp. 165-66

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect the following board member to a second term:

Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis (Region 10)

—Adopted

2. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect members for the board from the slates of nominees presented:

*Position 1*

Mr. Sidney J. Jansma, Jr., trustee at-large for a third term  
Mr. Bernard teVelde, Sr., alternate at-large for a third term

*Position 2*

Dr. Margaret E. Toxopeus, trustee at-large for a third term  
Rev. Mary S. Hulst, alternate at-large for a second term

—Adopted

3. That synod approve two offerings for Calvin Theological Seminary: one for the International Student Subsidy Fund and one for the Facing Your Future program.

—Adopted

### III. Overture 13: Enhance Deliberative Nature of Synod

A. *Materials*: Overture 13, pp. 420-26

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 13.

*Grounds*:

- a. The deliberative character of our assemblies is addressed in Article 29 of our Church Order: “Decisions of ecclesiastical assemblies shall be reached only upon due consideration.”
- b. There is a lack of significant evidence that our current schedule has been inadequate and ineffective.
- c. Participation of elders would not increase by taking significant time from two different weeks and could create hardship.
- d. Our present schedule provides adequate rest after travel and/or a week of work to refresh delegates for the rigorous schedule of synod’s upcoming week.

—*Adopted*

2. That this be synod’s response to Overture 13.

—*Adopted*

### IV. Calvin Theological Seminary

A. *Materials*: Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

B. *Recommendations*

1. That Mr. Peter Choi be granted a one-year extension of his candidacy.

—*Adopted*

2. That Mr. Mark Klompfen be granted a one-year extension of his candidacy.

—*Adopted*

3. That Mr. Winston Visser be granted a one-year extension of his candidacy.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 28.)

### ARTICLE 27

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Bernard F. Tol reporting, presents the following:

#### I. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Polity Section, pp. 23-36)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Section I, A-C, F-G, and Appendix A)

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. W. Wayne Leys, chairman of the Board; Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary; Dr. Peter

Borgdorff, executive director of ministries; and Mr. John H. Bolt, director of finance and administrative support services, when matters pertaining to the Board of Trustees are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the Board to the agency and institution boards (II, A, 1 and BOT Supplement I, A, 1).

—*Adopted*

3. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect members for the Board of Trustees from the slate of nominees presented (II, A, 4).

—*Adopted*

4. That synod adopt the following changes proposed by Synod 2003 in Church Order Article 17-d (II, A, 6):

- d. In some situations, the classis may decide that it cannot declare the released minister eligible for call after the minister has completed the process of evaluation and assistance. The classis, with the concurring advice of the synodical deputies, shall then declare the minister to be released from ministerial office.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod adopt the following changes proposed by Synod 2003 in Church Order Articles 2, 3-a, 23, and 24 (II, A, 7):

#### C. *The Ministry Associates*

##### *Article 23*

- a. *Ministry associates* shall be acknowledged as elders of their calling churches with corresponding privileges and responsibilities. Normally, their work as elders shall be limited to the ministries in which they serve as *ministry associates*.

- b. Ordinarily, the office of *ministry associates* who serve in emerging congregations will terminate when a group of believers becomes an organized church. However, upon organization and with the approval of the newly formed council and the classis, *ministry associates* may continue to serve the newly organized church until an ordained minister of the Word is installed or until they have served the newly organized church for a reasonable period of transition.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 23-b

- c. *Ministry associates* may also serve in organized congregations along with a minister of the Word and may serve as chaplains in institutional settings in the community.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 23-c

- d. *Ministry associates* who desire to serve beyond their specific field of labor must secure the approval of their consistories and classes.

##### *Article 24*

- a. The task of the *ministry associate* is to bear witness to Christ through the preaching of the Word, the administration of the

sacraments, church education, pastoral care, evangelism, and other ministries in order that *believers may be called to comprehensive discipleship and unbelievers may be called to faith*.

b. *Ministry associates* shall function under the direct supervision of the council, giving regular reports to it and being present at council meetings, particularly when their work is under consideration.

#### *Article 2*

The church recognizes the offices of minister of the Word, elder, deacon, and *ministry associate*. These offices differ from each other only in mandate and task, not in dignity and honor.

#### *Article 3*

a. Confessing male members of the church who meet the biblical requirements are eligible for the offices of minister, elder, and *ministry associate*.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 3-a

—*Adopted*

6. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect members for the Judicial Code Committee (II, A, 9).

—*Adopted*

7. That synod declare June 27, 2004, to July 4, 2004, a week of prayer for peace and authorize the officers to send the letter found in BOT Supplement, Appendix A.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Sesquicentennial Committee**

A. *Materials*: Sesquicentennial Committee Report, p. 315-17

### *B. Recommendation*

That synod approve the dates of April 22, 2007, June 10, 2007, and October 14, 2007, as the dates for sesquicentennial worship services with emphasis on the first date on remembering, the second date on rejoicing, and the third date on rededicating.

—*Adopted*

## **III. Response to Overture 14: Provide Guidelines and Procedures for Pastors Who Receive Calls Requiring a Cross-Border Situation**

A. *Materials*: Overture 14; p. 426

### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod refer the concerns to the BOT for action.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The concerns raised are legitimate.
- b. The materials are readily available for compiling.
- c. Such materials do not need synodical approval.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod declare this to be its answer to Overture 14.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 52.)

#### ARTICLE 28

The president introduces Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., president of Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. Plantinga introduces the following candidates who are present:

Barton, Adam M. H.  
Bodini, Richard A.  
Borger, Joyce  
Brock, Ardean B.  
Broek, Craig E.  
de Boer, Folkert (Frank)  
Fluit, Gregory A.  
Gifford, David S.  
Guikema-Bode, Beth E.  
Heeres, Kevin S.  
Kamphuis, Joseph M.  
King, Zachary J.  
Kroon, David G.  
Lamsma, Bret D.  
Meinders, Bradley A.  
Meinema, Leonard H.  
Moerman, Stephen D.  
Muller, Carol S.  
Raak, Randall C.  
Rodenhouse, Lucas A.  
Steenwyk, Chad M.  
Tinklenberg, Wendy S.  
Umran, Naji  
Van Boom, Michael  
Verhoef, Paul W.-T.

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 26.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Carl J. Leep reporting, presents the following:

#### **Calvin Theological Seminary**

A. *Materials*: Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

B. *Recommendation*

That synod declare the following as candidates for the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to completion of all requirements:

Barton, Adam M. H.  
Bodini, Richard A.  
Borger, Joyce  
Brock, Ardean B.

Broek, Craig E.  
de Boer, Folkert (Frank)  
Fakkema, Douglas E.  
Fisher, Jeffrey A.  
Fluit, Gregory A.  
Frielink, Harry J.  
Gerber, Edward H.  
Gifford, David S.  
Guikema-Bode, Beth E.  
Heeres, Kevin S.  
Hoogland, Daniel  
Kamphuis, Joseph M.  
King, Zachary J.  
Kroon, David G.  
Lamsma, Bret D.  
Meinders, Bradley A.  
Meinema, Leonard H.  
Moerman, Stephen D.  
Muller, Carol S.  
Raak, Randall C.  
Rodenhouse, Lucas A.  
Steenwyk, Chad M.  
Timmer, Gregory P.  
Tinklenberg, Wendy S.  
Umran, Naji  
Van Boom, Michael  
Verhoef, Paul W.-T.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 54.)

The president of synod congratulates the candidates and addresses them from Psalm 119. Dr. Plantinga leads in a prayer of thanksgiving for the candidates.

#### ARTICLE 29

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. Scott E. Hoezee reporting, presents the following:

##### **I. Board of Trustees**

###### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Program Section; including Appendices A-J; pp. 36-50, 51-106)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Section II, A-D and F)

###### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the Suggested Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Allegations of Child Abuse against a Church Leader (see *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 56-58) and refer these to the churches as guidance.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod approve the following recommendations contained in the report of the Classis Pacific Hanmi Monitoring Committee (II, B, 4 and Appendix H):
  - a. That synod permit the privilege of the floor to any Monitoring Committee members who are present at synod when the report is discussed.
  - b. That synod give thanks to God for the Korean congregations that are affiliated with the CRC and praise God for the significant growth of Classis Pacific Hanmi since its inception in 1996.
  - c. That synod take note that the Monitoring Committee has begun to explore the original fifteen-year maximum time limit for the life of Classis Pacific Hanmi. Therefore, that synod requests the Monitoring Committee to continue its evaluation of this question, in consultation with the leaders of Classis Pacific Hanmi, and propose an appropriate response to this matter in a future report to synod.
  - d. That synod encourage the Monitoring Committee, in consultation with the leaders of Classis Pacific Hanmi, to create a curriculum for teaching CRC polity and practice to the members and member-churches of Classis Pacific Hanmi. (This may include the potential of translating the *Manual of Christian Reformed Church Government* into the Korean language.)
  - e. That synod encourage the leaders and member-churches of Classis Pacific Hanmi to participate in the regional CRC projects being done in Southern California and to develop ways for increasing contact between, and relationship with, non-Korean Christian Reformed congregations. (One possible project is a regional retreat with Korean-speaking and English-speaking pastors where the unwritten laws and practices of each culture are identified and discussed.)
  - f. That synod thank the members of the Monitoring Committee for their faithful work and encourage them to continue in this service to the broader church.

—Adopted

3. That synod approve the following recommendation regarding the Succession Plan for denominational leadership (II, B, 5 and Appendix I):

That synod approve the plan to revise the senior leadership structure of the CRCNA to provide for a single position, executive director of the CRCNA,<sup>1</sup> as the person responsible to the BOT and synod for implementing their decisions.

*Grounds:*

- a. The proposed structure will clarify roles and responsibilities.

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<sup>1</sup> This specific title is contingent on subsequent synodical approval of the BOT's recommendation from the Supplement II, D.

- b. The proposed structure includes the creation of a director of denominational ministries position to focus on the ministries of the denomination.
- c. The new structure will allow the new executive director of the CRCNA more time to interact with our churches, to improve communication, and to close the gap (perceived or otherwise) between the denomination and the churches.
- d. Working relationships and accountability will be improved.
- e. The proposal is the next logical step in the denomination's organizational journey that seeks enhanced effectiveness of ministry.
- f. The proposal contains appropriate checks and balances in keeping with Reformed polity.

—Adopted

4. That synod approve the title for the new chief executive position as being the *Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America* (BOT Supplement II, D).

—Adopted

5. That synod receive for information the recommendations found in *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pages 46-47.

—Adopted

A delegate presents the following motion:

6. That synod instruct the Search Committee that, in the process of evaluating nominees for the new position of executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, weight be given to the binational nature of our denomination.

—Adopted

7. That synod receive the formal retirement notification of Dr. Peter Borgdorff as EDM of the CRCNA following Synod 2005.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 35.)

#### ARTICLE 30

The general secretary presents the ballot for board and committee elections, and delegates vote. Voting for agency and committee members is done electronically. The ballot results will later be ratified by synod.

The general secretary welcomes fraternal delegates who are present: Rev. A. Le R. duPlooy and Dr. D.G. Breed from the Reformed Churches in South Africa (Potchefstroom Synod) and Rev. Manasseh Musa from the Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria.

#### ARTICLE 31

Woman adviser Mrs. Patricia Storteboom leads in closing prayer. The morning session is adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 15, 2004**  
**Sixth Session**

**ARTICLE 32**

Dr. Calvin Bremer, executive director of The Back to God Hour, leads in opening prayer and reads from a selection of Scripture. Delegates view a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the work of The Back to God Hour. Dr. Bremer introduces Back to God Hour staff who are present. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 412, “Jesus Shall Reign.”

**ARTICLE 33**

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Calvin Compagner reporting, presents the following:

**I. The Back to God Hour**

A. *Materials:* The Back to God Hour Report, pp. 141-45

B. *Recommendations*

1. That Rev. R. Scott Greenway, president; and Dr. Calvin L. Bremer, executive director, be given the privilege of the floor when Back to God Hour matters are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect board members to serve from the nominations presented.

—*Adopted*

Delegate Rev. Calvin D. Compagner leads in prayer for Dr. Bremer and the work of The Back to God Hour.

**II. Christian Reformed Home Missions**

A. *Materials:* Christian Reformed Home Missions Report, pp. 202-17

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Mary Buteyn, Home Missions board president, and Rev. John Rozeboom, executive director, when matters pertaining to Home Missions are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Easter Sunday and Reformation Day Sunday as significant opportunities to receive an offering for Christian Reformed Home Missions.

—*Adopted*

Delegate Rev. Stanley J. Workman leads in prayer for Rev. Rozeboom and the work of CR Home Missions.

### **III. Christian Reformed World Missions**

A. *Materials:* Christian Reformed World Missions Report, pp. 218-27

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That the president of World Missions-Canada, Rev. Ed Visser; the president of World Missions-USA, Rev. Ronald Meyer; and the World Missions executive director, Dr. Gary Bekker, be given the privilege of meeting with appropriate advisory committees of synod and of representing World Missions to synod when synod deals with matters related to this agency.  
—*Granted*
2. That synod encourage all Christian Reformed churches to recognize Pentecost Sunday as a significant opportunity to pray for and take an offering for Christian Reformed World Missions.  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod hear briefly the findings of a recent trip by Dr. Peter Borgdorff to Sierra Leone.  
—*Granted*

Delegate Rev. Alvin J. Machiela leads in prayer for the work of World Missions.

### **IV. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee Report, pp. 228-38
2. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee Supplement

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to any of the following: Mr. Randy Kroll, president of CRWRC-U.S.A.; Ms. Barbara Hoekstra, president of CRWRC-Canada; Ms. Susan Van Lopik, CRWRC evaluations and systems manager; and Mr. Wayne deJong, director of CRWRC-Canada when CRWRC matters are discussed and need to be addressed.  
—*Granted*
2. That synod commend the work of mercy carried on by CRWRC and urge the churches to take at least four offerings per year in lieu of ministry-share support.  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod endorse the Micah Call and encourage strong CRC participation in the Micah Challenge.  
—*Adopted*

Woman adviser Ms. Bonnie B. Smith leads in prayer for Mr. Andy Ryskamp, director of CRWRC-U.S.A., and Mr. Wayne deJong, director of CRWRC-Canada, and the work of CRWRC.

## V. Response to Overture 22: Appoint Study Committee to Examine “Third Wave” Pentecostalism

A. *Materials*: Overture 22, pp. 436-37

### B. *Observations*

In addition to reviewing the written material in the Agenda for Synod 2004, the advisory committee was able to discuss the matter of this overture with a representative from Plymouth Heights CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and with a representative of Classis Grand Rapids East (to whom this overture was submitted but not adopted). The advisory committee also received and reviewed as resource material a set of guidelines of the Holy Spirit’s ministry printed up by a local CRC. Following extensive discussion re the content of this overture and the need it presents, the committee makes the following recommendation.

### C. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to the request of Plymouth Heights CRC to appoint a study committee to examine the biblical teaching, Reformed confessions, theological implications, and pastoral dimensions of third wave Pentecostalism.

#### *Grounds:*

1. There appears to be insufficient evidence that this is a denomination-wide issue or problem that would warrant a study committee.
2. The 1973 report on Neo-Pentecostalism second wave, while not directly addressing all the issues raised by third wave Pentecostalism, provides a solid theological and pastoral foundation for addressing some newer issues.
3. There are other avenues of informing our churches of this new trend in Pentecostalism with both its blessings and dangers (e.g., series of articles in *The Banner*; elective(s) taught at the seminary, on-line discussion groups, topic for continuing education in areas where the interest is high, recommendation of informative books and articles for inclusion in a church library and/or use for small group study, and so forth).

—*Defeated*

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 53.)

The executive director of ministries briefly addresses synod re his recent trip to Sierra Leone.

## ARTICLE 34

Rev. William C. Veenstra, Canadian ministries director, introduces a PowerPoint presentation on the Sea to Sea Bike Tour in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Christian Reformed Church in Canada.

## ARTICLE 35

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 29.)

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. Scott E. Hoezee reporting, presents the following:

## I. Board of Trustees

### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (Program Section; including Appendices A-J; pp. 36-50, 51-106)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Section II, A-D and F)

### B. Recommendations

1. That synod approve the following regulations and procedures for the selection and appointment of agency and educational institution board members (II, B, 6):
  - a. Each classis will be asked to submit one or more names for a classical or regional vacant position. The nomination(s) will be solicited by, and sent to, the office of the general secretary. Upon receipt of the nominations, the names will be forwarded to the agency or educational institution involved for review.
  - b. If the procedure described above does not produce a sufficient number of persons who, in the judgment of that board meet the criteria for maintaining the synodically required diversity of board members, either as members or as alternate members, the agency or institutional board may add other names to the list of nominations submitted to the general secretary's office for election by the classes involved. In preparing nominations, each board shall:
    - 1) Adhere to the synodical policy that no more than one-half of the members of a board shall be ministers of the Word.
    - 2) Take into account applicable synodical policies that may be adopted from time to time, including, but not limited to, policies with respect to diversity, age, gender, ethnic representation, and specific expertise.
    - 3) Develop and implement rotation schedules for regions and classes so that, as much as possible, fair representation is achieved.
  - c. The slates of nominees shall be returned to the classes for election. The election results by classes are submitted to synod for ratification.
  - d. In order to assure compliance with, and consistency in, implementing this process, synod assigns to the BOT the responsibility of implementing and monitoring compliance with these policies.

—Adopted
2. That synod endorse the action of the BOT concerning ministries priorities (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, p. 49).

—Adopted
3. That synod encourage churches and classes to celebrate All Nations Heritage Week from September 27 to October 3, 2004, with an invitation to celebrate All Nations Heritage Sunday on October 3, 2004 (p. 68).

—Adopted

4. That synod grant the BOT an additional year to respond to provisions for assisting smaller churches (BOT Supplement II, A).

—Adopted

5. That synod approve the following statement of vision and the revised mandate for Race Relations as proposed (BOT Supplement II, B):

**Statement of Vision**

Because the Christian Reformed Church's unity and diversity must mirror that of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the members and agencies of the Christian Reformed Church are called to be reconciled with one another as a community of racially and ethnically diverse people of God. It is the vision of the Christian Reformed Church to live out this calling by:

- Rejecting and resisting the practice and tolerance of racism in all its forms.
- Confessing that racism diminishes us all and putting into practice biblical principles of sharing insight, courage, access, power, and resources.
- Celebrating the image of God in all people of every race and culture.

**Mandate**

CRC Race Relations will initiate and provide effective and collaborative training, programs, and organizing actions in ways that mobilize Christian Reformed agencies and educational institutions, as well as classes and congregations to recognize, expose, and dismantle racism in all its forms and to experience true biblical reconciliation as a diverse and unified people of God.

—Adopted

6. That synod urge the BOT to revisit its decision that the Race Relations director be an adviser to the Ministry Council in order to consider appointing the Race Relations director as a member of the Ministry Council (Appendix E, 5).

*Ground:* In view of the newly proposed statement of vision and mandate for Race Relations, and in view of the CRCNA's initiatives in the area of antiracism, such a development is a way of moving forward and may send a message of hope and encouragement to those of minority membership in the CRCNA.

—Adopted

7. That synod authorize the BOT to alter and update vision statements and mandates as needed for the specialized ministries of the denomination (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 468).

—Adopted

8. That synod approve the list of denominational ministries recommended for one or more offerings (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, pp. 461-66).

—Adopted

9. That synod approve the new request for approval for financial support of Hope Haven (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 462).  
—Adopted
10. That synod approve the new request for approval for financial support of IN Network (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, pp. 462-63).  
—Adopted
11. That synod approve the new request for approval for financial support of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 463)  
—Adopted
12. That synod approve the action denying the approval for financial support to Lutheran Aid to Medicine, Bangladesh (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, pp. 463-64).  
—Adopted
13. That synod approve the action denying the approval for financial support to New Focus National (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 464).  
—Adopted
14. That synod approve the renewal of approved nondenominational agencies evaluated for support (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, pp. 464-66).  
—Adopted
15. That synod approve The International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education as an addition to the list of endorsed nondenominational agencies evaluated for support.  
  
*Ground:* The background information for this agency was submitted after the Board's consideration. Upon review of this information by the advisory committee, and because other already approved agencies participate with this organization, the advisory committee recommends synod's approval of this addition.  
—Adopted
16. That synod approve showing of the video "Deep Roots, New Branches" from the denominational church-planting committee at a time deemed appropriate by the officers.  
—Adopted

## **II. Response to Overture 25: Receive the BOT's Report re the Succession Plan and Its Recommendations as Information**

### **A. Materials:** Overture 25, Supplementary Materials

### **B. Observations**

In considering this overture, the advisory committee held discussions with representatives of Classis Hamilton, with Canadian Ministries Director Bill Veenstra, and with EDM Peter Borgdorff. The advisory committee addressed the overture's chief concerns regarding the lack of time the churches have had to consider this recommendation and the potential impact the Succession Plan would have on Canadian congregations and ministries. The advisory committee was satisfied that timely updates on this plan have been provided, including at Synod 2003 and to the classes via their BOT representatives. The

advisory committee also concluded that the questions raised by this overture regarding Canadian ministries under the new structure have been, or are being, addressed and directs synod to the proposed study detailed in the *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 45-47, 81-102.

**C. Recommendation**

That synod not accede to Overture 25, which asks synod to receive the Succession Plan for information and to commission a study to assess the CRCNA's governance structure and needs.

*Ground:* Synod's earlier approval of the Succession Plan (Article 29, I, B, 3) is its answer to Overture 25.

—*Adopted*

**ARTICLE 36**

The afternoon session is adjourned. Delegate Rev. Gilbert Varela leads in closing prayer.

**TUESDAY EVENING, June 15, 2004**  
**Seventh Session**

**ARTICLE 37**

Woman adviser Dr. Nell DeBoer reads from John 17 and Galatians 3 and leads in opening prayer. She announces *Sing! A New Creation* 268, "Here I Am, Lord."

**ARTICLE 38**

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. Ralph S. Wigboldus reporting, presents the following:

**I. CRC Publications**

**A. Materials**

1. CRC Publications Report (including Appendices A through C), pp. 172-201
2. CRC Publications Supplement

**B. Recommendations**

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the following people when matters of CRC Publications are discussed: for the board, Rev. Clayton Libolt, president; Mr. Gary Mulder, executive director. For Faith Alive Resources and *The Banner*, Rev. Robert De Moor, editor in chief and interim editor in chief, respectively.

—*Granted*

2. That synod adopt the following process for appointing the new *Banner* editor:

- a. That synod consider only the candidate presented by the CRC Publications Board for the position of *Banner* editor. If synod believes that new or additional candidates should be considered, it should request the CRC Publications Board to submit new candidate(s) to Synod 2005. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.

—Adopted

- b. That the interview for Rev. Robert De Moor proceed as follows:

- 1) Mr. Gary Mulder, executive director of CRC Publications, will introduce Rev. De Moor.
- 2) Rev. Robert Huisman, as appointed by synod's advisory committee, will interview Rev. De Moor for a maximum of thirty minutes. The questions to be asked shall be selected by the advisory committee.
- 3) Delegates will be permitted to ask questions for a maximum of thirty minutes.

—Adopted

- c. That following the interview, the president shall give opportunity for discussion of the candidate's qualifications for the position.

—Adopted

Following the interview with Rev. De Moor, synod enters into executive session to consider the following recommendation:

3. That synod appoint Rev. Robert De Moor as the next editor in chief of *The Banner*, beginning September 1, 2004. (See Appendices B and C for a job description for this position and Rev. De Moor's resume, *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 199-201.)

—Adopted

Synod returns to open session. The president congratulates Rev. De Moor.

4. That synod change *The Banner* from a subscription-based magazine to an every-household and ministry-share-supported magazine as described in the Future of *The Banner* report (see Appendix A in *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 189-99).

*Grounds:*

- a. *The Banner* has long been an important part of the life of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. For much of that history, it has been a virtual town square where members of the denomination have heard the voices and seen the faces of other members, where important issues have been discussed, and where directions for the denomination have been set.
- b. As the Christian Reformed Church grows more diverse, the need for a voice to call its members and congregations together, a forum to introduce members to members and ministries to ministries, and a place to discuss what involves all the diverse sectors of the CRC will become more important.
- c. *The Banner* as a subscription-based magazine is less able now, and will be even less able in the future, to fulfill the role of a central forum of communication for the denomination because a decline in the num-

- ber of subscribers, especially among younger and newer members, threatens its financial viability and its position in the denomination.
- d. Despite the best efforts of editors and marketing staff, *The Banner* has been unsuccessful in turning around, or even interrupting, the trends toward diminishing numbers of subscribers.
  - e. For the past decades, churches in North America, including the CRCNA, have witnessed a loss of denominational loyalty. Getting *The Banner* into the hands of every member helps the CRC not only to reverse this trend but also to promote a strong denominational identity.
  - f. The *Church Herald*, which has been sent to all member households in the Reformed Church of America for a decade, has been widely read and has become an effective means of communication for its denomination.
  - g. The Christian Reformed Church is already sending the *CRC Source* to its member households. By incorporating the *CRC Source* into *The Banner*, savings can be achieved and better communication effected.
- Adopted

## II. Historical Committee

A. *Materials*: Historical Committee Report, pp. 250-55

### B. Recommendations

1. That Mrs. Janet Sheeres be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to its mandate come before synod.  
—Granted
2. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect Mrs. Janet Sheeres and Dr. Robert Swierenga to second three-year terms as members of the Historical Committee.  
—Adopted
3. That synod urge congregations to continue sending copies of minutes and noncurrent membership records to the Archives in order that existing gaps in the archival holdings may be filled.  
—Adopted
4. That synod urge all classes to add the Archives to their mailing lists (surface or electronic) as the most expedient means to prevent gaps in archival holdings from occurring in the future.  
—Adopted
5. That synod remind the stated clerks of each classis that the records of discontinued ministries are to be deposited in the Archives.  
—Adopted

### III. Sermons for Reading Services

A. *Materials*: Sermons for Reading Services Report, p. 314

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the work of the committee and encourage the churches to avail themselves of the sermons for reading services on the CRCNA web site.

—Adopted

2. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect Rev. Hendrick Bruinsma for a second three-year term.

—Adopted

### IV. Response to Overture 12: Alter Report re Pastoral Care for Homosexual Members Recommended to the Churches by Synod 2002

A. *Materials*: Overture 12, pp. 418-20

#### B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 12, II, A, which asks synod to reinsert the sentence “On the one hand, their sexual drive impels them to seek a deeply intimate personal relationship with another, but at the same time, Scripture forbids such sexual intimacy with persons of the same sex,” at the end of the second paragraph, section III, E, “The Gift of Celibacy” in the report to Synod 2002 re pastoral care to homosexual members (*Agenda for Synod 2002*, p. 321).

#### *Grounds:*

a. The ground of the overture that “this omission is inconsistent with the synod’s position in the pastoral guidelines of the 1973” is incorrect. The report of 1973 (*Acts of Synod 1973*, pp. 609-33) clearly states that Scripture forbids acts of homosexual intimacy. The report of 2002 reaffirms the decision of 1973 by stating:

We reached the conclusion that we were not asked to reexamine scriptural texts that deal explicitly or implicitly with homosexuality. This conclusion appeared consistent with the latter part of the mandate given by Synod 1996, which stated that we were to give direction “in a manner consistent with the decision of 1973.” (*Agenda for Synod 2002*, p. 315).

b. The sentence that was omitted from the report of 2002 was taken from the body of the study, not from the guidelines.

—Adopted

2. That synod not accede to Overture 12, II, B to remind consistories of the need to suspend the privileges of communicant membership for those members who persist in the practice of sexually intimate acts of a homosexual nature.

*Ground:* The reports of 1973 (*Agenda for Synod 1973*, pp. 609-33) and 2002 (*Agenda for Synod 2002*, pp. 313-51) already clearly call the church to be diligent in caring for, admonishing, and disciplining those who are engaged in intimate homosexual acts.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 39

Woman adviser Mrs. Kathy Boldenow leads in closing prayer. The evening session is adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 16, 2004**

**Eighth Session**

ARTICLE 40

Mr. Wayne deJong reads from John 15:1-17. He addresses delegates re “The Vine” and leads in prayer. Mr. deJong leads in a reading of a litany from *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*, 30, 31, and 33 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 572, “Jesus, Priceless Treasure.”

ARTICLE 41

The vice president assumes the chair.  
The roll indicates that all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 42

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Shawn Brix reporting, presents the following:

**I. Interchurch Relations Committee**

*A. Materials*

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report (including Appendices A through F), pp. 256-313
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement

*B. Recommendations*

1. That Rev. Michael Winnowski (president) and Rev. Philip De Jonge, along with members of the Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 80 subcommittee, be given the privilege of the floor when matters relating to the IRC are being discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod establish a relationship of corresponding fellowship with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (IV, B).

—*Adopted*

3. That synod designate a time during its sessions to remember and give thanks to God for the reconciliation recently experienced by the Christian Reformed Church in Nigeria and the Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria (IV, C).

—*Adopted*

4. That synod establish a relationship of corresponding fellowship with the Reformed Church of East Africa (IV, D).

—*Adopted*

5. That synod establish a relationship of corresponding fellowship with the Christian Reformed Church in Eastern Africa (IV, E).

—*Adopted*

6. That synod declare with deep regret that the conversation between the Protestant Reformed Churches and the CRC has seemingly drawn to a close with no tangible results. Synod urges the IRC to be open to the possibility of further dialogue with the Protestant Reformed Churches, as God provides the opportunity (V, C).

—*Adopted*

*Note:* Recommendation 7 contained in Article 47 was discussed extensively during this morning session but was not acted upon until the afternoon session.

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 47.)

#### ARTICLE 43

Rev. Michiel De Berdt introduces Professor Andres Le R. duPlooy and Dr. D.G. Breed from the Reformed Churches in South Africa. Professor duPlooy addresses synod. The vice president of synod responds and leads in prayer for the Reformed Churches in South Africa.

The general secretary introduces Dr. Ronald C. DiNunzio from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, who addresses synod. The vice president of synod responds and leads in prayer for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The executive director of ministries introduces Dr. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson from the Reformed Church in America, who addresses synod. The vice president of synod responds and leads in prayer for the Reformed Church in America.

The general secretary introduces Rev. Tshililo Liphadzi from the Reformed Churches in South Africa (Soutpansberg Synod), who addresses synod. The vice president of synod responds and leads in prayer for the Reformed Churches in South Africa (Soutpansberg Synod).

#### ARTICLE 44

The morning session is adjourned.

### **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 16, 2004**

#### **Ninth Session**

#### ARTICLE 45

Dr. Gaylen Byker, president of Calvin College, reads from Colossians 2:2-7 and leads in opening prayer. He briefly tells of the mission and vision of Calvin College and introduces the video “A Day in the Life of Calvin College.”

#### ARTICLE 46

The president resumes the chair.

The chair introduces delegate Rev. Russell Palsrok who addresses synod re the reconciliation recently experienced by the Christian Reformed Church in Nigeria and the Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria. He introduces Rev. Manasseh A. Musa from the Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria who addresses synod regarding the reconciliation and celebration. Rev. Palsrok leads in a prayer of thanksgiving and delegates join in the singing of the doxology.

Rev. Musa addresses synod, bringing greetings from the Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria. The president of synod responds.

## ARTICLE 47

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 42.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Shawn Brix reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Interchurch Relations Committee**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report (including Appendices A through F), pp. 256-313
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement

*B. Recommendations* (continued; Recommendation 7 below was discussed extensively in the morning session on June 16, but was not acted upon until the afternoon)

7. That synod take the following actions regarding the matter of Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 80 and the Roman Catholic Mass:
  - a. That synod receive the slightly revised report regarding Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 80 and the Roman Catholic Eucharist (see *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 277-97).

*Ground:* The changes, made in the light of comments from the various Roman Catholic respondents, render the report clearer and more accurate.

- b. That synod declare the following:

- 1) That the Mass, when celebrated in accordance with official Roman Catholic teaching, neither denies the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ nor constitutes idolatry.

*Grounds:*

- a) Official Roman Catholic teaching affirms that Christ offered a final, sufficient, unrepeatable sacrifice on the cross and that the Mass re-enacts or re-presents that sacrifice and suffering in an unbloody manner (see section Appendix E, section II, B and Appendix D, section II).
- b) The Roman Catholic Church holds that the ascended Christ is to be worshiped through the adoration of his body and blood, which is what it believes the consecrated bread and wine have

become. In the adoration of the consecrated bread and wine, Christ is being worshiped—not the elements (see Appendix E, II, B and Appendix D, III).

- c) The understanding of the Mass underlying this declaration is grounded in a lengthy conversation with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church (see Appendix E, section I).
- 2) That Q. and A. 80 still contains a pointed warning against any teachings, attitudes, or practices related to the Eucharist that either deny the finality and sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice on the cross or contribute to idolatrous worship.

*Grounds:*

- a) Practices are not always in accord with official teaching. When and where that occurs, Q. and A. 80 serves as a pointed warning.
  - b) In some places in the world today, practices associated with the Roman Catholic Eucharist obscure and distort important Eucharistic teachings, as they did in the sixteenth century.
- c. That synod propose to the churches that, rather than being deleted completely, Q. and A. 80 be retained but printed in a smaller font.

*Grounds:*

- 1) Q. and A. 80 does not offer an acceptable description or evaluation of Roman Catholic Eucharistic teaching or of practices in accordance with it.
  - 2) In certain contexts, Q. and A. 80 has offered, and will continue to offer, a needed warning against erroneous teachings, attitudes, and practices related to the Eucharist.
- d. That synod propose to the churches the following format and footnotes to Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 80 as the way to deal with the confessional difficulties it presents:

**\*80 Q. How does the Lord's Supper differ from the Roman Catholic Mass?**

A. The Lord's Supper declares to us  
that our sins have been completely forgiven  
through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ  
which he himself finished on the cross once for all.<sup>1</sup>

It also declares to us  
that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ,<sup>2</sup>  
who with his very body  
is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father<sup>3</sup>  
where he wants us to worship him.<sup>4</sup>

**\*\*But the Mass teaches  
that the living and the dead  
do not have their sins forgiven  
through the suffering of Christ  
unless Christ is still offered for them daily by the priests.**

It also teaches  
that Christ is bodily present  
in the form of bread and wine  
where Christ is therefore to be worshiped.

Thus the Mass is basically  
nothing but a denial  
of the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ  
and a condemnable idolatry.

<sup>1</sup>John 19:30; Heb. 7:27; 9:12, 25-26; 10:10-18.

<sup>2</sup>1 Cor. 6:17; 10:16-17.

<sup>3</sup>Acts 7:55-56; Heb. 1:3; 8:1.

<sup>4</sup>Matt. 6:20-21; John 4:21-24; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-3.

\*Q. and A. 80 was absent from the first edition (February 1563) of the Catechism but was present in a shorter form in the second edition (March 1563). The translation here given is of the expanded text of the third edition (April 1563/November 1563).

\*\*The synod of 2004 concluded that the Mass, when celebrated in accordance with official Roman Catholic teaching, neither denies the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ nor constitutes idolatry. The same synod also concluded that Q. and A. 80 still contains a pointed warning against any teachings, attitudes, or practices related to the Eucharist that either deny the finality and sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice on the cross or contribute to idolatrous worship. Therefore, Q. and A. 80 was not removed from the text but retained in a smaller font.

- e. That synod, out of pastoral concern for the churches, instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee to prepare a prefatory statement to be included with the dissemination of the report(s) pertaining to Q. and A. 80 of the Heidelberg Catechism, as well as the actual changes to the catechism and the related synodical decisions. That prefatory statement should address the following points:
- 1) These modifications to the catechism are a result of extended conversations with Roman Catholic bishops, conversations in which our church made a sincere effort to come to a correct understanding of official Roman Catholic teaching about the Mass and the Eucharist. We have come to an understanding of Roman Catholic doctrine that no longer allows us to confess what the HC says about that doctrine.
  - 2) At stake in these modifications to the catechism are
    - a) A concern for our own confessional integrity, and our duty to confess what we believe to be true.
    - b) A concern to deal justly with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, and our duty to do what we can to guard and advance our neighbor's good name (Heidelberg Catechism, Q. and A. 112).
  - 3) These modifications to the catechism are consistent with our understanding of our own church, a church that is *semper reformanda* (always subject to reform). (See Article 7 of the Belgic Confession.)
  - 4) These modifications to the catechism do not change our Reformed understanding of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
  - 5) These modifications to the catechism do not imply an endorsement of Roman Catholic sacramental theology. In fact, significant differences remain between the Reformed and Roman Catholic understandings of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
  - 6) Despite the differences that remain, the dialogue with Catholic bishops was fruitful and represents an effort to promote the unity of

the church that is consistent with Christ's prayer for the unity of the church and with our own ecumenical principles.

- f. That synod, out of pastoral concern for the churches, ask CRC Publications to take note of the report(s) pertaining to Q. and A. 80 of the Heidelberg Catechism, as well as the actual changes to the catechism and the related synodical decisions, and incorporate them as it carries out its ongoing educational mandate in the CRCNA.
- g. That synod submit the revised report and the proposed footnote to the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) for review at its next assembly in July 2005 and also submit the report and recommendations to those churches in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC and to those in corresponding fellowship with the CRC.
- h. That synod ask each church council and each classis to review the proposed footnote to Q. and A. 80 and to submit their responses to the general secretary of the CRCNA by December 1, 2005, so that they can be considered by the Interchurch Relations Committee along with responses from other denominations and the REC.
- i. That synod instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee to receive the responses and propose any changes to Synod 2006.
- j. That synod instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee to send both this new report and the slightly revised earlier report to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, thanking them for their participation in dialogue with us, and also to appropriate ecumenical bodies.

—*Recommitted*

- 8. That synod take the following actions regarding participation in Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.:
  - a. That synod authorize the IRC, on behalf of the CRCNA, to become a founding participant in the new ecumenical organization known as Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A. (CCT-USA).

*Grounds:*

- 1) The theological affirmations and the purpose of the organization are consonant with the confessions and teachings of the CRC, and the modus operandi (consensus decision-making) is in keeping with the polity of the CRC, namely that no external assembly makes decisions that are binding on the CRC.
- 2) Participation in CCT-USA enables the CRC to fulfill "its ecumenical responsibility to cooperate and seek unity with all churches of Christ in obedience to the gospel and insofar as is commensurate with the gospel" (Ecumenical Charter, III, A, 1; *Agenda for Synod 2000*, p. 248; *Acts of Synod 2000*, pp. 670-71).
- 3) "The CRCNA seeks to pursue its ecumenical task by participating in ecumenical organizations, fellowships, and associations that enable it to carry out its ecumenical responsibilities broadly, effectively, and efficiently" (Ecumenical Charter, III, C, 1, b). CCT-

USA provides a new opportunity to relate to a wide variety of Christian churches within a single organization.

4) Participating at this time will allow our representatives an opportunity to help shape the immediate future of CCT-USA.

b. That synod request the IRC to prepare a review of the relationship with CCT-USA for Synod 2010.

—Adopted

9. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect members for the IRC from the slate of nominees presented (see section VIII).

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 49.)

#### ARTICLE 48

Advisory Committee 10, Judicial Code, Mr. Robert Jonker reporting, presents the following:

Synod enters into executive session to address the report of the Judicial Code Committee.

##### *Recommendation:*

That synod not sustain the appeal of Mr. Russ Highfield from Classis Chatham's decision not to sustain his appeal from the Judicial Code decision of the council of First CRC, London, Ontario.

Delegate Rev. Kenneth D. Koeman leads synod in prayer.

*Note:* Documents of this case are kept confidentially in the executive session of synod file.

Synod returns to open session.

#### ARTICLE 49

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 47.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Shawn Brix reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Response to Overture 15: Advise Church Councils to Refrain from Participation in Interfaith Worship Services**

A. *Materials:* Overture 15, pp. 426-27

#### *B. Background*

Today Christian ministers and members have opportunities to participate in public events where prayers from other faiths are offered. In this time of religious pluralism and loss of religious consensus, we are presented with both opportunity and challenge. On the one hand, we have unique and special opportunities to present the gospel message in public settings. On the other hand, such contexts can threaten the exclusiveness of the gospel message as the only way of salvation. Overture 15 asks synod to provide clear guidelines to pastors and councils regarding participation in such events.

Our advisory committee judges that it is important to make two key distinctions. Interfaith events, involving all religious groups, should be distinguished from interdenominational events that include only Christian

churches and/or denominations. Within the category of interfaith events, a distinction needs to be made between interfaith worship/prayer and interfaith forums of dialog, discussion, and debate.

The advisory committee believes that synod should strongly encourage pastors and churches to participate in such interfaith forums. At the same time, Overture 15 rightly cautions against “participating in interfaith worship and/or prayer services that are specifically intended to present a picture of false ecumenical unity” with “religions or faiths that deny that Jesus Christ is the only Son of God, the only Savior of sinners and the only Mediator between God and man.” This approach to the issue is consistent with our Ecumenical Charter (p. 3), which states “the biblical witness leads us to draw two complementary conclusions:

- Passion for the truth of Christ impels us to reach out to the people of God everywhere, striving for the visible oneness of the church.
- Passion for the truth of Christ calls us to reject all forms of unity that compromise unequivocal witness to Jesus Christ” (see Belgic Confession, Art. 29).

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod encourage CRC ministers and churches to participate in interfaith discussions, debates, and dialog and other such forums so that the gospel of Jesus Christ may be well represented.  

*—Adopted*
2. That synod caution churches and ministers to be especially discerning when facing interfaith worship/prayer events in which their witness to Jesus Christ as only Savior and Lord might be compromised.  

*—Adopted*
3. That synod encourage CRC ministers and churches to avail themselves of opportunities for public expression of the Christian faith; for example, prayer at civic events, community rituals of celebration and inauguration, and expressions of solidarity and compassion in times of crisis and tragedy.  

*—Adopted*
4. That synod pass on to the churches, as instructive and helpful, the Reformed Ecumenical Council’s Guidelines for Public Conduct by Reformed Persons in Religiously Plural Situations (Indonesia 2000):
  - a. In all situations, show sensitivity for the persons present. Whether these be persons of another faith or Christians, they deserve our care, our concern, and our prayers.
  - b. In public gatherings where compassion or solidarity is the primary purpose, Reformed Christians should not hesitate to participate. Our reluctance to be identified with persons of other faiths should not overrule our obligation to show mercy and to stand with those who have suffered.
  - c. In formal public rituals of celebration or inauguration, Reformed Christians may participate where their witness is not unduly restricted.  

*—Adopted*

5. That this be synod's response to Overture 15.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 68.)

#### ARTICLE 50

The afternoon session is adjourned. Elder delegate Mr. Hernan Zapata leads in closing prayer.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 16, 2004

#### Tenth Session

#### ARTICLE 51

Rev. Thea Leunk, member of the Church Planting Goal Team (Denominational Ministries Plan), leads in opening prayer and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 171, "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song."

Rev. John Rozeboom, executive director of Christian Reformed Home Missions, introduces delegate Rev. Jeffrey A. Dykema and elder delegate Mr. Jose Rayas who share with delegates their work of church parenting and church planting in the El Paso, Texas, area.

Mr. Gary Mulder, executive director of CRC Publications, leads in a litany from John 15. He introduces the video "Deep Roots/New Branches."

Rev. Leunk leads in a litany of prayer and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 172, "Faith Begins by Letting Go."

#### ARTICLE 52

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 27.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Bernard R. Tol reporting, presents the following:

#### I. Ministerial retirements

##### A. Information

Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:

Minister	Classis	Effective Date
Lloyd Burghart	Eastern Canada	April 30, 2004
John Choi	Greater Los Angeles	January 18, 2004
Gerald E. DeVries	Illiana	October 1, 2004
Albert Dreise	Hamilton	May 1, 2004
William Dykstra	Toronto	January 1, 2004
Allan C. Groen	Eastern Canada	November 30, 2003
Pieter L. Hendriks	B.C. North-West	September 1, 2003
Jerry J. Hoytema	Niagara	February 8, 2004
Gary Hutt	Minnkota	April 18, 2004
John Joldersma	Georgetown	July 1, 2004
John Kerssies	Huron	June 27, 2004
Harvey Kiekover	Grand Rapids East	December 31, 2003

Carl Klompier	Heartland	July 3, 2004
John Lamsma	Rocky Mountain	March 1, 2003
Dennis M. Mulder	Illiana	February 15, 2005
Ezekiel N. Romero	Hackensack	January 31, 2003
James Scholten	Holland	June 27, 2004
Ronald Sprik	Heartland	April 30, 2004
Edward Tamminga	Muskegon	September 30, 2004
Marvin Van Donselaar	Hamilton	March 1, 2004
Marinus Vandesteeg	Grand Rapids North	February, 1, 2004
Fredrick J. Walhof	Arizona	February 1, 2004
Jack Westerhof	Chatham	September 29, 2003
Anthony Van Zanten	Chicago South	November 11, 2004

## B. Recommendations

1. That synod acknowledge our most recently retired ministers with “the highest regard in love because of their work” (I Thess. 5:13), faithfully pursued for an average of thirty-two years each, with a cumulative total of more than seven hundred seventy-five years.

—Adopted

2. That an officer of synod lead in grateful prayer for our latest retirees’ service in the CRC, with petitions for their continued fruitfulness in kingdom service and for the Lord to grant each of them his benediction: Well done!

—Adopted

Second clerk Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer leads in prayer of thanksgiving for the years of service of the retiring pastors.

## II. Work of synodical deputies

### A. Classical examination of candidates

Synodical deputies report their concurrence with the decisions of classes to admit the following to the office of minister of the Word:

Candidate	Classis	Synodical Deputies and Classes
James Blankespoor	Grand Rapids East (9-17-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Jacob Boer	Eastern Canada (2-27-04)	E.W. Visser (Quinte) J. Kerssies (Huron) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto)
Michael Borgert	Muskegon (9-18-03)	R. Brinks (Northern Michigan) D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South) G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland)
Jeffrey Bos	Grand Rapids East (9-17-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Derek Bouma	Niagara (9-17-03)	J. Zantingh (Hamilton) H.J. Bierman (Huron) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto)
Vicki Cok	Grand Rapids East (9-17-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Andrew de Gelder	Chatham (9-16-03)	H.A. Vander Windt (Niagara) J. Zantingh (Hamilton) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto)

Jack De Jong	Thornapple Valley (9-2-03)	G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North) S. Venhuizen (Grand Rapids East) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Timothy De Jonge	Holland (11-20-03)	B.F. Tol (Zeeland) D.A. Kamstra (Grandville) H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo)
Greg Dyk	Heartland (11-11-03)	C.J. De Ridder (Iakota) T.J. Brown (Minnkota) K.L. Schepel (Pella)
Nola Galluch	Grand Rapids East (9-18-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
James Hildebrandt	Arizona (11-8-03)	D.W. Lagerwey (California South) G.G. Vink (Central California) J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain)
Marc Holland	Central California (5-11-2004)	D.W. Lagerwey (California South) F.J. Walhof (Arizona) R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles)
Mike Hoogeboom	Grand Rapids South (8-26-03)	G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North) E.A. Van Baak (Grand Rapids East) D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown)
Michael Koot	Alberta South/ Saskatchewan (10-31-03)	H. Vriend (Alberta North) J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West) H. Jonker (B.C. South-East)
John Kuperus	Huron (11-5-03)	D.R. Tigchelaar (Chatham) J. Zantingh (Hamilton) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto)
Le Rae Kuperus	Grand Rapids East (1-15-04)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Gregory Llerena	Holland (9-18-03)	H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo) G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North) B.F. Tol (Zeeland)
Benjamin Meyer	Grand Rapids East (9-18-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Randal Meyers	Grand Rapids East (7-17-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Mark Pluimer	Wisconsin (9-23-03)	J.M. Ouwinga (Chicago South) B.F. Tol (Zeeland) M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois)
Mark Quist	Rocky Mountain (9-23-03)	T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa) D. Tinklenberg (Heartland) T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone)
Timothy Raakman	Kalamazoo (1-27-04)	D.J. Steenhoek (Grandville) R. Arbogast (Lake Erie) G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland)
Joel Ringma	B.C. North-West (10-14-03)	J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East) K. Van Schelven (Columbia) K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest)
Erica Schemper	Chicago South (9-18-03)	T. Douma (Northern Illinois) L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin) T.J. Kok (Illiana)
Christopher Schoon	Grand Rapids East (9-18-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Dan Steen	Thornapple Valley (9-2-03)	G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North) S. Venhuizen (Grand Rapids East) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)

David Tigchelaar	Eastern Canada (12-11-03)	J. Zantingh (Hamilton) H.J. Bierman (Huron) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto)
David Van Buren	Heartland (9-26-03)	T.J. Brown (Minnkota) R.W. Sparks (Iakota) H.A. Brink (Pella)
Elizabeth Vander Haagen	Grand Rapids East (9-17-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
David Vander Meulen	Central California (9-23-03)	D.W. Lagerwey (California South) F.J. Walhof (Arizona) D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles)
Timothy Van Lant	Pella (9-19-03)	C.J. Klompien (Heartland) A.J. Van Dellen (Lake Superior) T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa)
Ellen MacLeod Van Tongeren	Grand Rapids East (7-17-03)	G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Daniel Vos	Lake Superior (6-7-04)	R.W. Sparks (Iakota) T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa) L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin)
Michael Wagenman	Chatham (9-16-03)	H. Vander Windt (Niagara) J. Zantingh (Hamilton) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto)
Lloyd S. Wicker	Columbia (9-27-03)	J. Weeda (Yellowstone) G.G. Vink (Central California) M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest)
Richard Zekveld	Lake Superior (9-22-03)	C.J. De Ridder (Iakota) L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota) H.A. Brink (Pella)
Derek M. Zeyl	Central California (9-23-03)	D.W. Lagerwey (California South) F.J. Walhof (Arizona) D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles)

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

### *B. Classical examinations via Church Order Article 7*

1. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Bridgeway Community Christian Reformed Church, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its Supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on May 14, 2004, to grant **Mr. Joshua Amaezech** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until March 2006.

*Grounds:*

1. Church Planting—The growing African immigrant community in the Greater New York area needs more churches to meet this growing need. Joshua has been approved by the CRHM Assessment Center for church planting and desires to do so.
2. Multiethnic—As a person of Nigerian background familiar with American culture, Joshua is well suited for multiethnic ministry. Joshua desires to reach native Nigerians and other Africans as well as other non-African persons for Christ.
3. Inner city/High need—The inner city of Irvington, New Jersey, just outside the city of Newark, desperately needs the gospel in both word and in deed. As a homeowner in this city, Joshua is well suited to begin such a ministry and desires to do so.

2. Synodical deputies H.R. De Bolster (Hamilton), B.B. Bakker (Quinte), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto in session on September 18, 2003, to declare **Mr. Ted Bootsma** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies H.R. De Bolster (Hamilton), J. Kerssies (Huron), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on May 20, 2004, to admit **Mr. Ted Bootsma**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), K.R. Rip (Rocky Mountain), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Red Mesa in session on January 17, 2004, to declare **Mr. Bobby Boyd** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies T. Douma (Northern Illinois), L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), and T.J. Kok (Illiana), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Roseland Christian Reformed Church of Chicago, Illinois, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its Supplement, concur with the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 18, 2003, to grant **Ms. Marjorie Kooy** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until September 2005.  
  
*Statement of need:* Marj will serve as a chaplain at Christ Hospital, a trauma-center hospital. The need for trauma-center chaplains is urgent.  
  
*Deputies' comment:* This comes with the endorsement of the CRC Director of Chaplaincy Ministries.
6. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and T.J. Kok (Illiana), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South in session on March 4, 2004, to declare **Ms. Marjorie Kooy** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and D.M. Stravers (Holland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on April 20, 2004, to admit **Ms. Marjorie Kooy**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

8. Synodical deputies J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having examined the written credentials, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its Supplement, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on March 2, 2004, to grant **Mr. Chris Kostelansky** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until March 2, 2005.

*Statement of need:* He is presently the leader of the isolated Faith In Christ Fellowship Church in Marquette, Michigan.

*Deputies' comment:* We recommend that Mr. Chris Kostelansky reconsider the advisability of following the route to ministry associate (Art. 23 and 24 of the Church Order).

- 9 Synodical deputies F.J. Walhof (Arizona), K.R. Rip (Rocky Mountain), and R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Red Mesa in session on January 17, 2004, to declare **John Kostelyk** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and E.W. Visser (Quinte), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on November 7, 2003, to admit **Mr. David Sutherland**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), D.J. Steenhoek (Grandville), and A. Petroelje (Muskegon), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session on October 22, 2003, to admit **Mr. David Vander Meer**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies J. Kerssies (Huron), J. Zantingh (Hamilton), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Bethany Christian Reformed Church of Bloomfield, Ontario, having considered the need, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its Supplement, concur with the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on September 27, 2003, to grant **Mr. Cornelius Vander Veen** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until January 2004.

*Statement of need:*

  1. Bethany (Bloomfield) CRC has given ample evidence of having diligently pursued the "regular process" for calling a pastor over the past year and a half.
  2. There is a denominational as well as a local need for pastors.
13. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), H.J. Bierman (Huron), and J. Zantingh (Hamilton), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of

Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Quinte in session on January 27, 2004, to declare **Mr. Cornelius Vander Veen** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

14. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), N. Cornelisse (Eastern Canada), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on May 11, 2004, to admit **Mr. Cornelius Vander Veen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), H. Vriend (Alberta North), and H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan in session on October 31, 2003, to declare **Mr. John Van Sloten** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and C. Van Niejenhuis (Alberta North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on March 12, 2004, to admit **Mr. John Van Sloten**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
17. Synodical deputies C.J. De Ridder (Iakota), H.A. Brink (Pella), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having examined the written credentials submitted by Good News Fellowship Ministries Christian Reformed Church of Winnipeg, Manitoba, having considered the need, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior in session on September 22-23, 2003, to declare **Mr. Rob Visser** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until September 2004.

*Statement of need:*

1. There are a great number of vacancies in the Christian Reformed Church, making it difficult for Good News Fellowship to find and call a pastor.
2. There would be an unnecessary hardship placed on GNF were they to have to be without Rob's service while he finished his education.

*Deputies' comment:* Classis considers the examination for the office of ministry associate (formerly evangelist) to be comparable to the examination for licensure.

18. Synodical deputies R.W. Sparks (Iakota), T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), and L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), having considered the gifts of the applicant, and having heard the examination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior in session on June 7, 2004, to declare **Mr. Rob Visser** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
19. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson) concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 23, 2003, to grant an extension of the

right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches to **Mr. David Winningham** until September 2004.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*C. Classical examinations via Church Order Article 7 (deputies' work disputed)*

1. Materials: Synodical deputies report, Overture 19; pp. 432-33

- a. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), A.G. Vander Leek (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Vriend (Alberta North), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Hillside Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, B.C., and having considered the need in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its Supplement, **do not concur** in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on September 30, 2003, to establish a **need** for the ordination of **Mr. David Hornor**.

*Deputies' comments:* We believe that we have come to a decision that will best serve the welfare of the Hillside CRC, the sense of personal calling of Mr. David Hornor, and the concern of synod to safeguard the qualifications needed to be ordained as minister of the Word and sacraments in the CRC.

We unanimously believe that it is best not to concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East that a need has been established because the gifts of Mr. David Hornor meet a ministry need of the church (and therefore he should be permitted to seek ordination to the office of minister of the Word and sacraments in the CRC by way of Article 7).

*Grounds:*

1. We do not believe that an urgent need currently exists for ministers of the Word and Sacraments in the CRC. Currently, though there are between 130-140 churches that are vacant, our denominational general secretary, Dr. David Engelhard, recently informed synodical deputies that only around 85 of these will be actively calling ministers. This does not take into account the 39 candidates from the class of 2003 currently available to call.
2. We have not been presented with any evidence that the Hillside CRC has been in the past actively seeking out an ordained minister to fill its vacancy.

We do believe, however, that there is a better way, at this time, that the classis might recommend to both Mr. Hornor and the Hillside congregation: that Mr. Hornor be encouraged to pursue ordination as a ministry associate (formerly termed an evangelist). We suggest this for the following reasons:

- a. The position of ministry associate has now been extended to allow a person to serve in an organized congregation, provided his duties are specifically defined (See Church Order Supplement for Article 23b). Those duties, among others, can include the tasks Mr. Hornor is currently performing at Hillside.
- b. Synod 2004 is expected to address the issue of alternate routes to the ministry. The decisions made next summer may open up a different denominationally approved route for Mr. Hornor.

Should the classis encourage, and Hillside CRC and Mr. Hornor pursue, ordination into the office of ministry associate, the process to do so, particularly the examination involved, is laid out in the Supplement, Article 23b (pp. 43-44).

b. Recommendations

- 1) That synod not approve the work of the synodical deputies.

*Grounds:*

- a) Synod has, in recent years, repeatedly approved the work of synodical deputies concerning the decisions of classes where need has been established on broad denominational need. In fact, Synod 2000, in appointing the alternate routes to ministry study committee said that there is “critical and urgent need for both ordained and unordained ministers in the Christian Reformed Church (*Acts of Synod 2000*, p. 705).
- b) The deputies mistakenly applied Church Order Article 8 to an Article 7 situation.

—Adopted

- 2) That synod declare this to be its answer to Overture 19.

—Adopted

2. Materials: Synodical deputies report; Appeal 1, pp. 445-47

- a. Synodical deputies H.R. De Bolster (Hamilton), J. Kerssies (Huron), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), having heard the examination of **Mr. Paul VandenBrink**, in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its Supplement, **do not concur** in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on January 22, 2004, to proceed to the next step.

*Grounds:*

1. Mr. Paul VandenBrink does not qualify for Article 7 because he has followed a theological training and has graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary with an MA with an emphasis in systematic theology.
2. Calvin Seminary has a SPMC program for which the candidate is able to apply.

*Deputies' comments:* We encourage Mr. VandenBrink to take the SPMC program and encourage Classis Toronto to make it possible for him to complete the prescribed theological training for the minister of the Word.

b. Recommendation

That synod sustain Appeal 1.

*Ground:* The SPMC pertains to the M.Div. degree.

—Adopted

D. *Ministers from other denominations, Church Order Article 8*

1. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), F.J. Walhof (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 16, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Dionisio C. Aguhob**) from another denomination (Baptist General Conference) to serve as pastor of Grace Filipino Church of Bellflower, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

2. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), and G.L. Dykstra (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Dionisio C. Aguhob**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 17, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 23, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Mr. Eui Heum Baik**) from another denomination (General Assembly Presbyterian in Korea) to serve as pastor.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

4. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Eui Heum Baik**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on May 18, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), and T.J. Kok (Illiana), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Chicago South, in session on March 4, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Elena Calloway**) from another denomination (nondenominational [Consuming Fire Ministries]) to serve as youth pastor.

*Statement of needs:*

1. The CRCNA has a growing multiethnic presence. We need to develop and train recent leaders for a new day.
2. Rev. Calloway will provide indigenous leadership in a multiethnic minority church.
6. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), F.J. Walhof (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Saejung Paul Chang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 16, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis B.C. North-West in session on October 14, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Albert Chu**) from another church (Edmonton Chinese Christian Church) to serve as a church planter in Richmond, British Columbia.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for an English-speaking Chinese pastor to minister in the Richmond area to establish (plant) a church among that multiethnic community as a multiethnic congregation.

8. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Albert Chu**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on October 14, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

9. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Hackensack in session on September 23, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Yo Sug Chung**) from another denomination (General Assembly Presbyterian in Korea) to serve as pastor.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

10. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and K.J. Verhulst (Huron), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Yo Sug Chung**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on May 18, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

11. Synodical deputies J.A. Algera (Hackensack), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.G. Keizer (Hudson), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on January 7, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Raymond Coffey**) from another denomination (Independent) to serve as pastor.

*Statement of needs:* Statement of needs is on file with the stated clerk of Classis Atlantic Northeast.

*Deputies' comments:* Documents regarding Rev. Coffey's ordination and psychological examination were not available at the classis meeting. They were made available to the deputies on February 13, 2004; therefore, approval is noted as granted on that date.

12. Synodical deputies J.A. Algera (Hackensack), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.G. Keizer (Hudson), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Raymond Coffey**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 4, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

13. Synodical deputies H.A. Brink (Pella), D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), and D.A. Zylstra (Lake Superior), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Northcentral Iowa in session on July 29, 2003, that a

**need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Joel De Boer**) from another denomination to serve as pastor for the Britt, Iowa, Christian Reformed Church.

*Statement of needs:* The Britt congregation has expended great efforts to find a suitable pastor for their specific ministry needs. The Britt congregation has reviewed a significant number of prospective nominees that met with no positive response.

*Deputies' comments:* Rev. De Boer has been a CRC pastor and is returning after a brief ministry in the RCA.

14. Synodical deputies H.A. Brink (Pella), C.J. De Ridder (Iakota), and D.A. Zylstra (Lake Superior), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Joel De Boer**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session on September 9, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), and G.M. McGuire (Northcentral Iowa), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Iakota, in session on September 16, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Arturo Gomez**) from another denomination (Southern Baptist Convention) to serve as pastor to Amistad Christiana.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

16. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), and G.M. McGuire (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Arturo Gomez**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on September 16, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comment:* Because Rev. Gomez has served for six months already, we felt that classis could proceed with the colloquium doctum on the same day the need was established.

17. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 16, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jong Seon Han**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as pastor of Church of Love of Classis Pacific Hanmi.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

18. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.L. Dykstra (Central California) and D.W. Lagerwey (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Jong Seon Han**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in

session on December 9, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

19. Synodical deputies M.A. Palsrock (Georgetown), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and B.F. Tol (Zeeland), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Grandville, in session on January 15, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Stephen Hasper**) from another denomination (Independent Fundamentalist Churches of America) to serve as ordained pastor.

*Statement of need:* Denominational need.

20. Synodical deputies M.A. Palsrock (Georgetown), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and B.F. Tol (Zeeland), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Stephen Hasper**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on April 15, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

21. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), W. Verhoef, (California South), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi in session on September 16, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Paul K.C. Im**) from another denomination (Korean American Presbyterian) to serve as pastor of New Hope in Classis Pacific Hanmi.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

22. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.L. Dykstra (Central California) and D.W. Lagerwey (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Paul K.C. Im**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on December 9, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

23. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), W. Verhoef (California South), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Ji Hyun Jun**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 16, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

24. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), and R. Engle (Lake Erie), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 23, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Andrew Kim**) from another denomination (“a council made up of ordained pastors”) to serve as pastor in prison ministry.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

*Deputies' comments:* "This is a common route for ordination among urban pastors," according to Rev. Randy Baker, pastor at Spirit and Truth Christian Reformed Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a potential CRC pastor, he will be under the supervision of Spirit and Truth CRC.

25. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 17, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Dongil Kim**) from another denomination (Hap Dong Presbyterian Church) to serve as pastor of Abundant Life Church.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

*Deputies' comment:* Abundant Life Church is in the process of affiliation with the CRC.

26. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.G. Vink (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis California South, in session on October 16, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jae Kim**) from another denomination (Korean Conference of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ) to serve as English Ministry Pastor, Orange Korean Church.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

27. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), J. Rop (Arizona), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation of **Rev. Jae Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 12, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

28. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 23, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. John Kim**) from another denomination (International Pentecostal Holiness Church) to serve as church planter.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

29. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. John Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in

session on May 18, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

30. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.W. Lagerwey (California South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on December 9, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Keon Sup Kwak**) from another denomination (Korean American Presbyterian Church [Hap Dong]) to serve as pastor of Olympic Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles (entering the CRC).

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

31. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Keon Sup Kwak**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 10, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* The two deputies regret that the third deputy was unable to attend.

32. Synodical deputies J.A. Algera (Hackensack), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.G. Keizer (Hudson), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 4, 2001, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Michael Lapian**) from another denomination (Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Indonesia) to serve as a church planter.

*Statement of need:* He will plant an ethnic minority church as an indigenous leader.

33. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.W. Lagerwey (California South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on December 9, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. In Chul Lee**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church [Hap Shin]) to serve as associate pastor at Faith Christian Reformed Church in Paramount, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

34. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. In Chul Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 10, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* The two deputies regret that the third deputy was unable to attend.

35. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on October 14, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Peter Lim**) from another denomination (Evangelical Church of Canada) to serve as the Chinese and English speaking pastor of the Richmond Immanuel Christian Reformed Church.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

*Deputies' comment:* He will work alongside senior pastor Ezra Ng.

36. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Peter Lim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on October 14, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comment:* We recommend that Rev. Lim be provided with a mentor and that the mentor be required to report on his work to classis.

37. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 18, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Mark D. Mayer**) from another denomination (Evangelical Free Church of America) to serve as lead pastor of CentrePointe Ministries, a church plant of Madison Square Christian Reformed Church.

38. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and M.A. Palsrock (Georgetown), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Mark Mayer**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on October 23, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

39. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), F.J. Walhof (Arizona), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on September 16, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. J. Daniel Mendez**) from another denomination (Pentecostal Holiness Church) to serve as church planter working with New City Christian Church in Long Beach.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

40. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), and G.L. Dykstra (Central California), having heard the collo-

quium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. J. Daniel Mendez**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 17, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

41. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.G. Vink (Central California), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis California South, in session on October 16, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Sang Myeun Moon**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in Korea) to serve as the assistant pastor at Korean Christian Reformed Church of Orange County.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

42. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), J. Rop (Arizona), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Sang Myeun Moon**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 12, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

43. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South East), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 3, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Il Hyun Nam**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as senior pastor.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

*Deputies' comment:* Rev. Nam speaks Korean and will serve Barrow Korean Church.

44. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), W. Verhoef (California South), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 16, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Ky Hyun Oh**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as pastor of Oxnard Korean Church.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

45. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.W. Lagerwey (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum of **Rev. Ky Hyun Oh**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on December 9, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

46. Synodical deputies J.A. Algera (Hackensack), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Hudson, in session on September 24, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Eddy Arturo Olguin**) from another denomination (Free Evangelical Church of Peru).

*Statement of needs:* This minister is a new-church developer and called to start a new church. There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

47. Synodical deputies T. Douma (Northern Illinois), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Hector Raul Orlandi**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on Friday, September 26, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* This process (Article 8) was followed as part of the affiliation process between Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace) Church of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and the Christian Reformed Church in North America as facilitated by Classis Southeast U.S. Rev. Hector Raul Orlandi has been serving as the pastor of this congregation and was so commissioned by a Christian Reformed Church World missionary and ordained by the Council of Principe De Paz (Prince of Peace) Church of Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Synodical deputies T. Kauffman (Northern Illinois), T.J. Kok (Illiana), and J.L. Medenblik (Chicago South) were previously consulted at the meeting of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 20-21, 2002, as to the affiliation of Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace) Church of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, with Classis Southeast U.S. of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, as no other Reformed churches or a denomination of Reformed heritage were available to this congregation for fellowship, accountability, or association in Puerto Rico. (Puerto Rico is a U.S. Commonwealth.)

Synodical deputies T. Kauffman (Northern Illinois), T.J. Kok (Illiana), and J.L. Medenblik (Chicago South) concurred with the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on March 7-8, 2003, as to the need for calling a minister of another denomination due to indigenous (ethnic) leadership needs such as the necessity for pastoral continuity (Rev. Hector Raul Orlandi has been a pastor of Prince of Peace Church for over six years) as well as to facilitate the affiliation process of Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace) Church of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, with the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

48. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.W. Lagerwey (California South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on December 9, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Chul Hong Park**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in Korea) to serve as senior pastor at Faith Korean Church of Santa Maria, California.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

49. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South) and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal

conversation) of **Rev. Chul Hong Park**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 10, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comment:* The two deputies regret that a third deputy was unable to attend.

50. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), J. Rop (Arizona), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis California South, in session on February 12, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Dae Woo Park**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church [Hap Dong]) to serve as pastor at Las Vegas Yung Kwang CRC.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in the Korean CRC setting.

51. Synodical deputies S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Dae Woo Park**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on May 13, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
52. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), G.G. Vink (Central California), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Su-Hyun Park**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 16, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
53. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 3, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Dr. Randy Rowland**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church USA) to serve as a church planter in Seattle, Washington.

*Statement of need:* Rev. Rowland is a new-church developer and is being called to start a new church.

54. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), J.J. Koster (B.C. North-West), and J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Randy Rowland**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 20, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
55. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having reviewed the

documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on October 14, 2003, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Peter G. Sinia**) from another denomination (Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerk) to serve as senior pastor of New Westminster Christian Reformed Church.

*Statement of need:* We concur that the document on file presents a compelling case for the need to call this particular person.

*Deputies' comments:* Church Order Supplement, Article 8, D, 3, asks that the notification of need be published in *The Banner* (as well as notice of the impending examination). However, in our judgment, New Westminster's frequent announcements in *The Banner*, seeking applicants for this position, over the last year, meets this requirement.

56. Synodical deputies K. Van Schelven (Columbia) and J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East) having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Peter G. Sinia**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on November 3, 2003, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* Only two deputies were present.

57. Synodical deputies E. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North), G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 20, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Laura Smit**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church USA) to serve as Dean of the Chapel at Calvin College.

*Statement of need:* The need to call Dr. Smit arises because Calvin College is appointing her as Dean of the Chapel—a position so vital at the denominational college that President Byker and Calvin's leadership desire that this job be filled by a Christian Reformed leader. For the academic year 2003-2004, Dr. Smit has already served as interim Dean of the Chapel while Dr. John Witvliet, who had been serving in this capacity, was on sabbatical. In this interim year, Dr. Smit has by all reports done an outstanding job and has clearly found yet another niche in which her unique and God-given gifts have been thoughtfully employed. The work she has done was of such a quality as to garner the deep respect of President Gaylen Byker, who led the way in getting Dr. Smit appointed as permanent Dean of the Chapel upon learning that Dr. Witvliet would not be returning to this position following the completion of his sabbatical.

58. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), James A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on May 13, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Dr. Robert Stevenson**) from another denomination (Baptist) to serve as pastor of City Hope Ministries.

*Statement of needs:*

1. There is a need for indigenous leadership in this ethnic minority church, which is a union ministry plant of the CRC/RCA.

2. The need is urgent based on community needs and past history of leadership transitions at City Hope.

*Deputies' comments:* Dr. Robert Stevenson has extraordinary qualifications of educational background and demonstrated ministry gifts evidenced in his serving City Hope Ministries as stated supply.

59. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 17, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. David Suh**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in America) to serve as pastor of Joy Community Church, a church in the process of affiliation with the CRC.

*Statement of need:* There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

60. Synodical deputies E.A. Van Baak (Grand Rapids East), G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), and D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Seymour Van Dyken**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on August 26, 2003, to accord him the honor and title of a minister of the Word (emeritus) in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*E. Ministers from other denominations, Church Order Article 8 (disputed case)*

Synodical deputies J. Zantingh (Hamilton), P.D. Stadt (Chatham), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Gregory Girard**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session on May 12, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Deputies' comments:* We strongly recommend that the mentor assigned to him by the classis in which he accepts a call work with Rev. Girard specifically on the issue of attitude, because his forthrightness often seems to stand in the way of wisdom, and a proclamatory mode of communication seems to impede true conversation.

This recommendation is to be appended to classical credentials should Greg Girard receive a call outside the bounds of Classis Huron.

*Recommendations:*

1. That synod return to Classis Huron its decision to declare Rev. Gregory Girard eligible for call in the CRCNA under Article 8 of the Church Order for review and possible reconsideration in consultation with the synodical deputies.

*Ground:* The comments of the synodical deputies concerning stipulations appended to his credentials suggest that additional review is appropriate and merited.

—Adopted

2. That the synodical deputies report their action to Synod 2005.

—Adopted

*F. Ministers in specialized services, Church Order Article 12-c*

1. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Sunshine Community Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on May 18, 2004, to approve the position of campus pastor for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Timothy J. Berends**.

*Deputies' comment:* Sunshine CRC has committed itself to make Rev. Berends' minister's pension fund contribution.

2. Synodical deputies C.J. Klompien (Heartland), A.J. Van Dellen (Lake Superior), and T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Pella Christian Reformed Church of Pella, Iowa, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur with the decision of Classis Pella, in session on September 19, 2003, to approve the position of trained interim pastor as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Harvey Brink**.
3. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), E. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 20, 2004, to approve the position of chaplain at Hospice of Holland as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Ms. Ardean B. Brock** after she completes her ordination exam before classis.
4. Synodical deputies E. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North), G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 20, 2004, to approve the position of chaplain at Luther Village Retirement Community as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Ms. Ardean B. Brock** after she completes her ordination exam before classis.

5. Synodical deputies S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church of Silver Spring, Maryland, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 23, 2003, to approve the position of codirector and chaplain of Shepherd's Trust of Annapolis, Maryland, as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Norman Brown**.
6. Synodical deputies J.A. Algera (Hackensack), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church of Ridgewood, New Jersey, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur with the decision of Classis Hudson, in session on September 24, 2003, to approve the position of chaplain at Christian Health Care Center as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Thomas Klaasen**.
7. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and T.J. Kok (Illiana), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Roseland Christian Reformed Church of Chicago, Illinois, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on March 4, 2004, to approve the position of chaplain at Advocate: Christ Hospital as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by Article 7 candidate **Ms. Marjorie Kooy**.
8. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 18, 2003, to approve the position of chaplain at Wedgwood Christian Services as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Ms. LeRae Kuperus** (contingent upon ordination).
9. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), E. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 20, 2004, to approve the position of director of ministry teams for Christian Reformed Home Missions as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Allen Likkel**.

10. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Church of the Servant Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on July 17, 2003, to approve the position of chaplain at the Christian Counseling Center as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Ms. Nola Opperwall Galluch**.
11. Synodical deputies T. Douma (Northern Illinois), L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), and T.J. Kok (Illiana), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Hope Christian Reformed Church of Oak Forest, Illinois, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur with the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 18, 2003, to approve the position of chaplain/Bible teacher at Providence St. Mel as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Ms. Erica Schemper**.
12. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Jenison, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of classis Georgetown, in session on May 13, 2004, to approve the position of youth guidance minister with Youth for Christ as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Marvin Vander Vliet**.

*Deputies' comments:* The Youth for Christ representative at classis assured us that Youth for Christ will fund his pension.

13. Synodical deputies B.F. Tol (Zeeland), D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), and H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur with the decision of Classis Holland, in session on November 20, 2003, to approve the position of associate pastor for leadership training for Latin America as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Joel Van Dyke**.

*Deputies' comments:* Deputies note that his pension arrangement is not in place at this date. They advise that this matter be taken care of before extending him a call for this work.

14. Synodical deputies E. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North), G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Shawnee Park Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on May 20, 2004, to approve the position of director of ministry

development with Christian Reformed Home Missions as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Bill Van Groningen**.

15. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), R. Brinks (Northern Michigan), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Grant Christian Reformed Church of Grant, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on January 20, 2004, to approve the position of director of Love, Inc. of Newaygo County as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Case Van Wyk**.
16. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Neland Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on January 15, 2004, to approve the position of director of missions mobilization for Christian Reformed World Missions as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Steve Van Zanen**.
17. Synodical deputies E.W. Visser (Quinte), J. Kerssies (Huron), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of All Nations Christian Reformed Church of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on February 27, 2004, to approve the position of divisional director for Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Michael Veenema**.
18. Synodical deputies H.R. De Bolster (Hamilton), J.G. Keizer (Huron), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church in Toronto, Ontario, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur with the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on September 18, 2003, to approve the position of chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Philip Weaver**.
19. Synodical deputies T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), and T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Third Christian Reformed Church of Denver, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on September 23, 2003, to approve the position of chaplain at Christian Living Center as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Karl Wiersum**.

20. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), T.J. Niehof (Northcentral Iowa), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on March 2, 2004, to approve the position of professor of theology at Dordt College as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Dr. Thomas Wolthuis**.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*G. Loaning a minister to another denomination under Article 13-c*

1. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), and G.L. Dykstra (Central California), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 17, 2004, to approve loaning **Rev. Moses Chung** to serve New Life Community Reformed Church in America of Artesia, California.
2. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), J. Rop (Arizona), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 12, 2004, to approve loaning **Rev. Matthew Kim** to serve Jubilee Christian Fellowship Church of Northridge, California.

*Deputies' comments:* This congregation has no denominational affiliation, and Rev. Kim will seek to help them consider joining the CRC. Rev. Kim will still have the Korean CRC of Orange County (his present calling church) as his supervising church.

3. Synodical deputies H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur with the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 16, 2003, to approve loaning **Rev. Ferenc Varga** to serve American Hungarian Reformed Church of Allen Park, Michigan.

*Deputies' comment:* This is a renewal for another two years of loan. It is the stated intent of Rev. Varga that no other extension will be requested.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*H. Release from the ministry under Article 14-b*

1. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Andre Daley**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 15, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Andre Daley** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

2. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), and G.M. McGuire (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Eric C. Fennema**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur with the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on September 16, 2003, to declare that **Rev. Eric C. Fennema** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), J. Zantingh (Hamilton), and H.A. Vander Windt (Niagara), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Peter J. Moelker** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur with the decision of Classis Chatham, in session on November 8, 2003, to declare that **Rev. Peter J. Moelker** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies T. Douma (Northern Illinois), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. German Moreno** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur with the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 26, 2003, to declare that **Rev. German Moreno** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies T.J. Kok (Illiana), L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), and M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Todd Wagenmaker**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on March 4, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Todd Wagenmaker** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*I. Release from office to enter a nonministerial vocation, Article 14-c*

Synodical deputies T. Douma (Northern Illinois), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South) having heard the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 26, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Robert E. Van Hofwegen** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*J. Release from office of one whose vocation is judged to be nonministerial, Article 14-d*

Synodical deputies G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the discussion of Classis Muskegon, in session on March 4, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Stephen**

**Nauta**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

**K. Release from ministry in a congregation under Article 17-a**

1. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and E.W. Visser (Quinte), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on November 7, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. James A. Broekema** is released from ministerial service in First Christian Reformed Church of Kemptville, Ontario.

*Deputies' comments:* An Oversight Committee will be struck by the CIC of Classis Eastern Canada that will be responsible for contact, evaluation, and encouragement.

2. Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), C.J. Klompfen (Heartland), and R.W. Sparks (Iakota), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on July 9, 2003, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. James G. Busscher** is released from ministerial service in Grace Christian Reformed Church of Inner Grove Heights, Minnesota.
3. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.W. Lagerwey (California South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on December 9, 2003, concur with the discussion of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Byung Jae Chung** is released from ministerial service in East Bay Christian Reformed Church of El Ceritto, California. (Note: New Hope Christian Reformed Church of San Jose, California, is the calling church.)

*Deputies' comments:* There is no stipulation for Rev. Byung Jae Chung. His ministerial credentials will be held by Mission of Love Christian Reformed Church in Northridge, California.

4. Synodical deputies J.A. Algera (Hackensack), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hudson, in session on September 24, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. John C. Fisher** is released from ministerial service in Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church of Wyckoff, New Jersey.

*Deputies' comment:* In keeping with provisions of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, the stipulations that must be met before Rev. Fisher may accept another call are kept on file in the office of the stated clerk of Classis Hudson.

5. Synodical deputies T. Douma (Northern Illinois), L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), and T.J. Kok (Illiana), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 18, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church

Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Timothy Howerzyl** is released from ministerial service in Evergreen Park Christian Reformed Church of Evergreen Park, Illinois.

*Deputies' comments:* In keeping with provisions of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, the following stipulations must be met before Rev. Howerzyl may accept a call or have his credentials transferred to another church:

1. Because Rev. Howerzyl is leaving to pursue doctorate studies, there are no stipulations.
  2. Rev. Howerzyl is not intending to return to Evergreen Park, therefore the general secretary recommended that Article 17 be used rather than Article 16.
6. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on July 17, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Mary Hulst** is released from ministerial service in Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* Rev. Hulst was honorably released from her service in Eastern Ave. CRC so she could pursue graduate studies at the University of Illinois.

7. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and E.W. Visser (Quinte), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on November 7, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Bryan J. Hummel** is released from ministerial service in Barrhaven Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Ottawa, Ontario.

*Deputies' comments:* An Oversight Committee will be struck by the CIC of Classis Eastern Canada that will be responsible for contact, evaluation, and encouragement.

8. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), W. Verhoef (California South), and G.G. Vink (Central California), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 16, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Ji Neung Jun** is released from ministerial service in Korean Peace of Los Angeles Christian Reformed Church of Mission Hills, California.
9. Synodical deputies G.E. De Vries (Illiana), D.J. Roeda (Wisconsin), and J.M. Ouwinga (Chicago South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 17, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Timothy D. Kauffman** is released from ministerial service in Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Fulton, Illinois.

*Deputies' comments:* In keeping with provisions of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, the following stipulations must be met before Rev. Timothy D. Kauffman may accept a call or have his credentials transferred to another church:

*Note:* The procedure followed in this case was out of the ordinary regarding the transferring of the credentials of Rev. Kauffman. We concurred with classis' actions on the basis of the following motion adopted by Classis Northern Illinois:

That classis transfer the ministerial credentials of Rev. Timothy C. Kauffman to the Providence CRC (Classis Holland) with the understanding that they will accept the responsibility for evaluating Rev. Kauffman for readiness to return to ministry. This transfer is contingent on Providence CRC and Classis Holland accepting the responsibility for evaluating Rev. T. Kauffman.

10. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 3, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Simon Kim** is released from ministerial service in Alaskan Korean Christian Reformed Church of Anchorage, Alaska.
11. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), T.J. Brown (Minnesota), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on March 31, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Roger Kramer** is released from ministerial service in Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Edina, Minnesota.
12. Synodical deputies K. Van Schelven (Columbia), J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), and J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 3, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Lynn Likkel** is released from ministerial service in Mill Creek Christian Reformed Church of Mill Creek, Washington.
13. Synodical deputies G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Muskegon, in session on March 4, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Stephan Nauta** is released from ministerial service in Ferrysburg Christian Reformed Church of Ferrysburg, Michigan.
14. Synodical deputies G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the decision of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on September 23, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Richard G. Oberg** is released from ministerial service in Friendship Christian Reformed Church of Gaylord, Michigan.

*Deputies' comments:* In keeping with provisions of church Order Supplement, Article 17, the following stipulations must be met before Rev. Oberg may accept a call or have his credentials transferred to another church: When the classically appointed oversight committee has assured classis that Rev. Oberg has received sufficient psychological counseling and is fit to resume pastoral ministry.

15. Synodical deputies G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and D. W. Vander Veen (Georgetown), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grandville, in session on September 18, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Byoung Eun Park** is released from ministerial service in Hahn-In Christian Reformed Church of Wyoming, Michigan.

*Deputies' comment:* In keeping with provisions of Church Order Supplement, Article 17, the stipulations that must be met before Rev. Park may accept a call or have his credentials transferred to another church: A three-person committee appointed by Classis Grandville is to be assured that Rev. Park both understands and assents to CRCNA church polity.

16. Synodical deputies C.J. De Ridder (Iakota), H.A. Brink (Pella), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 23, 2003, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Article 17-a, that **Rev. Gerald W. Vander Hoek** is released from ministerial service in Pease Christian Reformed Church of Pease, Minnesota.
17. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and E.W. Visser (Quinte), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on November 7, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Norman J. Visser** is released from ministerial service in Kentville Christian Reformed Church of Kentville, Nova Scotia.

*Deputies' comments:* An Oversight Committee will be struck by the CIC of Classis Eastern Canada that will be responsible for contact, evaluation, and encouragement.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—*Adopted*

*L. Extension of eligibility for call under Article 17-c*

Synodical deputies T.J. Brown (Minnkota), D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), and G.M. McGuire (Northcentral Iowa), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on September 16, 2003, concur with the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Duane K. Smith's** eligibility for call be extended for one year.

*M. Released from ministerial office under Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), M.A. Palsrock (Georgetown), and D.M. Stravers (Holland), having heard the discussion of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on May 11, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Carl Bolt** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), M.A. Palsrock (Georgetown), and D.M. Stravers (Holland), having heard the discussion of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on May 11, 2004, concur in the decision of

classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Kevin Dwyer** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

3. Synodical deputies J.M. Ouwinga (Chicago South), B.F. Tol (Zeeland) and M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), having heard the discussion of Classis Wisconsin, in session on September 23, 2003, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. John C. Tousley** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*N. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Article 18-b: Honor and Title of Minister of the Word*

Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussions relating to the ordination of retired minister, **Rev. Dirk Hart**, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on January 15, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Dirk Hart** no longer retains the honor and title of minister of the Word and is to be treated as one released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies.

—Adopted

*O. Declaration that an evangelist's (ministry associate's) position fits the guidelines adopted by Synod 2001 under Article 23*

1. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Garden City Harvest Christian Reformed Church of Gardena, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 17, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Lawrence Bennett** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
2. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hope Community Christian Reformed Church of Arcadia, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 17, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Randy Boer** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
3. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), J.G. Keizer (Hamilton), and J.A. Algera (Hackensack), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church of Whitinsville, Massachusetts, and having compared them with the guidelines re

office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on January 7, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Anton Brown** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

4. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), J. Rop (Arizona), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Oasis Community Christian Reformed Church of Moreno Valley, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 12, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Gabriel Colangelo** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
5. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and J. Zantingh (Hamilton), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Montreal, Quebec, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Quinte, in session on January 27, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Ms. Michelle De Pooter** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
6. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and E.W. Visser (Quinte), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Kentville Christian Reformed Church of Kentville, Nova Scotia, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on November 7, 2003, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Tom De Ruiter** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
7. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and E.W. Visser (Quinte), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Montreal, Quebec, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on November 7, 2003, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

(Deputies' report did not stipulate a particular person to this position as of January 23, 2004.)

8. Synodical deputies G.G. Vink (Central California), D.W. Lagerwey (California South), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Los Angeles Community Christian Reformed Church of Los Angeles, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on June 17, 2003, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Glen Garcia** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

9. Synodical deputies G.M. Mc Guire (Northcentral Iowa), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Alto Christian Reformed Church of Alto, Wisconsin, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session on February 24, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Forsell Gappa** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
10. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Kellogsville Christian Reformed Church of Kentwood, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on January 15, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Ron Geerlings** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

*Deputies' comments:* As synodical deputies, we urge synod to further clarify the implications for national/international implementation of the ministry associate office.

11. Synodical deputies G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), and B.F. Tol (Zeeland), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Angel Community Christian Reformed Church of Muskegon, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Muskegon in session on October 23, 2003, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Jeffery Hough** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

*Deputies' comments:* The concurrence of the deputies came after the fact, but the materials provided us at a later date do lead us to agree that the position in question does meet synodical guidelines.

12. Synodical deputies C.J. De Ridder (Iakota), H.A. Brink (Pella), and L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of the Ogilvie Christian Reformed Church of Ogilvie, Minnesota, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 22-23, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Greg Kasprzak** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
13. Synodical deputies D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown), E.A. Van Baak (Grand Rapids East), and G.A. Koning (Grand Rapids North), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Providence Christian Reformed Church of Cutlerville, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on August 20, 2003, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Randy Ledebor** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

14. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), and F.J. Walhof (Arizona), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Living Stones Christian Reformed Church of Sacramento, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Central California, in session on May 11, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. David Lindner** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
15. Synodical deputies T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), G.G. Vink (Central California), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunnyside Christian Reformed Church of Sunnyside, Washington, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on February 18, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Daniel Lopez** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
16. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), J. Rop (Arizona), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 12, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Robert Moore** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
17. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Sun Valley, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on February 17, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Domingo Mota** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
18. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), G.G. Vink (Central California), and J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Celebration Community Christian Reformed Church of Phoenix, Arizona, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on September 20, 2003, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Wayne Ribbens** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
19. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), R. Brinks (Northern Michigan) and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunshine Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001,

concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on January 20, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Dean Sinclair** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

20. Synodical deputies A.G. Vander Leek (Alberta South-Saskatchewan), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Westend Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Alberta, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 2-3, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. John Stellingwerff** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
21. Synodical deputies J. Zantingh (Hamilton), H.J. Bierman (Huron), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Jubilee Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of St. Catherines, Ontario, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Niagara, in session on January 21, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Jamie Vander Berg** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
22. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), J. Rop (Arizona), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of River Christian Reformed Church of Redlands, California, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on February 12, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Brian Vander Byl** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
23. Synodical deputies G.W. Sheeres (Thornapple Valley), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Pine Grove Christian Reformed Church of Howard City, Michigan, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on May 18, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Steve Vander West** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
24. Synodical deputies J.A. Algera (Hackensack), R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.G. Keizer (Hudson), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New England Chapel Christian Reformed Church of Franklin, Massachusetts, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 4, 2004, that the evangelist (ministry associate's) position to be filled by **Mr. Brian Wieggers** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

*Recommendations:*

1. That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies. —*Adopted*
2. That synod refer the concerns raised in the work of the synodical deputies, N, 10 to the BOT for action. —*Adopted*

*P. Deposition of a minister of the Word under Articles 82-83*

1. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), and A.G. Vander Leek (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the grounds submitted by the council of West End Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Alberta, and the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 21, 2003, concur in the decision of classis to approve, in accordance with Church Order Articles 82 and 83, the deposition of **Rev. Herb De Ruyter** from the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies H.J. Bierman (Huron), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and E.W. Visser (Quinte), having heard the grounds submitted by the council of Charlottetown Christian Reformed Church of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on November 7, 2003, concur in the decision of classis to approve, in accordance with Church Order Articles 82 and 83, the deposition of **Rev. Bart Van Eyk** from the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the work of the synodical deputies. —*Adopted*

ARTICLE 53

(Report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 33.)

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Calvin Compagner reporting, presents the following:

**Response to Overture 22: Appoint Study Committee to Examine “Third Wave” Pentecostalism**

A. *Materials:* Overture 22, pp. 436-37

B. *Recommendations*

1. That a study committee of five persons be established to examine the biblical teaching, Reformed confessions, theological implications, and pastoral dimensions related to third wave Pentecostalism (spiritual warfare, deliverance ministries, and so forth) with a view to providing advice to the churches.

*Grounds:*

- a. The neo-Pentecostalism report of 1973 is now thirty years old and does not address the theological, missiological, and pastoral challenges to the church by third wave Pentecostalism.
- b. In developing specific ministries (prayer, evangelism, and deliverance ministries in particular), individual Christian Reformed Churches are utilizing a wide range of training materials, conferences, and programs that originate from a third wave perspective.
- c. The biblical/theological base of much of the materials being used is speculative and, at times, in conflict with a broader kingdom perspective.
- d. The churches would be well served by a thoughtful report on some of the new issues raised in third wave Pentecostalism.

—Adopted

2. That this committee strive to complete its study and report to Synod 2006.

—Adopted

(Report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 69.)

## ARTICLE 54

(Report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 28.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. Carl J. Leep reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Dordt College**

A. *Materials:* Dordt College Report, pp. 321-22

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Dordt College for applying a Reformed perspective across various academic disciplines in preparing students for kingdom service to the glory of God. We congratulate them as they celebrate their Jubilee anniversary (2004-2005) and seek a strong relationship with the CRC for their future.

—Adopted

### **II. Institute for Christian Studies**

A. *Materials:* Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 323-24

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend the Institute for Christian Studies for its growing enrollment and the launch of the Faith and Learning Network in providing globally accessible Christian graduate education.

—Adopted

### **III. The King's University College**

A. *Materials:* The King's University College Report, pp. 325-26

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend The King's University College for its growing enrollment and new student residence and encourage the university in its search for a new president in providing Reformed university education. We also congratulate them as they celebrate in 2004 twenty-five years of God's good provisions.

—Adopted

### **IV. Redeemer University College**

A. *Materials:* Redeemer University College Report, pp. 327-28

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Redeemer University College for their growing enrollment, B.Ed. accreditation approval, continuing campus expansion, and new environmental studies program.

—Adopted

### **V. Reformed Bible College**

A. *Materials:* Reformed Bible College Report, pp. 329-30

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Reformed Bible College for striving to exemplify both the person of Jesus Christ and excellence in performance as they prepare students for service as God calls them.

—Adopted

### **VI. Trinity Christian College**

A. *Materials:* Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 331-32

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Trinity Christian College for their growing enrollment and strong pursuit of service-learning as they continue to prepare Christian leaders through quality Reformed education.

—Adopted

### **VII. Dynamic Youth Ministries**

A. *Materials:* Dynamic Youth Ministries Report, pp. 333-35

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Dynamic Youth Ministries (Cadets, GEMS, and Youth Unlimited) for expanding ministries that lead children and youth into dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 55

(Report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 18.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Ecko De Vries reporting, presents the following:

### **Board of Trustees**

A. *Materials*: Board of Trustees Supplement (Sections I, D, and E)

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the following statement and append it to Church Order Article 15 as a supplement:

Proper support of a church's minister is to include an adequate salary, medical insurance, a housing provision, payment to the denomination's ministers' pension plan, a continuing education stipend, and other employment-related items.

*Grounds:*

- a. This will assist classes and their church counselors in advising the congregations regarding proper support for a minister.
  - b. This will assist churches to know which employment-related expenses they are expected to pay.
  - c. This will assist pastors so that they are not required to negotiate yearly regarding which elements need to be part of their support package.
- Adopted*
2. That synod alter Church Order Article 84 by adding the following sentence:

Requests for reinstatement to office on the part of those deposed for acts of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct shall be dealt with according to guidelines adopted by synod.

*—Adopted*

3. That synod adopt the following guidelines and add them to Church Order Supplement, Article 84:

When reinstatement is requested by a former officebearer who confessed to or was determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct leading up to suspension and deposition from office:

1. Reinstatement to office shall be denied to individuals who:
  - a. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct against a minor.
  - b. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct against more than one victim in a single church or community.
  - c. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct in more than one community or church.
  - d. Confessed to or are determined to be guilty of sexual misconduct *and* other related ungodly conduct.

Examples of related ungodly conduct include but are not limited to engaging in adult or child pornography, engaging a prostitute for sexual contact, exhibitionistic or voyeuristic behavior, attending a nudist camp, sexual addiction, and so forth.

2. Councils and classes shall not reinstate a former officebearer suspended or deposed for sexual misconduct or ungodly conduct not covered in items 1, a-d without receiving the advice of legal counsel concerning the church's liability and the advice of a Christian licensed psychologist concerning the likelihood of an officebearer's reoffending.

*Grounds:*

- a. The conditions listed in Church Order Article 84 to evaluate restoration to office neither adequately address the unique behavior of sexual misconduct nor recognize the present clinical knowledge regarding care and treatment of a sexual offender.
- b. The potential for civil liability and litigation against a council and classis that restores a determined abuser to office is significant.
- c. The importance of protecting the congregation has grown significantly because of incidents of abusers who reoffend, incidents of multiple victims of a lone abuser, and incidents of known abusers who move from congregation to congregation.

*Note:* In Church Order Article 84 and its Supplement, the expression *sexual misconduct* is defined as: The sexual exploitation of a parishioner, minor or adult, regardless of age or consent, for the purposes of sexual gratification and maintaining control over the person. The expression *determined abuser* is defined as: An officebearer who either confesses to or is adjudicated to be guilty of sexual misconduct by a court of competent jurisdiction or an ecclesiastical assembly.

—Adopted

(Report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 70.)

ARTICLE 56

Elder delegate Mr. Jose Lopez leads in closing prayer. The evening session is adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**THURSDAY MORNING, June 17, 2004**  
**Eleventh Session**

**ARTICLE 57**

Delegate Rev. Everett Vander Horst announces *Sing! A New Creation* 14, “God, You Call Us to This Place” and leads in opening prayer. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 373, vss. 1-3, “Lift High the Cross” and reads from John 1:35-51. He addresses delegates re “Fellowship in the Faith: Witnessing Community” and leads in prayer. Rev. Vander Horst leads in a reading of a litany from *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*, 44 and announces *Sing! A New Creation* 269, vss. 1-4, “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore.”

The general secretary expresses thanks to Mr. Dick Gootjes, Mrs. Melody Van Arragon, and Ms. Jane Daining for their participation in synod’s worship.

The roll indicates that elder delegate Mr. John A. Bakker (Northern Illinois) is absent due to illness.

**ARTICLE 58**

Advisory Committee 9, Alternate Route to Ministry, Dr. Clayton G. Libolt reporting, presents the following:

**I. Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry**

**A. Materials**

1. Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry Report (including Appendices), pp. 339-400
2. Board of Trustees Report Supplement (Section II, E and Appendix B)
3. Calvin Theological Seminary Report (Sections IV, A and VII; and recommendations H and I); pp. 151-52, 155-65, 166
4. Overtures 9, 10, and 11; pp. 412-18
5. Communications 2, 4, 5, and 6; pp. 440-41, 442-44; Supplementary Materials

**B. Background**

**1. Introduction**

The CRC needs leaders. It needs leaders of all types: youth leaders, worship leaders, directors of children’s ministries, pastors, evangelists, chaplains—the list goes on and on. We not only need many kinds of leaders, but we also need leaders who belong to many kinds of communities, leaders who feel at home on Wall Street, leaders who feel at home on Main Street, and leaders who feel at home on mean streets. We need Korean leaders, Hispanic leaders, African-American leaders, white American leaders, white Canadian leaders, and First Nations leaders; once again the list is long and, in its very variety, beautiful. Further, the need is not only large but also urgent. Jesus said to his followers, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Luke 10:2).

No single institution of learning or single route to ministry can supply the CRC with either all the leaders it needs or all the kinds of leaders it needs. Therefore, if the CRC is to have the leaders that it needs, it must cultivate many different ways to ministry. Having multiple avenues to

ministry is a blessing for which to give thanks, not a problem to be solved. However, if we are to go about our ministry in an orderly and obedient way, these ways to ministry must be appropriately defined so that (1) those who are called to leadership may find the support, counsel, and encouragement that they need and (2) so that the church may have confidence that its leaders truly have the heart and calling to ministry and that they are well trained and well supported.

For the past decade, our denomination has been involved in a discussion about avenues to ministry. In this discussion, there is broad agreement about two things: (1) that the CRC needs more and a greater variety of leaders and (2) that, in the process of bringing new leaders into the CRC, the Church Order articles that define the avenues to ministry have sometimes been unevenly used.

As a result of these difficulties, an original committee on alternate routes was appointed in 1996, and a new committee, overlapping with the older one, was appointed with a new mandate in 2000. If the discussion has vacillated between an emphasis on control and an emphasis on openness, the first committee had more of the former and the second committee more of the latter.

In our discussion of the current committee report, we have heard from two groups: (1) those who believe that the present system of raising up and credentialing leaders is fatally flawed and, therefore, should be replaced with a new system along the lines suggested by the committee; and (2) those who believe that the system, while flawed, can be reformed and made to serve the church in better ways. The first group believes that now is the time for bold strokes; the second group counsels caution.

In the end, your committee has decided to propose a combination of boldness and caution. We have listened carefully to both sides, we have found much to like in what each says, and we have tried to propose a solution that takes both sides into account.

2. The study committee report (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 339-400)

We have found much to like in the study committee report. The report is:

- a. Faithful to the mandate given to it by Synod 2000. The committee was asked by synod to identify “flexible routes to credential those who seek entrance to the ordained ministry,” to provide “a definition of a classically based process by which ministry applicants using the current Church Order Articles 7, 8, and 23 will be both encouraged to enter the ordained ministry and be uniquely equipped for it,” and to provide an avenue by which those ordained as ministry associates (then evangelists) might be brought into the office of minister of Word. The committee has addressed all of these issues.
- b. Sensitive to the issues surrounding ordination in the CRC. The committee, in particular, has identified the several issues that make the current Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy (SPMC) program difficult for many students. Such issues include location, ethnicity, ministry, and family.
- c. Informative about the way other Reformed denominations approach the issues of candidacy. The pattern proposed by the committee, with a central, denominational candidacy committee and set of standards along

with a classis/presbytery-based process, is similar to the patterns found in many other Reformed denominations.

- d. Instructive about the history of the “need step” in Article 7.
- e. Helpful in its emphasis on local and classical involvement in raising up, training, and credentialing leaders.

Along with these and other strengths of the report, several concerns have been raised in our committee and in communications to us about the direction taken by the committee. Principal among these are:

- a. The burden placed on the classes in the candidacy processes as defined by the committee. Many of those critical of the report believe that at least some classes lack the resources to accomplish the tasks assigned to them in the committee’s process.
  - b. The need to create a new denominational structure. The BOT, for example, believes that this new structure will be more costly than the committee estimates and will be a poor fit with the proposed new structure for denominational leadership.
  - c. The perception that the committee proposals will imperil denominational cohesiveness.
  - d. A fear that the proposals of the committee may imperil the life and health of Calvin Seminary.
  - e. The perception that the proposals of the committee do not take into account the many changes made by Calvin Seminary that make the present system friendlier and more open to a variety of avenues to ministry. These critics ask, Does the system need to be replaced? Or, rather, should it be reformed and retained?
3. The Calvin Theological Seminary proposal (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 155-65)

In a supplement to the report included in the *Agenda for Synod 2004*, the Calvin Seminary Board of Trustees reviews and responds to the study committee report. They identify a number of areas of agreement with the study committee, point out three areas of concern, and provide a new proposal: “a third way.”

The third way proposes a new program, the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC), in place of the current SPMC program. The program would reduce the time spent in residence at Calvin Seminary to one quarter and one intensive two-week summer seminar for a total of eighteen academic hours. The seminary further proposes that accommodations could be made for those who have “compelling reasons” not to come to Grand Rapids.

The seminary proposes that not only Church Order Article 6 candidates from other seminaries but also that Article 7 and Article 8 candidates be encouraged to avail themselves of the EPMC program as part of their orientation to the CRC.

Again, we found much to like in the seminary proposal. We appreciated the flexibility exhibited not only in the EPMC program but also in paring

down the list of requirements for admission to the M.Div. program. The seminary expressed its desire to be both excellent and inviting. We commend them for their efforts with respect to both of these goals.

We also have some concerns about the seminary proposals. We note, for example, that what the seminary is proposing addresses part of the leadership needs of the CRC (principally M.Div. students entering through Article 6) but not the whole scope of leadership needs addressed by the study committee. We also note that the kind of flexibility pledged by the seminary has been long in coming.

#### 4. Setting a basic direction

Your committee struggled for many hours to come to grips with the issues involved in this matter. We developed an appreciation for the complexity of the issues; we sketched out a detailed plan; but, in the end, we decided that in the time given to us we could not deal sufficiently with all the details. So, instead, we have decided (1) to present to synod, in broad strokes, a direction that we believe will move the church forward and (2) to recommend that the BOT be charged to work with the study committee and Calvin Seminary to fill in the necessary details to implement the basic plan outlined here. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, we are asking the BOT to develop and implement the direction taken here as soon as possible and to report the progress of the combined group to Synod 2005.

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. Bruce Ballast, Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn, and Rev. Thea Leunk, members of the study committee; and to Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., President of Calvin Theological Seminary, or his designee.

—Granted

2. That synod not accede to recommendations B, E, and F (pp. 381-82) of the study committee report and that instead synod instruct the BOT, in consultation with the study committee and Calvin Theological Seminary, to develop and implement a plan to:
  - a. Establish a Synodical Ministry Candidacy Committee (SMCC) to encourage the development of pastoral leadership, to propose standards to the synod, and to oversee the processes leading to candidacy. This committee will be empowered to recommend candidates to synod and to grant denominational licensure. In basic outline, the composition and mandate for this committee should resemble that described for it in the study committee report (with the exception listed below respecting endorsed seminaries).
  - b. Create with Calvin Seminary and the SMCC a plan to provide field education for students not in residence at Calvin Theological Seminary, to provide an introduction to the CRC along the lines of the proposed EPMC program, and for Calvin Theological Seminary to assist the SMCC in evaluating candidates.
  - c. Work with Calvin Seminary and the SMCC to develop a plan for distance learning for those who find themselves unable to relocate to

Calvin Theological Seminary and to work out how and by whom the waiver of the residency requirement will be decided.

- d. Involve councils and classes in the candidacy process, including drafting ministry readiness profiles with the students, providing mentors, encouraging the development of leaders, and providing the SMCC with their endorsements. For the purposes of this work, the classes will be encouraged to develop ministry leadership committees in consultation with the SMCC.
- e. Propose to synod standards for Article 7 and Article 8 admissions.
- f. In creating the plan, take into account the work already done by the study committee, the advisory committee, and Calvin Theological Seminary.

*Grounds:*

- 1) The training of leaders has grown more complex. There are more opportunities for training in more places along with a greater variety of potential leaders with a greater variety of needs and desires. The establishment of an SMCC, a broad-based denominational ministerial leadership committee charged with overseeing and facilitating the processes by which leaders are credentialed in the CRC, provides a central committee with a broad view to encourage the development of the various leaders that the denomination needs for the future.
- 2) The plan takes advantage of the strengths of Calvin Theological Seminary. Calvin Seminary, with its synodically approved faculty and its long experience in evaluating candidates, will provide for the SMCC the staff and services that are necessary to give new leaders the best opportunity to flourish in the CRC.
- 3) This broadly sketched plan gives the BOT, in consultation with the study committee and Calvin Theological Seminary, the opportunity to work out the details of implementation in a more comprehensive and thoughtful way than can be done in the context of a synodical meeting.

—Adopted

3. That the proposal that the SMCC “establish, maintain, and review a list of alternative seminaries” (see *Agenda for Synod 2004*, p. 363) not be included in the SMCC mandate.

*Grounds:*

- a. For the overall unity of the denomination, Calvin Seminary is the preferred choice.
- b. For those who attend other seminaries, the proposed EPMC program provides a more streamlined way than the present SPMC program for admission to candidacy (see *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 151-52).
- c. Such an endorsement is unnecessary to achieve openness to other seminaries.

—Adopted

4. That the BOT report its progress in implementing this plan to Synod 2005.

*Ground:* The need for new leaders is urgent, and this will ensure that changes are implemented as soon as possible.

—Adopted

(Report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued in Article 62.)

#### ARTICLE 59

The general secretary introduces Rev. Joseph M. Murupus and Rev. Jonathan C. Kangogo who are present from the Reformed Church of East Africa, the newly approved church in corresponding fellowship.

#### ARTICLE 60

The morning session is adjourned. Delegate Rev. Peter Macaskill leads in closing prayer.

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON, June 17, 2004**

#### **Twelfth Session**

#### ARTICLE 61

Rev. Duane Visser, director of Pastor-Church Relations, announces *Psalter Hymnal* 544, “Lead Me, Guide Me” and reads from 2 Peter 1:2-8. He leads in opening prayer.

Mr. Michael Bruinooge, director of the Denominational Ministries Plan, briefly addresses delegates re the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program in a PowerPoint presentation. He introduces delegates Rev. Dr. Jack De Vries, Rev. Henry G. Gunnink, Rev. Carl J. Leep, and Rev. Thomas J. Niehof who share how they have benefited by the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence grants.

Rev. Visser addresses delegates about the work of the Pastor-Church Relations Office.

Rev. Norman Thomasma, Education and Prevention Specialist, highlights his responsibilities in the Pastor-Church Relations Office

#### ARTICLE 62

(Report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued from Article 58.)

Advisory Committee 9, Alternate Routes to Ministry, Dr. Clayton G. Libolt reporting, presents the following:

#### **I. Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry**

##### **A. Materials**

1. Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry Report (including Appendices), pp. 339-400
2. Board of Trustees Report Supplement (Section II, E and Appendix B)

3. Calvin Theological Seminary Report (Sections IV, A and VII; and recommendations H and I); pp. 151-52, 155-65, 166
4. Overtures 9, 10, and 11; pp. 412-18
5. Communications 2, 4, 5, and 6; pp. 440-41, 442-44; Supplementary Materials

C. *Recommendations* (continued)

5. That synod adopt a change in Church Order Article 7, namely, that the phrase, “especially when the need is urgent” be deleted.

*Grounds:*

- a. When candidates for ministry are declared by way of Article 6, there is no official declaration of need. By providing the education necessary for a well-equipped ministry, the church has already determined that a need exists. Those who become candidates by means of their exceptional gifts (Article 7) should not have an extra criterion added.
- b. Synod 2001 adopted as a guideline: “In ordination, the church recognizes that a person has the appropriate excellencies for ministry, the callings of Christ and the people of God, and a call to a role of pastoral responsibility” (*Acts of Synod 2001*, p. 504). If someone gives evidence of calling and extraordinary gifts for the office of the minister of the Word, yet lacks the prescribed theological training, the church is wise to recognize that such gifts are God’s gifts to the church and that such gifts, when exercised, only enrich the church’s ministry. Indeed, as Monsma and Van Dellen write in *The Revised Church Order Commentary* (1967 edition):

When God qualifies a man for the ministry by endowing him with excellent and extraordinary gifts for that office, then to be sure the Church of Christ is in duty bound to recognize this fact with appreciation.

*(The Revised Church Order Commentary, p. 45)*

—Adopted

6. That synod adopt the proposed standards for those seeking to be ordained as ministry associates and that these standards be placed in Church Order Supplement, Article 23 (see table in section V, B, 3, b; *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 373-75).

*Ground:* The standards identify and clarify the key components for the formation of a well-equipped and well-trained ministry.

—Adopted

7. That synod amend Church Order Supplement, Article 22 regarding the process by which licensure to exhort is granted. The following changes are recommended (old wording struck through, new wording in italics):

**Church Order Supplement, Article 22**

A. *Rules for Licensure*

1. The ~~Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary~~ *Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee (SMCC)* may grant licensure to conduct religious services in our church only to such as

- a. are ~~enrolled as regular students~~ *approved as students for minister of the Word and enrolled in a seminary program.*
  - b. ~~have successfully passed the final examination of the junior year in the seminary~~ *have successfully completed the final examinations of one full year of seminary including work in biblical, theological, and preaching courses.*
2. The ~~board~~ *SMCC* shall not grant licensure to such students until it has made sure of the following with respect to each applicant:
    - a. That ~~he is a~~ *they are* ~~member~~ *members* in good standing in our churches.
    - b. That ~~he has~~ *they have* spiritual qualifications necessary for the ministry, and that ~~he~~ *they* considers ~~himself~~ *themselves* called of God to prepare ~~himself~~ *themselves* for the office of ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ.
    - c. That ~~he~~ *they* intends to enter the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church.
    - d. That ~~he has~~ *they have* sufficient knowledge of the Bible, and especially of our Reformed principles, to act as a guide to others.
    - e. That ~~he speaks~~ *they speak* acceptably and to the edification of the churches. It is left to the discretion of the ~~board~~ *SMCC*, however, whether it will obtain this information by consulting the seminary faculty or by examining the applicant.
  3. The ~~board~~ *SMCC* has the right to extend the licensure of those who want to take postgraduate work but with the understanding
    - a. that this privilege is to be granted only to such who are taking postgraduate work in theology and declare that it is their definite intention to enter the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church.
    - b. that this extension is valid for no more than one year.
    - c. that further extension may be given at the end of the first year in case the applicant makes ~~his~~ *a* request in writing, and at the end of the second year if ~~he~~ *applicants* appears in person and ~~is~~ *are* willing to submit to another examination (the latter part of this *Rule 3, c* does not apply to those who are taking postgraduate work in theology outside of the United States or Canada).
  4. The ~~board~~ *SMCC* is obliged to revoke the licensure
    - a. of those who have completed their theological studies but have failed to take steps to enter into the sacred ministry of the Word.
    - b. of those undergraduates who either discontinue their studies or fail to enroll again at the previously approved seminary.

*Note:* If the above recommendations are adopted, changes will also need to be made in Church Order Supplement, Article 6.

—Adopted

8. That synod adopt the following guideline re the examination of ministry associates (see the report of the Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry, *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 373-78):

An examination for the office of ministry associate will require that all ministry associates meet the church's standards for character and

knowledge, whereas the standards for skill competence will relate specifically to the particular ministry associate's area of calling and expertise.

—*Adopted*

9. That synod thank the study committee for their creative, diligent, and comprehensive work and ask them to participate in discussions with the BOT to develop and implement the plan.

—*Adopted*

10. That synod declare this to be its answer to Overtures 9, 10, and 11 and Communications 2, 4, 5, and 6.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Calvin Theological Seminary**

A. *Materials*: Calvin Theological Seminary Report (Sections IV, A and VII; and Recommendations H and I only); pp. 151-52, 155-65, 166

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod adopt the proposal regarding the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC) as described in IV, A of the Calvin Theological Seminary report (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 151-52).

—*Adopted*

2. That synod encourage the classes and the SMCC to recommend the new EPMC program to those seeking to enter CRC ministry by way of Church Order Article 7 or Article 8 or to require it of some applicants.

—*Adopted*

## **ARTICLE 63**

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, Elder delegate Mr. David Vander Haagen reporting, presents the following:

### **Reports**

CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.  
Pensions and Insurance  
Board of Trustees  
The Back to God Hour  
Calvin College  
Calvin Theological Seminary  
CRC Publications  
Christian Reformed Home Missions  
Christian Reformed World Missions  
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
Board of Trustees Report-Appendix K: Condensed Financial Statements of the Agencies and Institutions  
Board of Trustees Supplement (Section II, G-1 through G-3 and Appendix C)  
Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement (Section II)  
*Agenda for Synod 2004—Financial and Business Supplement*

## **I. CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.**

A. *Materials*: CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report, pp. 239-40

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That the Loan Fund's executive director, or any members of the board of directors of the Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to the Loan Fund are discussed.  

—*Granted*
2. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect for a second three-year term the two board members recommended to serve on the board of directors of the Christian Reformed Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.  

—*Adopted*

## **II. Pensions and Insurance**

A. *Materials*: Pensions and Insurance Report, pp. 241-49

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to members of the Canadian Pension Trustees and of the United States Board of Pensions and to Mr. Kenneth J. Horjus when matters pertaining to pension plans for ministers and employees are discussed.  

—*Granted*
2. That synod designate up to 100 percent of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 2005 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.  

—*Adopted*
3. That synod approve the following recommendations concerning changes in the design of the pension plans (see *Agenda of Synod 2004*, p. 245):
  - a. Effective January 1, 2006, the plans be amended such that credited service be granted to persons employed in endorsed chaplaincy positions provided the costs of such participation are paid by the direct employer of the chaplain, by the chaplain directly, or by some other payer as may be agreed between the plan administrator and the chaplain.
  - b. Further, when such direct payments are made by the employers of chaplains, that the plans' current provisions requiring an offset to benefits paid by the plans of any amounts received from any retirement plan sponsored by the employer for the same period of service be removed.
  - c. Finally, that the foregoing be modified for chaplains in full-time military service such that denominationally funded participation is provided to the point that vesting in a military pension benefit is achieved, and that the plan's current offset provisions be retained with respect to military service.

*Ground:* This change is consistent with the change in funding protocols for ordained ministers serving as first and only ministers in organized CRC churches.

—Adopted

d. That the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA work with the director of Chaplaincy Ministries to provide financial assistance to chaplains in particular hardship situations during the three year period after the effective date of this change.

—Adopted

e. That synod direct the BOT in consultation with the pension trustees to recommend to Synod 2005 appropriate actions, if any additional actions are required, to establish that the CRCNA Chaplains Committee, or its director, is not the employer of endorsed CRC chaplains for purposes of the Ministers' Pension Plans as was adopted by Synod 1970.

—Adopted

4. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect Mr. William Terpstra to the U.S. Board of Pensions and Insurance for a three-year term.

—Adopted

5. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect members to the Canadian Pension Trustees from the slate of nominees presented.

—Adopted

### **III. Board of Trustees**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Section II, B, 11 and Appendix K); pp. 48, 107-38
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (see *Acts of Synod 2004*, pp. 460-61, 473-78)
3. *Agenda for Synod 2004—Financial and Business Supplement*

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod approve the following protocols regarding the consideration of pension plan matters at synod and that these protocols be published in the Rules for Synodical Procedure (II, B, 11):

That synod defer action on overtures, minority reports, and motions from the floor of synod that involve substantive matters concerning the denomination's retirement plans until advised by the U.S. and Canadian pension trustees. The same is requested for actions that may be initiated by synod's advisory committee on finance or by any other of synod's advisory committees that is at variance with recommendations made by the pension trustees or is independent of any action recommended by them. Advice to synod will be in the form of a memorandum or other materials directed to synod's advisory committee on finance, which is the committee normally designated for processing matters related to the denomination's benefit plans.

—Adopted

2. That synod receive as information the condensed financial statements for the agencies and educational institutions (see *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 107-38).  
—Adopted
3. That synod approve the stated supply compensation for 2005 as follows: not less than \$445 per week for churches in the United States; and not less than \$460 per week for churches in Canada (BOT Supplement II, G, 1).  
—Adopted
4. That synod approve an aggregate ministry share request for 2005 in the amount of \$266.09 (an increase over 2004 of \$3.93 or 1.5 percent) (BOT Supplement II, G, 2).  
—Adopted
5. That synod approve a 3.5 percent of midpoint adjustment to the denominational salary grid for 2004-2005 (BOT Supplement II, G, 3).  
—Adopted

(Report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued in Article 67.)

#### ARTICLE 64

The general secretary introduces fraternal delegate Rev. Joseph M. Murupus from the Reformed Church of East Africa, who addresses synod.

#### ARTICLE 65

The afternoon session is adjourned. Elder delegate Mr. Marion Menning leads in closing prayer.

### **THURSDAY EVENING, June 17, 2004 Thirteenth Session**

#### ARTICLE 66

Delegate Rev. Dr. Jack De Vries announces *Sing! A New Creation* 43, “Lord Be Glorified” and reads from Philippians. He announces *Sing! A New Creation* 277, “The Servant Song” and leads in opening prayer.

Alternate James Scholten is present in the place of delegate Rev. Marvin J. Hofman (Holland).

#### ARTICLE 67

(Report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued from Article 63.)

Advisory Committee 6, Financial Matters, elder delegate David Vander Haagen reporting, presents the following:

## **I. Response to Overtures 1 and 2**

### **A. Materials**

1. Overture 1, pp. 403-4
2. Overture 2, p. 405

### **B. Recommendations**

1. That synod not accede to Overtures 1 and 2.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Report 32, *Agenda for Synod 1992*, is a comprehensive study of denominational funding that addresses ongoing ministry-share concerns. In light of this, neither sufficient reason nor new information was found to support the appointment of a new study committee.
- b. The ministry-share system raises significant support for the united ministry endeavors of the CRCNA at very little cost. Its underlying principle remains sound: denominational membership, freely covenanted, entails mutual obligations that ought to be honored.
- c. The relative amount of ministry shares received compared to amount of ministry shares requested has stabilized. It is no secret that some churches do not pay 100 percent of their ministry shares. All other factors remaining equal, this situation can be responded to in two ways: (1) cut agency programs or denominational services, or (2) ask for ministry-share amounts that take this experience factor into account. The latter approach has been used for many years and has resulted in overall receipts of ministry shares that are very close to budgeted amounts.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to continue efforts to educate and encourage congregations concerning the ministry-share program, and that congregations study and make use of information pertaining to the importance of ministry-share funding to shared ministries.

—Adopted

3. That this be synod's response to Overtures 1 and 2

—Adopted

## **II. Response to Overture 3: Extend Ministry-Share Reduction Formula from 72 to 24 Members**

### **A. Materials:** Overture 3, pp. 405-6

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod not accede to Overture 3.

#### *Grounds:*

1. A mechanism already exists for classes to address particular ministry-share hardship situations, namely, a classis may approve a congregation's specific ministry-share reduction request.
2. Christian Reformed Home Missions offers assistance to small churches in evaluating and responding to challenges regarding their viability.

—Adopted

### III. Response to Overtures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and Communication 3

#### A. Materials

1. Overture 4, pp. 406-7
2. Overture 5, p. 408
3. Overture 6, pp. 408-9
4. Overture 7, pp. 409-10
5. Overture 8, pp. 410-11
6. Communication 3, pp. 441-42

#### B. Recommendations

1. That synod not accede to Overtures 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. The issues raised by these overtures and the communication were fully addressed by the pension trustees and Synod 2003 in connection with the adoption of the funding protocol approved by Synod 2003.
- b. The appropriate role for the pension plans is to enable the denomination to provide for the orderly funding of the retirement needs of over 1,800 ordained ministers, survivors, and dependents.
- c. Synod 2003 recognized its communal responsibility and initiated a number of efforts to address the particular situations of smaller churches.

—Adopted

2. That this be synod's response to Overtures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and Communication 3.

—Adopted

### IV. Response to Overture 13 (received in 2002)

A. *Materials:* U.S. and Canadian Pension Trustees Memorandum, June 1, 2004: Response to Overture 13 Received in 2002 (submitted only to the Financial Matters advisory committee)

#### B. Recommendation

That the work of the pension trustees and Synod 2003 regarding participation, funding, disability benefits, credited service, and other issues, all of which involve concerns expressed in this overture from 2002, be considered a response to the requests stated therein.

##### *Grounds:*

1. The pension trustees have carefully reviewed the participation of Korean pastors in the Plans. This review has indicated that these pastors have not been uniquely disadvantaged by the design or administration of the Plans.
2. The link between the timely registration and continuous participation in the Plans and eligibility to benefit from the Plans' enhanced disability provisions, has been eliminated.

—Adopted

## **V. Response to Calvin Theological Seminary Communication: Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement**

A. *Materials*: Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement (Section II)

### **B. Recommendation**

That synod refer the concern expressed by Calvin Theological Seminary to the Board of Trustees for consideration in connection with the budgeting process.

—Adopted

## **VI. Retirement Benefits for Ordained Evangelists/Ministry Associates**

A concern about the availability of retirement benefits for ordained evangelists/ministry associates was brought to the attention of the Financial Matters advisory committee. The director of finance is requested to investigate the matter and report to the Financial Matters advisory committee at Synod 2005 (reference: *Acts of Synod 2003*).

—Received as information

## ARTICLE 68

(Report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 49.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Shawn Brix reporting, presents the following:

### **Interchurch Relations Committee**

A. *Materials*: Interchurch Relations Committee Report Section VI and Appendices D and E (pp. 263-64; 277-306).

### **B. Background**

1. This matter is before Synod 2004 because in 1998, synod mandated the IRC to make an attempt to dialogue with Roman Catholic Bishops and clarify the exact nature of official Roman Catholic teaching relative to the Mass. The fact that this actually happened is an astonishing thing—an ecumenical breakthrough for the CRCNA that we should not lose sight of. It also represents an opportunity for further dialogue that should not be lost.
2. The IRC reported on this to Synod 2002, which mandated the IRC to confirm with Roman Catholic bishops that the report was accurate. In that same year, synod also mandated the IRC to advise a future synod as to any changes that might be necessary to Q. and A. 80. The IRC has now received official confirmation that the understanding of the Roman Catholic Mass as described in their revised report (2004) is accurate. This confirmation was received from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity acting in consultation with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.
3. The IRC has now advised synod that changes are indeed necessary to Q. and A. 80 because it does not accurately and fairly represent official

Roman Catholic teaching regarding the Mass. Synod should understand clearly what this does and does not mean.

- a. The IRC and its report clearly state that very significant differences remain between Reformed and Roman Catholic understandings of the Eucharistic celebration.
  - b. The IRC and its report frankly acknowledge that the Roman Catholic Church has a pastoral problem in that official teaching is not always followed in actual practice.
  - c. The IRC and its report indicate that the CRCNA has a confessional problem, namely, that we officially confess (by way of Q. and A. 80) things that the IRC found reason to believe are not actually true.
  - d. Synod 1998's instructions were clear that we ascertain what official Roman Catholic teaching is and base our advice to future synods on that, not on departures from Roman Catholic doctrine or other abuses.
4. A primary consideration of synod should be to speak the truth in love, not only in our interaction with other Christian communities but also in our official expressions of our faith. We must also deal justly with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers and do what we can to guard and advance our neighbor's good name (HC Q. and A. 112).
  5. Synod 2004 ought to take a significant step to lead our church toward an articulation of beliefs that we can confidently confess.

#### C. *Declaration*

As indicated above in B, 3, a, it is important that synod acknowledge that there are significant differences between the Reformed understanding of the Lord's Supper and the Roman Catholic understanding of the Mass. For instance, a key difference is highlighted in Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 78, which says: "the bread of the Lord's Supper is not changed into the actual body of Christ even though it is called the body of Christ in keeping with the nature and language of sacraments." There are also different understandings of the nature and direction of the sacrament (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 285-86) and of the role of the church in the mediation of salvation (*Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 286-89). Furthermore, the Roman Catholic Mass is seen largely as a sacrifice offered, while the Reformed understanding of the Lord's Supper is that the sacrament is a gift to be received. There are also different views regarding the role and place of the Eucharist in worship and in the life of the church. In Reformed understanding, Christ gathers his church by his Word and Spirit (HC Q. and A. 54). However, in Roman Catholic teaching, the church is constituted by sacramental grace, especially through the Eucharist.

#### D. *Recommendations*

1. That Rev. Philip De Jonge, along with members of the Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 80 subcommittee, be given the privilege of the floor when matters relating to the IRC are being discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod declare there are significant differences between the Roman Catholic understanding of the Mass and the Reformed understanding of the Lord's Supper.  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod declare Q. and A. 80 can no longer be held in its current form as part of our confession given our study of official Roman Catholic teaching and extensive dialogue with official representatives of the Roman Catholic Church.  
—*Adopted*
4. That synod submit the IRC reports (see *Agenda for Synod 2004*, pp. 277-306) and 2004 synodical decisions concerning Q. and A. 80 to the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) for review at its next assembly in July 2005 and to those churches in ecclesiastical or corresponding fellowship with the CRC.  
—*Adopted*
5. That synod ask each church council and each classis to review the reports and decisions relative to Q. and A. 80 and to submit their responses to the general secretary of the CRCNA by July 1, 2005, so that they can be considered by the IRC along with responses from other denominations and the Reformed Ecumenical Council.  
—*Adopted*
6. That synod instruct the IRC to evaluate the responses and propose recommendations concerning Q. and A. 80 to Synod 2006.  
—*Adopted*
7. That synod instruct the IRC to send a progress report concerning these matters to the Canadian and United States Conferences of Catholic Bishops, thanking them for their participation in dialogue with us, and also to appropriate ecumenical bodies.  
—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 69

(Report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 53.)

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Calvin Compagner reporting, presents the following:

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the following membership for the study committee on third wave Pentecostalism:

- Dr. Mariano Avila, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary
- Rev. Amanda J. Benckhuysen, Willowdale, Ontario (on leave and enrolled in a doctoral program in biblical studies)
- Dr. David Holwerda, professor emeritus at Calvin Theological Seminary
- Mr. Paul Tameling, elder delegate to Synod 2004 and licensed psychologist from Classis Georgetown who presently serves as president of Set Free Ministries
- Rev. Ray Vander Kooij, pastor of Bethel CRC, Acton, Ontario (pastoring in an area where the issue is alive)

Alternates:

Academic alternates: Dr. John Bolt (professor at Calvin Theological Seminary), Dr. Ruth Tucker (professor at Calvin Theological Seminary)

Pastoral alternates: Rev. Scott Hoezee (pastor at Calvin CRC, Grand Rapids), Rev. David Huizenga (co-pastor at Sunshine CRC, Grand Rapids)

Other names were suggested by members at Synod 2004 and have been submitted to the general secretary.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 70

(Report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 55.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Ecko De Vries reporting, presents the following:

### **I. Response to Personal Appeal 1: Mr. J. Hermanny**

A. *Materials*: Personal Appeal 1 of Mr. Joseph Hermanny

#### *B. Background*

On February 28, 2003, Mr. Hermanny was informed that he had been deposed from the office of elder at the Geneva Campus Church in Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Hermanny appealed from this decision to Classis Wisconsin. On September 23, 2003, Classis Wisconsin decided to “reject the deposed elder’s appeal.” Mr. Hermanny now appeals from this decision to Synod 2004.

#### *C. Recommendation*

That synod not sustain the appeal of Mr. Hermanny.

*Ground*: Classis Wisconsin acted appropriately and in accordance with ecclesiastical regulations.

—Adopted

### **II. Response to Appeal 2: Council of Springdale CRC, Bradford, Ontario**

A. *Materials*

1. Appeal 2, pp. 447-50
2. Overture 17, p. 429
3. Overture 18, pp. 430-432
4. Communication 1, pp. 439-40

#### *B. Background*

On September 29, 2002, the council and congregation of First CRC in Toronto adopted by a two-thirds majority the decision to consider the nomination of gay and lesbian members, including those living in committed relationships, for all the elected offices in the church. In January of 2003, Classis Toronto urged First CRC:

1. To repent of their action affirming the validity of committed same-sex relationships;

2. To rescind the decision to consider nomination of those living in committed same-sex relationships for all elected offices;
3. To minister to gays and lesbians according to the biblical teaching and pastoral guidelines outlined in the synodical reports relating to homosexuality of 1973 and 2002.

On April 8, 2003, First CRC requested that classis:

Allow us a period of 15 months to compile a document that articulates our position, with God's Word as our guide, and to compose a pastoral framework of ministry with people of same sex orientation that would be in harmony with synod's call for ministry, would honor the Great Commandment, and would restore to dignity those who have often been marginalized in our Church. First CRC would report to classis in September of 2004. During those 15 months, we request that Classis Toronto encourage local congregations to see how they can best minister to gays and lesbians. We respectfully request that further discussion of and response to the January 2003 recommendations of classis be postponed until September 2004.

(*Agenda for Synod 2004*, p. 449)

After additional meetings of Classis Toronto in which the discussion with First CRC continued, First church on April 19, 2004, withdrew its open letter of October 2002, that is, its September 29, 2002, decision, based on the reactions of Classis Toronto and the resulting overtures, communications, and appeals to Synod 2004. First CRC states that it is in the final stages of preparing the biblical exegesis paper offered to classis by September 2004.

Our committee has a copy of, has read, and has discussed First CRC's withdrawal of its open letter. We have also met with the two ministerial delegates from Classis Toronto attending Synod 2004.

### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not sustain the Appeal of the Council of Springdale CRC, Bradford, Ontario.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. It was within the prerogative of Classis Toronto to make the judgment that it did.
- b. While synod in some ways recognizes the validity of the appeal of the council of Springdale CRC, in light of more recent developments and in a spirit of pastoral encouragement, synod is not in a position to sustain it.

—*Adopted*

The following negative vote is registered: Raymond A. Blacketer (Alberta North).

2. That synod not accede to Overtures 17 and 18.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Synod has received no evidence that the First CRC Toronto council has in fact nominated a person living in a committed same-sex

relationship for the office of minister, elder, deacon, or ministry associate.

- b. Synod has received no evidence that, in specific cases, the council of First CRC Toronto has ministered to members of its congregation in ways that contravene the denominational decisions made in 1973 and 2002.

—Adopted

3. That synod instruct Classis Toronto to investigate the allegations made in the appeal and the overtures regarding persons living in same-sex committed relationships and instruct Classis Toronto to urge First CRC to act in accordance with the guidelines of the reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002.

*Grounds:*

- a. Councils are perpetually accountable to the classis and classes are obligated to “ascertain whether the officebearers faithfully perform their duties” and, when necessary to “fraternally admonish those who have been negligent” (Church Order Article 42).
- b. It appears that Classis Toronto sees no further responsibility in this matter at this time.

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: David Vander Haagen (Lake Erie).

First clerk Dr. William T. Koopmans leads in prayer for First Toronto CRC.

### **III. Response to Overture 16: Revise Church Order Article 16**

A. *Materials:* Overture 16, pp. 427-29

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 16.

*Grounds:*

1. The reading of Article 16 proposed by Classis Columbia is virtually the same as the pre-1998 reading of the Church Order. Synod 1998 deliberately adopted the current reading on good grounds, including the consideration that requests for termination of a minister’s service to a congregation must involve the approval of classis and the concurring advice of the synodical deputies (*Agenda for Synod 1998*, pp. 160, 161; *Acts of Synod 1998*, pp. 399, 400)
2. In recent years, assemblies and agencies of the denomination have repeatedly reminded persons and churches that terminations of a minister’s service to a congregation by way of Article 17 do not necessarily carry a negative stigma. There have been numerous instances of release from such service that did not feature what Overture 16 refers to as a “putatively adversarial tone.” The first so-called regulatory stipulation suggested by Classis Columbia in this overture is counter-productive in this respect.

3. Classes currently have the opportunity to insist on conditions that must be fulfilled before a minister can be declared eligible for call and on conditions that must be fulfilled before a congregation may proceed to call another minister (Church Order Supplement, Article 17). Churches and individuals may now assume that when a minister is declared eligible for call—either because no conditions were imposed or because conditions imposed have now been met—such a declaration is genuine and based on good grounds.

—Adopted

#### **IV. Response to Overture 21: Study the Efficacy of the Form of Subscription**

A. *Materials*: Overture 21, p. 435

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 21.

*Grounds*:

- a. It is not specifically clear in its grounds.
- b. Classis has not done an adequate study of the issue.

—Adopted

2. Sensing that the overture of Classis B.C. South-East raises issues with respect to compliance with the provisions of Church Order Article 5 among our churches, Advisory Committee 8 requests that synod instruct the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to inquire of each congregation as to the methods by which the churches comply with the provisions of Article 5 and refer the results of such inquiry to Synod 2005 for whatever action Synod 2005 may deem appropriate.

—Adopted

3. That synod remind the churches of their obligations under Article 5 of the Church Order.

—Adopted

#### **ARTICLE 71**

Appointments, officers, and functionaries are presented for review. This listing reflects the results for the synodical elections and appointments and includes study committees that are synodically approved.

#### **I. Officers, functionaries, and convening church for Synod 2005**

A. *Officers*

1. General secretary: Dr. David H. Engelhard
2. Executive director of ministries: Dr. Peter Borgdorff
3. Director of finance and administration: Mr. John H. Bolt

B. *Functionaries*

Arrangements for synod: Mr. Peter Hamstra, Vice President for Advancement and Admissions; Mr. Chad Meeuwse, Events Coordinator

### C. Convening church

Convening church for Synod 2005: Palos Heights Christian Reformed Church in Palos Heights, Illinois

## II. Synodical deputies

Classis	Deputy	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Rev. Harry Vriend	Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis	2006(1)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. Jake Corvers		2007(1)
Arizona	Rev. John Rop, Jr.	Rev. Paul Van Dyken	2007(1)
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. Stanley J. Vander Klay	Rev. James Vande Lune	2006(2)
B.C. North-West	Rev. Jack S. Hielema	Rev. John J. Koster	2005(2)
B.C. South-East	Rev. John Boonstra	Rev. Henry Jonker	2004(1)
California South	Rev. William Verhoef	Rev. Neville Koch	2007(1)
Central California	Rev. Gerald L. Dykstra	Rev. Bruce Persenaire	2007(1)
Chatham	Rev. Daniel R. Tigchelaar	Rev. Paul D. Stadt	2005(2)
Chicago South	Rev. Julius T. Medenblik	Rev. John M. Ouwinga.	2005(1)
Columbia	Rev. Kenneth Van Schelven	Rev. Jelmer P. Groenewold	2006(1)
Eastern Canada	Rev. Nicolaas Cornelisse	Rev. Kenneth M. Gehrels	2006(1)
Georgetown	Rev. Dale W. Vander Veen	Rev. Matthew A. Palsrok	2006(1)
Grand Rapids East	Rev. James A. Molenbeek	Rev. Edward A. Van Baak	2006(2)
Grand Rapids North	Rev. Terry D. Slachter	Rev. Edward J. Blankespoor	2007(1)
Grand Rapids South	Rev. Wilmer R. Witte	Rev. David A. Struyk	2007(2)
Grandville	Rev. Douglas A. Kamstra	Rev. Donald J. Steenhoek	2007(2)
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. David R. Koll	Rev. Ronald D. Goudzwaard	2006(2)
Hackensack	Rev. Clair Vander Neut	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	2006(1)
Hamilton	Rev. John Zantingh	Rev. Gordon H. Pols	2007(2)
Heartland	Rev. Duane Tinklenberg	Rev. David L. Heilman	2007(2)
Holland	Rev. Dick M. Stravers	Rev. Michael De Vries	2006(1)
Hudson	Rev. John G. Keizer	Rev. Kenneth J. Verhulst	2004(2)
Huron	Rev. John Kerssies	Rev. Jacob M. Van de Hoef	2007(1)
lakota	Rev. Roger W. Sparks	Rev. Charles J. De Ridder	2005(1)
Illiana	Rev. Gerrit Veenstra		2007(1)
Kalamazoo	Dr. Harry G. Arnold	Rev. Hendrik De Vries	2005(1)
Lake Erie	Rev. Randall Engle	Rev. Robert Arbogast	2005(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. David A. Zylstra	Rev. Alfred J. Van Dellen	2005(1)
Minnkota	Rev. Lee G. Christoffels	Rev. William D. Vis	2007(1)
Muskegon	Rev. Allen Petroelje	Rev. Gerald D. Postema	2007(1)
Niagara	Rev. John De Jong	Rev. Harry A. Vander Windt	2005(2)
Northcentral Iowa	Rev. Frank E. Pott	Rev. George M. McGuire	2007(1)
Northern Illinois	Rev. Merle Den Bleyker	Rev. John Schuurman	2006(1)
Northern Michigan	Rev. Robert D. Steen	Rev. Ronald Klimp	2007(1)
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. Seung J. Kang	Rev. Young O. Kim	2004(2)
Pacific Northwest	Rev. Kenneth D. Koeman	Rev. Michael J. Kooy	2007(2)
Pella	Rev. Kenneth L. Schepel	Rev. Aldon Kuiper	2006(1)
Quinte	Rev. B. Bernard Bakker	Rev. Ed W. Visser	2006(1)
Red Mesa	Rev. John W. Dykhuis	Rev. John J. Greydanus	2006(2)
Rocky Mountain	Rev. Jacob P. Boonstra	Rev. Kenneth R. Rip	2004(1)
Southeast U.S.	Rev. Vernon Vander Zee	Rev. Larry Howerzyl	2006(1)
Thornapple Valley	Rev. David D. Poolman	Rev. Gerard Bouma	2007(1)
Toronto	Rev. Herman D. Praamsma	Rev. Jacob Kuntz	2005(2)
Wisconsin	Rev. Leslie J. Kuiper	Rev. Daniel J. Roeda	2005(2)
Yellowstone	Rev. Thomas Vander Ziel	Rev. Jacob Weeda	2005(1)
Zeeland	Rev. Bernard F. Tol	Rev. Gerry G. Heyboer	2006(2)

### III. Boards and committees

*Note:* Members of the regional boards (Board of Trustees of the CRCNA, the boards of The Back to God Hour, Calvin College, and Calvin Theological Seminary) are elected from the following twelve Regions:

*Region 1*—Classes B.C. North-West and B.C. South-East

*Region 2*—Classes Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, and Lake Superior (Canadian congregations)

*Region 3*—Classes Eastern Canada, Quinte, and Toronto

*Region 4*—Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron, and Niagara

*Region 5*—Classes Columbia, Pacific Northwest, and Yellowstone

*Region 6*—Classes Central California, Greater Los Angeles, California South, and Pacific Hanmi

*Region 7*—Classes Rocky Mountain, Red Mesa, and Arizona

*Region 8*—Classes Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior (U.S. congregations), Minnkota, Northcentral Iowa, and Pella

*Region 9*—Classes Illiana, Chicago South, Northern Illinois, and Wisconsin

*Region 10*—Classes Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, and Zeeland

*Region 11*—Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Lake Erie, and Thornapple Valley

*Region 12*—Classes Atlantic Northeast, Hackensack, Hudson, and Southeast U.S.

#### A. Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

District	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
<i>Canadian members</i>			
Alberta North	Rev. John Pasma	Rev. Neil De Koning	2006(1)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Mr. Hessel Kielstra	Mr. Durk De Jong	2007(2)
B.C. North-West	Mr. William Crofton	Mr. Andy deRuyter	2006(1)
B.C. South-East	Rev. Bert Slofstra	Rev. Kenneth D. Boonstra	2006(2)
Chatham	Mr. Jack Geschiere	Mr. Patrick McNamara	2005(1)
Eastern Canada	Rev. Paul R. Vanderkooy	Rev. Gerald van Leeuwen	2007(1)
Hamilton	Rev. Bart Velthuizen	Rev. Arie G. Van Eek	2007(2)
Huron	Rev. Edward Den Haan	Rev. Gerrit J. Bomhof	2005(2)
Lake Superior	Rev. William C. Tuininga		2005(1)
Niagara	Rev. Andrew E. Beunk	Rev. Jack Van Marion	2006(1)
Quinte	Rev. Jake Kuipers	Dr. William T. Koopmans	2005(1)
Toronto	Mr. Enno Meijers	Mr. Donald Wiersma	2007(2)
At-large members	Mrs. Sarah Cook Mrs. Patricia Storteboom Mr. Keith Oosthoek	Mrs. Martha Kouwenhoven  Mr. Bert Schouten	2005(2) 2007(1) 2006(1)
<i>U.S. members</i>			
Region 5	Rev. Al Machiela	Rev. Rod Vander Ley	2007(2)
Region 6	Rev. Gerard Dykstra	Rev. Moses Chung	2005(1)
Region 7	Mrs. N. Theresa Rottschafer	Mr. Walter F. Ackerman	2005(1)
Region 8	Rev. Robert Timmer	Rev. LeRoy G. Christoffels	2007(2)
	Mr. Marion D. Van Soelen	Mr. Lane Bonnema	2005(1)
Region 9	Rev. W. Wayne Leys	Dr. James La Grand	2006(2)
Region 10	Rev. Leonard J. Vander Zee Mr. Kenneth Kuipers	Rev. Marvin J. Hofman Mr. Delvin Huisingsh	2006(1) 2006(2)

Region 11	Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks Rev. Daniel B. Mouw Ms. Jane Vander Haagen	Mrs. Kathy Steenwyk Rev. Kenneth E. Van Wyk Ms. Judy Bredeweg	2005(1) 2007(1) 2007(2)
Region 12	Mr. Dan Cooke	Mr. Cornelius J. Bushoven	2005(1)
At-large members	Mr. Paul Dozeman Mrs. Gail Jansen Ms. Sari Mills	Mr. James Clousing Mrs. Kathryn A. DeBoer Mrs. Cindy Vander Kodde	2007(2) 2006(2) 2007(1)
Ex officio	Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries		
Adviser to CRCNA - Canada Corporation	Rev. William Veenstra, Canadian ministries director		

### *B. The Back to God Hour*

Region	Member	Term Expires
Region 1	Rev. Ezra Sui Cheung Ng	2007(1)
Region 2	Mrs. Rose Olthuis	2005(2)
Region 3	Mr. Sybren VanderZwaag	2006(1)
Region 4	Rev. Jerry Hoytema	2007(2)
Region 5	Rev. Mark Van Haitsma	2005(1)
Region 6	Mrs. Charlotte Holland	2006(2)
Region 7	Mr. Henry W. Rottschafer	2005(1)
Region 8	Mr. Doug Kallemeyn	2007(2)
Region 9	Ms. Ellen Hamilton	2007(1)
Region 10	Mrs. Willa Beckman Rev. Allen Petroelje	2005(2) 2005(2)
Region 11	Rev. R. Scott Greenway Dr. Robert Heerspink	2005(2) 2006(2)
Region 12	Rev. Donald Wisse	2006(2)
At-large	Mr. John G. Lagestee	2006(1)

### *C. Calvin College Board of Trustees*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Regions 1 and 2	Mr. Robert Koole	Dr. Jack S. Hielema	2005(2)
Region 3	Mr. Martin Mudde	Ms. Ineke Neutel	2006(1)
Region 4	Mr. Peter Schuurman	Ms. M. Nancy Booy	2007(1)
Region 5	Mr. Ronald Leistra	Rev. Paul Hansen	2006(1)
Region 6	Mrs. Karen Wynbeek	Mrs. Mavis A. Moon	2007(1)
Region 7	Mrs. Carol Bremer-Bennett	Rev. Jeffrey A. Dykema	2005(2)
Region 8	Rev. David A. Zylstra	Mrs. K. Brinks-Starkenbug	2007(1)
Region 9	Mr. Craig Friesema Rev. Gerald L. Hoek	Dr. William F. De Rose Rev. Timothy Howerzyl	2005(1) 2006(1)
Region 10	Rev. Joseph Brinks Dr. Robert De Bruin Mr. Bill Rykbost	Mr. Chris Grier Mrs. Lois Miller Mrs. Nancy Van Antwerpen- Mulder	2006(1) 2006(2) 2007(1)
Region 11	Mr. William J. Alphenaar Mr. James Haagsma Mr. Max Van Wyk	Mr. Ralph Katerberg Ms. Evonne Plantinga Mr. Craig Klamer	2005(1) 2006(1) 2007(1)
Region 12	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	Mr. Donald Sporn	2005(1)

Alumni	Mrs. Marjorie Youngsma Mrs. Connie Brummel Mr. Dirk J. Pruis	2007(2) 2005(2) 2006(1)
At-large	Mr. Stephen C.L. Chong Dr. Jack Harkema Mr. Milton Kuyers Mr. Bastian A. Knoppers Mr. Kenneth Olthoff Mrs. Elsa Prince Broekhuizen Ms. Jacquelyn S. Vander Brug Mr. David Vander Ploeg Mrs. Janice Van Dyke-Zeilstra Ms. Cindi Veenstra Rev. Harry W. Lew Rev. Norberto Wolf	2005(2) 2007(3) 2005(3) 2006(1) 2006(3) 2007(2) 2007(3) 2005(1) 2005(1) 2005(2) 2006(1) 2006(2)

*D. Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Region 1	Mr. Curt Gesch	Mr. Charles R. Gerber	2007(1)
Region 2	Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis	Rev. Philip F. Reinders	2005(2)
Region 3	Dr. William T. Koopmans	Rev. Joan De Vries	2007(1)
Region 4	Rev. Jack De Vries Mr. Hank Hultink	Rev. Frederick Heslinga Mr. John De Waard	2006(1) 2005(2)
Region 5	Ms. Leslie C. Ruiters	Ms. Sue Imig	2006(1)
Region 6	Rev. Kevin J. Adams	Rev. George C. Vink	2007(1)
Region 7	Rev. Al Lindemulder	Rev. Daniel Brink	2006(2)
Region 8	Rev. Roger D. Kramer Mr. Loren J. Veldhuizen	Rev. William Zeilstra Mrs. Carol Kramer	2006(2) 2006(2)
Region 9	Rev. Julius T. Medenblik	Rev. Joel J. Sheeres	2007(1)
Region 10	Mr. Will Byker Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis	Dr. James Vander Kam	2005(2) 2007(2)
Region 11	Rev. Ruth Hofman Rev. Ron Kool	Rev. Rozanne Bruins Dr. Byron Bossenbroek	2005(1) 2006(2)
Region 12	Rev. Peter L. Padro	Rev. Xavier Suarez	2006(1)
At-large	Mr. Sidney J. Jansma, Jr. Mr. Douglas L. Kool Dr. Margaret E. Toxopeus	Mr. Bernard te Velde, Sr. Mr. James V. Hoekstra Rev. Mary S. Hulst	2007(3) 2006(1) 2007(3)

*E. CRC Publications*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Region 1	Rev. Sidney Couperus	Mr. Stan Potma	2007(2)
Region 2	Mrs. Jessie Schut	Mrs. Jean Weening	2005(2)
Region 3	Mrs. Irene Bakker	Ms. Carrie Zwart	2007(1)
Region 4	Mr. Bert Witvoet	Mrs. Jane Van Der Velden	2006(2)
Region 5	Mrs. Cheryl Terpstra	Mrs. Beverly Vander Beek	2006(2)
Region 6	Ms. Ruth Palma	Mr. Matthew Kim	2006(1)
Region 7	Ms. Carrie Mulder	Mrs. Evelyn Bennally	2006(2)
Region 8	Mr. Jim Lipscomb	Dr. Mike Vanden Bosch	2006(1)
Region 9	Rev. John Schuurman	Ms. Mae Cooper	2005(2)
Region 10	Rev. Michael De Vries	Rev. Larry Baar	2005(2)
Region 11	Ms. Carrie Blauwkamp	Rev. Ecko De Vries	2005(1)
Region 12	Mr. John Szto	Ms. JoMae Spoelhof	2006(1)
At-Large	Mr. Otto Gonzalez Mr. Ken Bosveld Mr. Ji Hyun Jun		2007(2) 2007(2) 2005(1)

*F. Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North		Rev. Ronald E. Klok	2005(2)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Rev. Phil F. Reinders		2007(1)
Arizona	Mr. Rodney Hugen	Rev. Jeffrey A. Dykema	2006(1)
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. Stanley J. Vander Klay	Rev. James Vande Lune	2006(1)
B.C. North-West	Mr. Victor Chen	Ms. Joanne Schaap	2005(1)
B.C. South-East	Rev. Henry Devries		2006(1)
California South	Rev. Cor Pool	Mr. Phil Du Bois	2006(1)
Central California	Rev. Paul H. Vander Klay	Rev. Kevin J. Adams	2007(2)
Chatham	Mrs. Ellen Van Til		2005(1)
Chicago South	Rev. D.A. Crushshon, Sr.	Rev. Calvin J. Aardsma	2005(2)
Columbia	Mr. Gerald Vrieling		2007(1)
Eastern Canada	Mr. Peter Runia		2005(2)
Georgetown		Mrs. Joyce Sikkema	2006(1)
Grand Rapids East	Dr. Mary Buteyn	Rev. Jack Kooreman	2005(1)
Grand Rapids North	Rev. Jerome Burton	Rev. Jerry L. Blom	2004(1)
Grand Rapids South	Rev. Thomas B. Swierenga	Rev. Dan A. Gritter	2005(1)
Grandville	Rev. Philip J. Boender		2006(1)
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. Tom P. Doorn	Ms. Rachel Van Dyk	2006(2)
Hackensack	Rev. Sheila Holmes	Rev. Andrew R. Sytsma	2006(2)
Hamilton	Mr. Al Martens	Ms. Peg Vandermeer	2006(1)
Heartland	Dr. Allan Kramer		2006(2)
Holland	Rev. Keith M. Doornbos	Rev. Art Van Wyhe	2006(2)
Hudson	Mrs. Beth Fylstra		2006(1)
Huron	Rev. Gary J. Bomhof	Mrs. Diana Wilhelm	2005(2)
lakota	Rev. Bernard J. Haan, Jr.	Rev. Charles J. De Ridder	2005(2)
Illiana	Mr. Harley Ver Beek	Rev. Randy Bergsma	2006(2)
Kalamazoo	Rev. Mark A. Minegar	Rev. Dale Slings	2006(2)
Lake Erie	Mr. David Armour	Rev. Thomas J. Van Milligen	2005(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. Mark Brouwer	Rev. David J. Swinney	2005(1)
Minnkota	Rev. Gerrit Besteman	Mr. Daryl Tinklenberg	2006(1)
Muskegon	Rev. Charles Uken	Rev. Robert L. Bierenga	2007(1)
Niagara	Rev. Walter H. Vander Werf		2005(2)
Northcentral Iowa	Ms. Marcia Allspach	Rev. Kevin Jordan	2005(1)
Northern Illinois	Mr. Jim Hooker	Rev. David R. Armstrong	2007(2)
Northern Michigan	Rev. Peter R. Byrna	Rev. Robert D. Steen	2007(2)
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. Ji Neung Jun	Mr. Theodore Lin	2004(1)
Pacific Northwest	Rev. Eleanor Rietkerk		2006(1)
Pella	Mr. Ivan Mulder	Mr. Nelson Nikkel	2005(1)
Quinte	Rev. Norman A. Sennema		2006(1)
Red Mesa	Mr. Ernie Benally	Ms. Marla Jasperse	2006(1)
Rocky Mountain	Rev. Thomas Dykman	Rev. Kenneth Rip	2005(1)
Southeast U.S.	Rev. Daniel G. Buis		2006(1)
Thornapple Valley	Mr. John Van Enk	Rev. R. Scott Greenway	2007(1)
Toronto	Rev. Samuel Cooper	Rev. Martin Benckhuysen	2004(2)
Wisconsin	Mr. David Kooiman	Mr. Russ Wiersum	2006(2)
Yellowstone	Mr. Clair Abee	Mr. John Westra	2005(2)
Zeeland	Rev. Paul Bakker	Rev. John Aukema	2006(1)
At-large			
Finance	Mrs. Lynne Heyne	Mr. Dewey Westra	2006(2)
Advancement	Rev. Jack Stulp	Mr. Mark Feldkamp	2006(2)
Intercultural ministry	Mr. Charles Brown		2006(2)

*G. Christian Reformed World Missions Board*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Rev. John A. Ooms	Mr. Fred Schuld	2007(2)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Ms. Ruth Krabbe	Rev. James D. Zondervan	2007(2)
Arizona	Rev. Jeffrey A. Dykema	Mr. Eduardo Gonzalez	2004(1)
Atlantic Northeast	Mr. Paul Theule	Rev. Russel Palsrok	2007(1)
B.C. North-West	Rev. Harvey J. Roosma	Rev. John Koster	2007(2)
B.C. South-East	Mr. Norman Brouwer	Rev. Carel Geleyense	2005(2)
California South	Mr. Dirk Jasperse		2007(1)
Central California	Mr. Ray Hayes	Rev. Andrew Narm	2005(1)
Chatham	Rev. Harry Mennega	Rev. Michael R. Wagenman	2004(2)
Chicago South	Rev. John M. Ouwinga	Rev. Duane Van Loo	2005(1)
Columbia	Mr. David Koetje	Mrs. Laurie B. Cutter	2006(2)
Eastern Canada	Mr. Elva MacDonald		2006(1)
Georgetown	Mr. Tom Visser	Rev. Stanley Drenth	2006(2)
Grand Rapids East	Dr. Phil Lucasse	Rev. Leonard Sweetman, Jr.	2007(1)
Grand Rapids North	Rev. Case G. Van Wyk	Ms. Angie Hoolsema	2006(1)
Grand Rapids South	Rev. Robert D. Bolt	Rev. Ron L. Fynewever	2006(2)
Grandville	Rev. Archie L. Vander Hart	Rev. Tom Groelsma	2007(2)
Greater Los Angeles	Rev. Gary M. Stevens	Rev. John Choi	2006(1)
Hackensack	Rev. Kenneth J. Vander Wall		2005(1)
Hamilton	Ms. Harmene Sytsma	Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg	2004(1)
Heartland	Mr. Byron Noordewier	Rev. Nathan De Vries	2007(1)
Holland	Rev. Douglas R. Fauble	Rev. William J. Vander Heide	2007(2)
Hudson	Rev. Albert Sideco		2007(1)
Huron	Mr. Keith Knight		2007(1)
Iakota	Rev. Clifford Hoekstra	Rev. Roger W. Sparks	2006(2)
Illiana	Rev. Gary Schipper		2007(1)
Kalamazoo	Mr. Fred De Young, Jr.	Dr. Warren Lammers	2005(1)
Lake Erie	Rev. Robert De Vries	Rev. Leonard T. Riemersma	2004(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. Alfred Van Dellen	Mr. Gary Kasprzak	2007(2)
Minnkota	Rev. William V. Vis	Rev. John Douma	2005(1)
Muskegon	Rev. Richard J. Hamstra	Rev. Robert A. Pohler	2005(2)
Niagara	Rev. Robert J. Loerts		2005(1)
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. Roger DeHaan	Rev. Frank Pott	2006(2)
Northern Illinois	Mr. Allen Van Der Dyke		2006(1)
Northern Michigan	Rev. Raymond Brinks	Dr. Ed Stehouwer	2005(1)
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. David Chong		2005(1)
Pacific Northwest	Rev. Loren J. Swier	Rev. Ho C. Song	2006(1)
Pella	Mr. Daryl Bouwkamp	Mr. Dan VanKooten	2005(1)
Quinte	Rev. Ed W. Visser		2004(2)
Red Mesa	Rev. John J. Greydanus	Mr. John Kostelyk	2005(1)
Rocky Mountain	Ms. Joy Engelsman		2006(2)
Southeast U.S.	Rev. Manny Bersach	Ms. Kathy Boldenow	2007(1)
Thornapple Valley	Mr. Ken Oosterhouse	Rev. Edward P. Meyer	2007(2)
Toronto	Rev. John Tenyenhuis	Mr. Paul Masengi	2005(1)
Wisconsin	Mr. Dennis Huenink	Rev. Kenneth Van De Griend	2007(2)
Yellowstone	Mrs. Ev Huttenga	Mr. Harry Faber	2007(1)
Zeeland	Rev. Ronald J. Meyer	Rev. Larry Lobdell	2005(2)

*H. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee*

Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Alberta North	Ms. Anna Feddes	Mr. Henry Visscher	2005(2)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Mr. George Lubberts	Mr. Ulrich Haasdyk	2006(1)
Arizona	Mr. Wes Rozema	Ms. Sandra Hirdes	2006(2)
Atlantic Northeast	Ms. Gloria Ranney		2004(1)
B.C. North-West	Ms. Sheryl deBoer	Mr. Gerrit Keegstra	2006(1)
B.C. South-East	Mr. Clarence Tuin	Mr. John Richey	2004(2)
California South	Mrs. Pat Ballast		2007(2)
Central California	Mr. John Schoolland	Mr. Lawrence De Ruiter	2005(2)
Chatham	Mrs. Yetty Joosse	Mr. Ed DeJong	2006(2)
Chicago South	Ms. Joanne Horneman	Ms. Jessie Holland	2005(1)
Columbia	Ms. Linda Ackerman	Mr. Terry Berkompas	2006(2)
Eastern Canada	Mrs. Renee Gray	Mr. Jeff De Haan	2005(1)
Georgetown	Mr. Bernard Potgeter		2007(1)
Grand Rapids East	Ms. Mary Dengerink	Mr. Fred Swol	2007(2)
Grand Rapids North	Mr. Roy Zuidema	Mr. Wayne Van Wylen	2005(2)
Grand Rapids South	Mr. Andrew Steensma	Mr. Randy Ledeboer	2005(2)
Grandville	Mr. Lawrence Hoogerhyde, Sr.		2007(1)
Greater Los Angeles	Mrs. Joyce Vander Vis	Mr. Stan Cole	2006(1)
Hackensack	Mr. Richard T. Dykema		2007(1)
Hamilton	Mr. Dick Veeneman	Mr. Jerry Bulthuis	2006(1)
Heartland	Mr. Greg Geels	Mr. Tom Knapper	2005(2)
Holland	Mr. Warren Stuk		2006(2)
Hudson	Ms. Linda Van Lenten	Dr. Richard Rosendale	2004(1)
Huron	Mr. Jim Romahn	Ms. Mary Both	2005(1)
Iakota	Mr. Fred Haan	Ms. Nancy Visser	2005(1)
Illiana	Mr. Dan Zandstra	Ms. Mary Dornbos	2007(1)
Kalamazoo	Mr. Willard Haak	Ms. Marci Muller	2007(2)
Lake Erie	Mr. Jerry Van Wyke	Mr. Otty Turrentine	2006(2)
Lake Superior, Canada	Mr. Len Slikker		2004(2)
Lake Superior, U.S.	Mr. Randy Hedman	Mr. Marlin Breems	2007(2)
Minnkota	Mr. Henry Van Dyke	Mr. Kevin Krosschell	2006(1)
Muskegon	Mr. Fred Visser	Ms. Mary Ann Mellema	2005(1)
Niagara	Ms. Shirley Vandenberg	Mr. Ben VanHoffen	2004(1)
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. Wes Bonnema	Mr. Arlie Olsen	2006(1)
Northern Illinois	Mr. George Andringa	Ms. Vera Douma	2005(1)
Northern Michigan	Mr. Bill Dracht	Mr. G. Berkompas	2006(1)
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. Phil H. Hwang	Rev. June W. Yang	2005(1)
Pacific Northwest	Mr. Peter Kroon		2006(1)
Pella	Mr. Gary Van Engelenhoven	Mr. Randy Nugteren	2006(2)
Quinte	Mr. Frank Westerhof	Mrs. Anne Doef	2004(1)
Red Mesa	Mr. Norman Chee	Mr. Willie Benally	2007(1)
Rocky Mountain	Mr. Richard Pasterkamp	Ms. Melanie Fennema-Jonker	2006(2)
Southeast U.S.	Ms. Mercedes Fonseca-Velez	Mr. Jeff Brouwer	2006(1)
Thornapple Valley	Mr. Chris Van Spronsen	Mr. Lee De Vries	2007(1)
Toronto	Mr. Peter Schaafsma	Ms. Joanne Van Loenen	2006(1)
Wisconsin	Mr. Duane DuMez		2007(1)
Yellowstone	Ms. Dawn Menning	Mr. David Venema	2007(1)
Zeeland	Mr. Joel Ploegstra	Mr. Chuck Johnson	2007(2)
At-large (U.S.)	Mr. Vincent Bivens	Ms. Kelli Schutte	2005(1)
Pastoral adviser	Rev. Sam Reeves		2006(1)
Financial adviser	Mr. Randy J. Kroll	Mr. Steven Penning	2005(2)
At-large (Canada)	Mr. Bany Castellanos	Ms. Margaret Verboon	2006(1)
	Ms. Barb Hoekstra	Mr. Nick Van Dyk	2005(2)
Pastoral adviser	Rev. John Koster	Rev. Roy Berkenbosch	2005(2)

#### **IV. Service committees**

##### *A. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Committee*

Mr. James Fredricks (2005), Mr. W. Brian Seo (2005), Mr. Ronald Baylor (2006), Mr. Arie Leegwater (2006), Ms. Diane Apol (2007), Rev. Julius T. Medenblik (2007); ex officio member: Mr. Carl A. Gronsmann.

##### *B. Historical Committee*

Dr. Harry Boonstra (2005), Rev. Michael De Vries (2006), Mrs. Janet Sheeres (2007), Dr. Robert Swierenga (2007).

##### *C. Interchurch Relations Committee*

Rev. Michiel M. De Berdt (2005), Dr. Bertha Mook (2005), Mr. Abe Vreeke (2005), Rev. Ralph Wigboldus (2005), Dr. David M. Rylaarsdam (2006), Rev. Carlos Tapanes (2006), Rev. Richard Vander Vaart (2006), Ms. Louisa Bruinsma (2007), Rev. Philip De Jonge (2007), Dr. James R. Payton (2007), Ms. Teresa Renkema (2007), Rev. Simon Wolfert (2007), ex officio members; Dr. David H. Engelhard and Rev. William C. Veenstra.

##### *D. Judicial Code Committee*

Mr. Robert Jonker (2005), Dr. Ralph Smeda (2005), Rev. John J. Steigenga (2005), Mrs. Carol Ackerman (2006), Rev. Andrew K. Chun (2006), Mr. Edward J. Vander Kloet (2006), Mr. Robert L. DeJong (2007), Ms. Susan Keesen (2007), Mr. Gordon Vander Leek (2007).

##### *E. Ministers' Pension Funds committees*

###### *Canadian Pension Trustees*

Mr. Bruce Dykstra (2005), Mr. John Luimes (2005), Rev. Jake Kuipers (2006), Mr. Ary de Jong (2007), Mr. Dan Van Leeuwen (2007).

###### *U.S. Board of Pensions and Insurance*

Rev. Edward J. Tamminga (2005), Mr. George Vande Werken (2005), Mr. Lloyd Bierma (2006), Mr. Ray Vander Weele (2006), Mr. William Terpstra (2007).

##### *F. Sermons for Reading Services Committee*

Mr. Ray Vander Ploeg (2007), secretary/treasurer; Rev. Hendrik P. Bruinsma (2007), chairman; Rev. Ralph Kooops (2005), Rev. John Zantingh (2005), Rev. Gerrit J. Bomhof (2005), alternate; Rev. Jack Westerhof (2006).

#### **V. Study committees**

##### *A. Committee to Study Church Education* (scheduled to report in 2005)

Mrs. Mary Bouwma (chair), Rev. Robert De Moor, Mrs. Eldean Kamp, Mr. Keith Knight, Dr. John Van Schepen, Mrs. Karen Wilk, Dr. David H. Engelhard (ex officio).

##### *B. Committee to Study Christian Day School Education* (scheduled to report in 2005)

Dr. John Bolt, Mrs. Karen Gerritsma, Mr. James Jones, Mr. Herman Proper, Mrs. Sherry Ten Clay, Rev. Ildefonso Torres, Mr. Marion Van Soelen, Dr. Dan Vander Ark (chair), Dr. John Visser, Dr. David H. Engelhard (ex officio).

*C. Committee to Review the Classical-Local Option with Respect to Women Serving in the Offices of Minister, Elder, and Evangelist* (scheduled to report in 2005)

Dr. Stephanie Baker Collins, Ms. Helen T. Brent, Rev. Neil Jasperse, Rev. Jonathan Kim, Dr. William Koopmans, Rev. Bruce Persenaire, Rev. Eleanor Rietkerk, Ms. Bonnie B. Smith, Rev. Howard Vanderwell (chair), Dr. David H. Engelhard (ex officio)

*D. Committee to Study Restorative Justice* (scheduled to report in 2005)

Rev. John De Vries, Jr. (chair), Rev. Sheila Holmes, Dr. Clayton Libolt, Mr. Donald Pranger, Ms. Gail Rice, Mr. Harold Roscher, Mr. Danny Skelton, Rev. Henry Smidstra, Mr. Tom Van Engen, Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff, Dr. David H. Engelhard (ex officio)

*E. Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisers to Synod* (scheduled to report in 2005)

Dr. David A. Armour, Mr. Fernando del Rosario, Rev. Esteban Lugo, Ms. Sari Mills, Mr. Tim Nguyen, Dr. Peter Szto, Rev. George Vander Weit, Ms. Mary Vermeer, Dr. David H. Engelhard (ex officio)

*F. Committee to Study War and Peace* (scheduled to report in 2006)

Dr. Paul Bolt; Dr. Elaine Botha; Mr. Sylvan E. Gerritsma; Dr. Daivd Hoekema; Rev. Carl Kammeraad; Rev. Herman Keizer, Jr.; Dr. James Skillen; Ms. Kathy Vandergrift; Mr. Peter Vander Meulen; Dr. David H. Engelhard (ex officio)

*G. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism* (scheduled to report in 2006)

Dr. Mariano Avila, Rev. Amanda J. Benckhuysen, Dr. David Holwerda, Mr. Paul Tameling, Rev. Ray Vander Kooij, Dr. David H. Engelhard (ex officio)

*Recommendation:* That synod approve the list of the boards and committees.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 72

The president of synod thanks the delegates of Synod 2004 for their fine work and expresses his gratitude to his fellow officers: vice president, Rev. Emmett A. Harrison; first clerk, Dr. William T. Koopmans; and second clerk, Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer. He thanks the faculty advisers, ethnic advisers, and women advisers and gives special recognition to Dr. David H. Engelhard, general secretary, and Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries, for their contribution to synod. He also thanks the staff of Calvin College, remembering especially Mr. Jeff Stob, Ms. Ali Vander Woude, and Mr. Carl Hordyk. The president expresses gratitude to the synod office staff—Mrs. Shirley De Vries, Mrs. Nancy Haynes, Mrs. Muriel Lamer, Mrs. Jan Ortiz, Mrs. Diane (Dee) Recker, and Mrs. Dorothy Wallinga. He also thanks the Synod News Office staff—Mr. Henry Hess and Ms. Kristen De Roo Vander Berg.

The vice president, Rev. Emmett A. Harrison, expresses thanks on behalf of synod to the president for his leadership during Synod 2004.

The general secretary expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents each one with a gift.

ARTICLE 73

The president commends the delegates for the good work—*important work*—that they did. He reads from Romans 12:1-2 (The Message). Delegates join in the singing of the doxology and the president leads in closing prayer. Synod adjourns at 10:40 p.m.

# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2005

# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2005

## I. Denominational ministry shares

	Per professing member
The Back to God Hour .....	\$33.60
CRC TV .....	12.72
Calvin College*	
	Per professing member
Area 1—Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Thornapple Valley .....	\$63.70
Area 2—Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Lake Erie, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, Zeeland .....	41.00
Area 3—Chicago South, Illiana, Northern Illinois, Southeast U.S., Wisconsin .....	26.40
Area 4—Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior, Minnkota, Northcentral Iowa, Pella .....	8.20
Area 5—Atlantic Northeast, Hackensack, Hudson .....	37.20
Area 6—Arizona, Columbia, California South, Central California, Greater Los Angeles, Pacific Hanmi, Pacific Northwest, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone .....	22.50
Area 7—Chatham, Eastern Canada, Hamilton, Huron, Niagara, Quinte, Toronto .....	13.10
Area 8—Alberta North, Alberta South, B.C. North-West, B.C. South-East .....	5.10
Calvin Theological Seminary .....	27.78
Canadian Ministries Board ministries .....	6.62
CRC Publications .....	9.59
CR Home Missions .....	53.81
Fund for Smaller Churches .....	2.64
CR World Missions .....	52.64
Denominational Services	
Synodical assembly, Board of Trustees, and general administration .....	23.86
Ministry programs .....	13.81
Abuse Prevention, Chaplaincy Ministries, Disability Concerns, Pastor-Church Relations, Race Relations, Social Justice and Hunger Action	
Special Assistance Fund .....	1.27

\*Areas that benefit from a ministry-share reduction should employ the following monies to finance their area colleges (*Acts of Synod 1962, 1984, 1993*):

Per professing member

Area 1, -0-; Area 2, \$8.80; Area 3, \$23.40; Area 4, \$41.60; Area 5, \$12.60; Area 6, \$27.30; Area 7, \$36.70;  
Area 8, \$44.70.

### Stated Supply

Effective January 1, 2005, the weekly stated supply shall not be less than \$445 for churches located in the United States and not less than \$460 for churches in Canada.

**II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 2005**

**A. Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings**

Canadian Business Number

- 1. Abuse Prevention—above-ministry-share needs .....12981 5882 RR0001
- 2. The Back to God Hour—above-ministry-share needs .....13240 2090 RR0001
- 3. Calvin College—above-ministry-share needs.....(per Schedule VIII)
- 4. Calvin Theological Seminary .....(per Schedule VIII)
  - a. Above-ministry-share needs
  - b. Revolving Student Loan Fund
- 5. Canadian Ministries Board ministries—above-ministry-share needs
- 6. Chaplaincy Ministries—above-ministry-share needs.....12981 5882 RR0001
- 7. CRC Publications
  - World Literature Ministries—above-ministry-share needs.....12981 5882 RR0001
- 8. CR Home Missions—above-ministry-share needs.....10691 9640 RR0001
- 9. CR World Missions—above-ministry-share needs .....11881 2643 RR0001
- 10. CR World Relief—one offering per quarter because CRWRC .....11885 7388 RR0001
  - receives no ministry-share support
- 11. Disability Concerns—above-ministry-share needs .....12981 5882 RR0001
- 12. Pastor-Church Relations—above-ministry-share needs.....12981 5882 RR0001
- 13. Race Relations.....12981 5882 RR0001
  - a. Above-ministry-share needs
  - b. Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund
- 14. Social Justice and Hunger Action .....12981 5882 RR0001

**B. Denominationally related youth agencies recommended for one or more offerings**

**Dynamic Youth Ministries**

- 1. GEMS .....88992 0799 RR0001
- 2. Calvinist Cadet Corps .....88992 0799 RR0001
- 3. Youth Unlimited.....88992 0799 RR0001

**C. Nondenominational agencies recommended for financial support but not necessarily for one or more offerings**

Note should be made of the action of Synod 1992 related to the financial support provided by Christian Reformed churches relative to these agencies:

... in light of the growing number of agencies seeking recommendation for financial support, [synod] remind[s] the congregations of the synodical decision of 1970 wherein “synod urge[d] all the classes to request their churches to pay denominational causes before making gifts to nondenominational causes on the synod-approved accredited list.

*Grounds:* Our denominational causes should have priority in our giving. . . .”  
(Acts of Synod 1970, p. 81)

**United States agencies**

**A. Benevolent agencies**

- 1. Bethany Christian Services
- 2. Calvary Rehabilitation Center
- 3. Cary Christian Center, Inc
- 4. Christian Health Care Center
- 5. Elim Christian Services
- 6. Hope Haven
- 7. International Aid, Inc.
- 8. The Luke Society
- 9. Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS)
- 10. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

*B. Educational agencies*

1. Center for Public Justice
2. Christian Schools International
3. Christian Schools International Foundation
4. Dordt College
5. Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of ICS)
6. ITEM—International Theological Education Ministries, Inc.
7. The King’s University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
8. Reformed Bible College
9. Rehoboth Christian School
10. Roseland Christian School
11. Trinity Christian College
12. Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia
13. Worldwide Christian Schools

*C. Miscellaneous agencies*

1. Audio Scripture Ministries
2. The Bible League
3. Crossroad Bible Institute
4. Friendship Ministries
5. Gideons International - U.S.
6. IN Network
7. International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE)
8. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (for specified staff support only)
9. Lord’s Day Alliance of the United States
10. Mission India
11. Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC)
12. The Tract League
13. Wycliffe Bible Translators

**Canadian agencies**

*A. Benevolent agency*

1. Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc. ....11880 2388 RR0001

*B. Educational agencies*

	Canadian Business Number
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*C. Miscellaneous agencies*

# INDEX

(Page numbers in **boldface type** refer to the minutes of synod; page numbers in regular type refer to agenda and supplementary materials.)

*Initialisms and Abbreviations from the Agenda and Acts of Synod*

ACK	Anglican Church of Kenya
AMOR	A Mission OutReach (Dordt College)
ARPC	Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
ASK	Academic SKills Center (Dordt College)
BC	Belgic Confession
BOT	Board of Trustees
CAJ	Christian Academy of Japan
CANAAC	Caribbean and North American Area Council
CAREE	Christians Associated for Relationships with Eastern Europe
CCC	Canadian Council of Churches
CCCiS	Coordinating Council for Church in Society
CCG	Committee for Contact with the Government
CCJC	Church Council on Justice and Corrections
CCRCC	Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada
CCTB	College of Christian Theology in Bangladesh
CCT-USA	Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.
CEVAA	Communauté [d'Eglises en Mission] Evangélique de'Action Apostolique
CFGB	Canadian Foodgrains Bank
CGI	Consolidated Group Insurance
CIDA	Canada International Development Agency
CLAC	Christian Labor Association of Canada
CMCC	Classical Ministerial Candidacy Committee
CMD	Canadian Ministries Director
CMF	Canadian Ministries Forum
COCREF	Christian Reformed Schools (Dominican Republic)
COP	Community Outreach Program (Dordt College)
CRCA	Christian Reformed Church of Australia
CRCEA	Christian Reformed Church in Eastern Africa
CRCN	Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria
CRCP	Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines
CRHM	Christian Reformed Home Missions
CRWM	Christian Reformed World Missions
CRWRC	Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
CTS	Calvin Theological Seminary
CUA	Catholic University of America

DDM	Director of Denominational Ministries
DFAS	Director of Finance and Administrative Support Services
DMP	Denominational Ministries Plan
DRC	Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa
DRCA	Dutch Reformed Church in Africa
DRS	Disaster Response Services
ECLDN	Eastern Canada Leadership Development Network
ED&GS	Executive Director and General Secretary
EDM	Executive Director of Ministries
EFC	Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia
EFC	Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
ELK	Evangelisch Lutherse Kerk
EMPC	Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy
EMPMC	Ethnic Minority Program for Ministerial Candidacy
ENELA	Evangelical University of Latin America
EPC	Evangelical Presbyterian Church
EPMC	Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy
ERCB	Evangelical Reformed Church of Burundi
FJKM	Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar
FSC	Fund for Smaller Churches
GEMS	Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior
GKN	Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland
GS	General Secretary
HC	Heidelberg Catechism
ICAD	Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development
ICS	Institute for Christian Studies
IRC	Interchurch Relations Committee
JMMC	Joint-Ministries Management Committee
LDN	Leadership Development Networks
MAC	Ministries Administrative Council
MC	Ministries Council
MERF	Middle East Reformed Fellowship
MFCA	Ministerial Formation Coordinating Agency
MLAC	Ministry Leadership Advisory Council
MPF	Minister's Pension Fund
MRCSA	Midlands Reformed Churches in South Africa
NAE	National Association of Evangelicals
NAPARC	North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council
NCA	North Central Association
NCCC	National Council of Churches of Christ
NCKK	National Council of Churches of Kenya
NHK	Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk
NKST	Church of Christ in the Sudan Among the Tiv
NRC	Netherlands Reformed Churches
OPC	Orthodox Presbyterian Church
OSJHA	Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action
Partners	Partners for Christian Development
PCA	Presbyterian Church in America
PCEA	Presbyterian Church of East Africa
PCN	Protestant Church of the Netherlands

PCR	Pastor-Church Relations
PLIA	Putting Love Into Action (Dordt College)
PRC	Protestant Reformed Churches
RCA	Reformed Church in Africa
RCA	Reformed Church in America
RCC	Roman Catholic Church
RCCN	Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria
RCEA	Reformed Church of East Africa
RCJ	Reformed Church in Japan
RCN	Reformed Churches in the Netherlands
RCN/GKN	Reformed Churches in the Netherlands
RCSC	Reformed Candidates Supervision and Care Committee
RCVS	Regional Coordinators of Volunteers
REC	Reformed Ecumenical Council
RIM	Reformed in Mission
RTTI	Reformed Theological Training Institute
RPC	Review Process Committee
RPCNA	Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America
SEIA	Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
SMCC	Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee
SPC	Succession Planning Committee
SPE	Sustaining Pastoral Excellence
SPMC (Adj)	Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy (Adjusted)
SPMC	Special Program for Ministerial Candidacy
TNIT	Today's New International Version
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
URCSA	Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa
USCCB	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
WARC	World Alliance of Reformed Churches
WEA	World Evangelical Alliance

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