



ACTS OF SYNOD 2005



CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH



ACTS OF SYNOD 2005

June 11-17, 2005
Martin & Janet Ozinga Chapel
Trinity Christian College
Palos Heights, Illinois

© 2005 Christian Reformed Church in North America
2850 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49560 U.S.A.
Printed in the United States of America

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Synod 2005 was held at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, June 11-17, 2005. The spirit at synod was excellent; the meeting facilities were great; and synod did a great deal of work during those days. The whole church owes a debt of gratitude to all who were assembled there to provide leadership for the CRC.

The *Acts of Synod 2005* 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 2005.
- An index.

It is necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 2005* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2005* 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 617, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 689. Minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 711. The index references both volumes; the numbers in boldface type refer to pages in the minutes of Synod 2005.

The *Acts of Synod 2005* are produced not only as the official record of the decisions taken but also to show how the Lord, through the various boards and assemblies, leads the CRC in our time. We are a people blessed! The gifts that God has entrusted to the membership of the CRC are truly astounding; the continuing faithfulness of God's people to both local and global ministries that are responsive to the values of the kingdom of God is inspiring. We thank the Lord for he is good, "his love endures forever" (Ps. 136).

Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries
Christian Reformed Church in North America

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPLEMENT

I. Polity matters

A. *Interim appointments*

The Board of Trustees approved on behalf of synod the following appointees:

	Classis	Member	Alternate	Term
Synodical Deputies	Central California	Rev. Bruce Persenaire	Rev. Albert Helder	2007(1)
	Georgetown	Rev. Matthew A. Palsrok	Rev. Gerald A. Koning	2007(1)
	Hamilton		Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg	
	Lake Superior	Rev. Dale W. Visser	Rev. Jack Van Marion	2008(1)
	Niagara	Rev. Harry A. Vander Windt	Rev. John De Jong	2008(1)

B. *Board membership for World Missions*

The Board of World Missions voted to change the makeup of the board from classical to regional representation. The regional representatives were chosen from among the previously elected classical representatives. The membership of the World Missions board as of March 1, 2005, is as follows:

Regions 1 & 2	Mr. Norman Brouwer	2006(2)
	Mrs. Ruth Krabbe	2007(2)
Regions 3 & 4	Rev. John Tenyenhuis	2008(2)
	Ms. Harmene Sytsma	2007(2)
Members-at-large	Rev. Bob Loerts	2008(2)
	(Vacant)	
Region 5	Rev. Loren Swier	2006(1)
Region 6	Mr. Ray Hayes	2008(2)
Region 7	Mrs. Joy Engelsman	2006(2)
Region 8	Rev. Clifford Hoekstra	2006(2)
Region 9	Rev. Gary Schipper	2007(1)
Region 10	Mr. Tom Visser	2006(2)
Region 11	Rev. Archie Vander Hart	2007(2)
Region 12	Rev. Ken Vander Wall	2008(2)
Members-at-large	Rev. Jeff Dykema	2007(2)
	Ms. Evelyn Huttinga	2007(1)
	Rev. Manny Bersach	2007(1)
	(Vacant)	

C. *Board of Trustees membership*

1. Trustees whose terms expire or are leaving their region in 2005:

District	Member	Alternate
Hamilton	Rev. Bart Velthuisen	
Huron	Rev. Ed Den Haan	Rev. Gerrit J. Bomhof
At-large (Canada)	Mrs. Sarah Cook	Mrs. Martha Kouwenhoven
Region 6	Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra	Rev. Moses Chung

2. Nominees for Region 6

The Board presents the following nominees for the Region 6 vacancy due to the nomination of Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra for the director of denominational ministries position. Alternate Rev. Moses Chung is unable to serve as a delegate at this time.

Rev. Bruce T. Ballast is the pastor of CrossPoint CRC, Chino, California. He has served as board president of the board of Home Missions as well as serving on its vision committee. Rev. Ballast has served on the synodical Committee to Examine Alternate Routes Being Used to Enter the Ordained Ministry in the CRC and the synodical Committee to Provide Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Ministry. He presently serves on the classical leadership team.

Rev. Mark D. Vermaire is the pastor of Crossroads CRC, San Marcos, California. Rev. Vermaire has served as chair of the classical Home Missions committee, chair of the classical leadership team, and chair of the classical reconciliation team. He presently serves as chair of the classical executive team.

3. Words of thanks

Words of thanks are in order for Mrs. Sarah Cook, Mr. Dan Cooke, Rev. Ed Den Haan, Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, Mr. Jack Geschiere, Rev. Jake Kuipers, Mrs. N. Theresa Rottschafer, Rev. William C. Tuininga, Mr. Marion D. Van Soelen, Rev. Bart Velthuisen, and Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks, who are completing their first or second terms of service on the Board. 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.

D. *Women advisers to synod*

In addition to the women advisers named in the *Agenda for Synod 2005*, the Board has also appointed the following to serve at synod:

Mrs. Jane Vander Haagen
Mrs. Beverly Weeks

E. *Ethnic advisers to synod*

The Board of Trustees appointed the following additional ethnic advisers for Synod 2005:

Mrs. Verney Kho
Rev. Esteban Lugo
Mr. Socheth Na

F. Officers of the Board of Trustees for 2005-2006

1. The CRCNA-Canada Corporation

President: Rev. Bert Slofstra
Vice president: Rev. Jake Kuipers
Secretary: Mr. Keith Oosthoek

2. The CRCNA-Michigan Corporation

President: Rev. W. Wayne Leys
Vice president: Mrs. Gail F. Jansen
Vice-all: Rev. Leonard J. Vander Zee

3. The binational Board of Trustees officers

President: Rev. W. Wayne Leys
Vice president: Mrs. Gail F. Jansen
Vice-all: Rev. Bert Slofstra

G. Ministers in cross-border situations

Synod 2004 requested that the issue of ministers in cross-border situations be addressed. Due to national security matters in crossing the border, it is nearly impossible to offer a blanket letter of approval that would be accepted in moving personnel.

The Board of Trustees hereby informs Synod 2005 that the possibility of obtaining special status for the cross-border movement of personnel is too remote to further pursue at this time.

H. Form of Subscription

Synod 2004 instructed the Board of Trustees to survey the churches concerning the use of the Form of Subscription. The survey was conducted with over 350 congregations responding to the questionnaire. Based on the review of the survey data, the Board of Trustees recommends:

1. That a revised edition of the Form of Subscription be presented to Synod 2006 for consideration and possible adoption,
2. That the proposed revision be drafted by a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees,
3. That the draft of a proposed revision be sent to the churches no later than January 1, 2006, and,
4. That the text of the proposed revision be printed in the *Agenda for Synod 2006*.

Grounds:

- a. The survey conducted among the churches indicates that a substantial number of churches believe that an update is desirable.
- b. The present form of the Form of Subscription contains statements that are subject to misinterpretation.
- c. A more contemporary expression of agreement will make the requirement more meaningful.

I. Convening churches for future synods

1. Synod 2006

The Board of Trustees recommends that synod designate the Sherman Street CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, to be the convening church for Synod 2006.

2. Synod 2007

The Board of Trustees recommends that in observance of the sesquicentennial of the denomination to be celebrated in 2007, synod designate three of the earliest formed congregations in the CRC (i.e., the Graafschap CRC (Holland, MI), the Noordeloos CRC (Holland, MI), and First CRC (Grand Rapids, MI) as the convening churches for Synod 2007.

J. Affiliation Task Force

The Board of Trustees has been made aware that the affiliation process for incoming pastors and congregations whose background is not in the CRC continues to present difficulties for classes and synodical deputies. That is not a new problem, and, some years ago, a committee was appointed to develop a more user-friendly procedure for addressing these concerns. The Affiliation Task Force stopped meeting because it was assumed that the former Alternate Routes to Ministry Study Committee would also address these issues. However, that has proven not to be the case for various reasons. The Board has now decided to reconvene an Affiliation Task Force to complete the work already begun some years ago. The membership of the task force will be finalized by the time synod convenes.

K. Request for extension by the Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism

A request has been received from the synodical study committee for a one-year extension to complete the work on Third Wave Pentecostalism. The original mandate by Synod 2004 instructed the committee to complete its study and report to Synod 2006. The intent of the request is that the committee present its report to Synod 2007. It is recommended that synod grant the extension.

Grounds:

1. Third Wave Pentecostalism is a diverse phenomenon and the initially allotted time did not allow for a fair and considered response to its various facets.
2. A survey of the impact of Third Wave Pentecostalism has recently been sent out to the pastors of the denomination and more time is needed to tabulate and assess the results.

L. Request by the Committee to Study War and Peace

The written report of the synodical Committee to Study War and Peace will be sent to the churches in October 2005. The committee has requested that synod ask each classis to set aside an hour or two at a classis meeting to review and discuss their report and recommendations sometime prior to Synod 2006.

Grounds:

1. In February 2003, the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church sent a letter to the congregations urging prayer, study, and reflection concerning issues of war and peace.

2. In May 2003, the Board of Trustees received, reviewed, and forwarded to Synod 2003 a brief War and Peace Report prepared by an ad hoc committee that summarized the issues that required more in-depth study.
3. In June 2003, synod adopted the recommendations of the Board of Trustees and appointed a committee to explore and reflect on the issues raised by the War and Peace Report and to recommend guidelines and advice for the church.
4. Those guidelines and advice to the church form the basis of our report to Synod 2006. Synod's consideration of these guidelines and advice will be aided and enhanced if the churches first discuss this report in a classis meeting prior to the meeting of Synod 2006.
5. A member(s) of the synodical committee on peace and war stands ready to facilitate classical discussions of this report in the coming year as time and distance and availability allow us to do this. Productive discussions can also be held without the presence of a member of our committee.

II. Program and finance matters

A. *Authorization for power-to-act—The Back to God Hour*

In anticipation of synod's decision to appoint Dr. Calvin L. Bremer to become the executive director of the CRC, the Back to God Hour board will soon initiate a search to fill the vacancy created by that synodical action. The Board of Trustees recommends that when the Back to God Hour board nominates a director, the Board of Trustees be authorized, in addition to making the appointment, to also ratify, on behalf of synod, the appointment made.

B. *A communication to synod in response to Overture 6*

The Board of Trustees has taken note of the overture from Classis Toronto requesting that Synod 2005 revise the decision of Synod 2004 with reference to the title of Executive Director of the CRC and to name it General Secretary of the CRC instead. The Board of Trustees desires to communicate to synod that the rationale advanced by Classis Toronto was fully considered by the succession planning committee, by the Board of Trustees, and by Synod 2004. The overture seeks to reopen a discussion that has already taken place.

The Board reminds synod that the position name change is closely associated with the revised structure that was approved in concept by Synod 2003 and given final approval by Synod 2004. This structural change took the denominational executive functions assigned to the executive director of ministries, and some of the functions of the general secretary, and combined them into a single position. The remaining responsibilities of both the executive director of ministries and the general secretary are being assigned to the position of director of denominational ministries. The conclusion was drawn that the formation of a single executive position, instead of the previous two, should then not be labeled with a name that has long been associated with a different function. The general secretary position has always been representational and advisory. The executive director of ministries position was given executive responsibility. The newly formed executive director of the CRC position embodies the executive authority (obviously not over congregations and classes) and the representational function. Hence, it has been agreed that the title executive director best describes the functions of this position.

The Board of Trustees urges synod to leave the title name as approved by Synod 2004.

C. Encouraging healthy congregations

The Board of Trustees Report in the *Agenda for Synod 2005* (p. 30) informs synod that Appendix B has section IV missing because the BOT wanted further staff work done before submitting the financial part of the report to synod for approval. Section IV is attached to this supplementary report as Appendix A and should be read as part of the BOT printed report, Appendix B (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, pp. 46-52).

D. Stated supply compensation

The Board of Trustees decided to establish stated supply compensation for 2006 as follows: not less than \$465 per week for U.S. churches, and not less than \$480 per week for Canadian churches.

E. Endorsement of Pension Trustees information and recommendations

The Board of Trustees took note of the average salary survey data for 2005 being \$42,090 in the United States and \$45,314 in Canada. Because the *final* average salary used for pension computation is based on a three-year rolling average (2003, 2004, and 2005) the pension computation for persons retiring in 2006 will be based on \$41,333 for U.S.-based service and \$43,810 for Canadian-based service.

The Board of Trustees endorsed the Pension Trustees recommendation that the 2006 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan be set at \$27.84, and the Canadian per-participant assessment be set at \$6,968. Similarly, the 2006 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan be set at \$24.12, and the U.S. per-participant assessment be set at \$5,448.

F. Agency and educational institution budgets and ministry shares

The Board of Trustees, by way of the Ministry Council and the Board's own Budget Review Committee, examined and approved all of the budgets for the agencies and educational institutions for fiscal year 2006 (July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006). The Board also approved the allocation of the projected ministry share receipts for calendar year 2006. Within the total scope of the denomination's ministries, the Board recommends synod's approval of a ministry share for 2006 in the amount of \$270.08 (an increase of 1.5%).

G. Agencies recommended for financial support

1. It is recommended that the following agencies be approved for a three-year renewal period of support (2006-2008).

a. 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) The Facing Your Future program

b) Ministry Incentive program

CRC Foundation

CRC Publications

World Literature Ministries – above-ministry-share needs

Denominational Services – above-ministry-share needs

Ministry Programs:

- Abuse Prevention
- Chaplaincy Ministries
- Committee for Contact with the Government
- Disability Concerns
- Pastor-Church Relations
- Race Relations
 - Above-ministry-share needs
 - Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund
- ServiceLink Canada
- Social Justice and Hunger Action
- Urban Aboriginal Ministries

Home Missions – above-ministry-share needs

World Missions – above-ministry-share needs

World Relief Committee – one offering per quarter because this agency receives no ministry-share support

- b. Denominationally related youth agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Dynamic Youth Ministries

- 1) GEMS
- 2) Calvinist Cadet Corps
- 3) Youth Unlimited/Early Teens

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

Please note that Synod 2002 approved certain revisions to the guidelines for nondenominational agencies and changed the policy from a required annual application and synodical approval to one that requires an application and synodical approval every three years. In the intervening years, synod indicated that agencies were to submit updated financial information and information regarding any significant programmatic changes.

The nondenominational agencies requesting approval all submitted the full range of required tri-annual materials for consideration.

- 1) United States

- a) Benevolent agencies
 - Bethany Christian Services
 - Calvary Rehabilitation Center
 - Cary Christian Center, Inc.
 - Elim Christian Services
 - Hope Haven
 - The Luke Society
 - Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS)
- 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 (through the U.S. Foundation)
Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
Reformed Bible College
Rehoboth Christian School
Roseland Christian School
Trinity Christian College
Worldwide Christian Schools

c) Miscellaneous agencies

Audio Scripture Ministries
Bible League
Crossroad Bible Institute
Friendship Ministries
IN Network
International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher
Education
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (endorsed for local specified
staff support only)
Mission India
Reformed Ecumenical Council
The Tract League
Wycliffe Bible Translators

2) Canada

a) Benevolent agencies

Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc.

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

Bible League – Canada
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
Friendship Groups – Canada
Gideons International – Canada
IN Network
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada
Wycliffe Translators of Canada, Inc.

2. It is recommended that the following newly applying agency be added to the approved list for a three-year period of support (2006-2008):

IDEA Ministries

Ground: IDEA Ministries provides an effective mission and cross-cultural learning experience for its participants.

3. It is recommended that the following previously approved agencies not be approved for inclusion on the approved list:

U.S. benevolent agencies

- a. Christian Health Care Center
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Ground: Both of these institutions used to serve the membership of the CRC from a large geographic area. However, with the changes in mental health care, these organizations have become almost exclusively regional in focus. Financial support may be appropriate from the classes in the region.

- b. International Aid, Inc.

Ground: Originally, International Aid, Inc. focused on providing material support to mission activity, especially in disaster situations. Increasingly, the focus has shifted to one similar to CRWRC and, therefore, falls outside of synodically approved guidelines for remaining an accredited agency.

U.S. educational agencies

- c. Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA

Ground: Originally, Westminster Theological Seminary offered advanced theological programs not available at Calvin Theological Seminary. That is no longer the case and, therefore, falls outside of synodically approved guidelines for remaining an accredited agency.

U.S. miscellaneous agencies

- d. Gideons International – U.S.
Lord's Day Alliance of The United States

Ground: Both of these organizations show financial assets and cash reserves substantially in excess of what synod permits for CRC agencies. The need for financial support appears to be minimal.

Canadian miscellaneous agencies

- e. Work Research Foundation

Ground: The financial viability of this ministry, based on submitted reports, is fragile and diminishing. The BOT did not feel free to recommend its renewal for that reason.

4. It is recommended that the following new application be denied:

The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity

Ground: While this organization is engaged in a worthwhile undertaking, it is the BOT's judgment that this activity falls outside of the synodically approved guidelines for being included as an accredited agency.

H. The denominational salary grid

Hay Associates advises, and the BOT recommends, that Synod 2005 adopt the salary grid as detailed below for use in fiscal year 2005-2006.

Level	2005-2006 Salary Grade and Range Structure					
	Proposed U.S. Range			Proposed Canadian Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$90,268	\$112,835	\$135,402			
19	\$82,128	\$102,660	\$123,192			
18	\$74,575	\$93,219	\$111,863	\$86,268	\$107,835	\$129,403
17	\$68,201	\$85,251	\$102,301	\$75,311	\$94,139	\$112,966
16	\$62,850	\$78,562	\$94,275	\$66,218	\$82,772	\$99,327
15	\$58,346	\$72,932	\$87,519	\$58,607	\$73,258	\$87,910
14	\$51,214	\$64,018	\$76,821	\$52,181	\$65,226	\$78,271
13	\$45,234	\$56,543	\$67,851	\$46,789	\$58,487	\$70,184

I. Acknowledgement of the services of Dr. Peter Borgdorff and Dr. David H.

Engelhard (submitted by the president of the Board of Trustees, Reverend W. Wayne Leys)

It is customary that synodically appointed retiring denominational staff be given the opportunity to address synod on the occasion of their retirement.

1. Retirement of the executive director of ministries

Since 1992, the Christian Reformed Church in North America has been served in a capable, fervent, and outstanding manner by Dr. Peter Borgdorff as executive director of ministries. Synod 2005 is informed by the Board of Trustees of the retirement of our executive director of ministries. When he formally retires in August 2005, he will have served the denomination in local parishes, Home Missions, World Ministries, and as executive director of ministries for thirty-six years.

His work as executive director of ministries has been for all of us a demonstration of the Lord Jesus Christ's blessing to him. We have benefited greatly from his competence in giving direction and counsel to the agencies and institutions of the Christian Reformed Church. With understanding and deeply rooted convictions, he has helped to bring open and truth-filled discussions to build up the church in which he served tirelessly. All who worked with him within the Christian Reformed Church, or in cooperation with the church, commend him for a careful and understanding approach to ministry in North America and the world. His service has been one of availability to and concern for all.

The ministry of our executive director of ministries provides us with ample reason for thanksgiving. The Board of Trustees recommends that Synod 2005 acknowledge the significant contribution of Dr. Peter Borgdorff.

In view of the executive director of ministries' retirement on August 22, 2005, the Board of Trustees recommends that synod confer on Dr. Peter Borgdorff the title of executive director of ministries, emeritus.

2. Completion of tenure as general secretary

Since 1994, Dr. David H. Engelhard has served the Christian Reformed Church of North America as general secretary. His helpful manner of advice and recording for the synods, his careful representing of the church in the ecumenical settings, and his many interactions assisting people to become involved in denominational service have been received with high commendation. With dignity and credibility he has represented the Christian Reformed Church and has communicated our concerns to those who desired to know our perspective for matters within the church and in relationship to the large body of Christ in God's world.

We have all become accustomed to his availability to discuss matters of order whether in the council rooms of our churches, the various floors of classes, or the advisory committees and discussions of synod. His concern for a denomination that knows its identity and expresses biblically well-grounded positions has been obvious and formative.

We are grateful for our general secretary's love for the church and the working of the Lord of the church through his gifts.

With the changing of the denomination's executive structure, we will no longer have the position of general secretary. The Board of Trustees asks synod to recognize with gratitude and joy the contributions of Dr. Engelhard to the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

The Board of Trustees recommends that Synod 2005 confer on Dr. David H. Engelhard the title of general secretary, emeritus.

J. 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 B.

III. Recommendations

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

B. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect a member from Region 6 for the Board of Trustees from the slate of nominees presented (BOT Supplement I, C, 2).

C. That synod receive as information the BOT conclusion concerning cross-border movement of personnel (BOT Supplement I, G).

D. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to the Form of Subscription (BOT Supplement I, H):

1. That a revised edition of the Form of Subscription be presented to Synod 2006 for consideration and possible adoption,
2. That the proposed revision be drafted by a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees,

3. That the draft of a proposed revision be sent to the churches no later than January 1, 2006, and,
4. That the text of the proposed revision be printed in the *Agenda for Synod 2006*.

Grounds:

- a. The survey conducted among the churches indicates that a substantial number of churches believe that an update is desirable.
 - b. The present form of the Form of Subscription contains statements that are subject to misinterpretation.
 - c. A more contemporary expression of agreement will make the requirement more meaningful.
- E. That synod designate Sherman Street CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, as the convening church for Synod 2006 (BOT Supplement I, I).
- F. That synod designate the Graafschap CRC (Holland, MI), the Noorderloos CRC (Holland, MI), and First CRC (Grand Rapids, MI) as the convening churches for Synod 2007 (BOT Supplement I, I).
- G. That synod grant the synodical Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism a one-year extension (BOT Supplement I, I).

Grounds:

1. Third Wave Pentecostalism is a diverse phenomenon and the initially allotted time did not allow for a fair and considered response to its various facets.
 2. A survey of the impact of Third Wave Pentecostalism has recently been sent out to the pastors of the denomination and more time is needed to tabulate and assess the results.
- H. That synod recommend that classes set aside time at a classis meeting to review and discuss the report of the Committee to Study War and Peace (BOT Supplement I, L).

Grounds:

1. In February 2003, the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church sent a letter to the congregations urging prayer, study, and reflection concerning issues of war and peace.
2. In May 2003, the Board of Trustees received, reviewed, and forwarded to Synod 2003 a brief War and Peace Report prepared by an ad hoc committee which summarized the issues that required more in-depth study.
3. In June 2003, synod adopted the recommendations of the Board of Trustees and appointed a committee to explore and reflect on the issues raised by the War and Peace Report and to recommend guidelines and advice for the church.
4. Those guidelines and advice to the church form the basis of our report to Synod 2006. Synod's consideration of these guidelines and advice will be aided and enhanced if the churches first discuss this report in a classis meeting prior to the meeting of Synod 2006.
5. A member(s) of the synodical Committee to Study War and Peace stands ready to facilitate classical discussions of this report in the coming year

as time and distance and availability allow us to do this. Productive discussions can also be held without the presence of a member of our committee.

I. That synod authorize the BOT to ratify the appointment of a director for the Back to God Hour (BOT Supplement II, A).

J. That synod receive as information the communication from the BOT in response to Overture 6 (BOT Supplement II, B).

K. That synod adopt the following recommendations regarding assistance in the development of healthy congregations (BOT Supplement II, C and Appendix A):

1. That Synod 2005 authorize the establishment of a need-based bridge-funding assistance initiative to encourage and assist smaller congregations in a process of revitalization and renewal.
2. That Synod 2005 endorse the provision that such bridge-funding is for assisting a congregation that commits to a process of renewal and revitalization:
 - a. In adequately providing for insurance and pension benefits for the first or only minister of the Word, and/or
 - b. For encouraging ministry program grants.
3. That Synod 2005 approve a supplementary ministry share amount of ten dollars (\$10) to assure the funding of this initiative as well as request the CRC Foundation to solicit funds for this initiative.

Grounds:

- a. Recommending a funding stream for this proposal is advanced in direct response to a decision of Synod 2003.
- b. A ministry share funding stream is the most secure way to implement the concern of synod for assisting the development of healthy congregations in need of temporary financial assistance.
- c. It is appropriate that funding for this proposal be provided by the whole church as a meaningful expression of the covenant underlying our denominational relationships.

Note: The BOT will oversee the formulation and administration of the policies governing the bridge-financing plan and distribution of funds.

L. That synod receive as information the decision of the BOT with reference to stated supply compensation for 2006 (BOT Supplement II, D).

M. That synod receive as information the BOT's confirmation of the matters presented by the Pension Trustees (BOT Supplement II, E).

N. That synod receive the agencies and institutional budgets as information and approve a ministry share of \$270.08 for calendar year 2006 (BOT Supplement II, F).

O. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list (BOT Supplement II, G):

1. That synod approve the list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for the agencies and institutions of the CRC and recommend these to the churches for consideration.
2. That synod approve the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have renewed their application and are recommended for 2006-2008 accreditation.
3. That synod approve the request that IDEA Ministries be included on the list of nondenominational recommended causes in the United States.

Ground: IDEA Ministries provides an effective mission and cross-cultural learning experience for its participants.

4. That synod not approve the following previously approved agencies for inclusion on the approved list of nondenominational agencies:

U.S. benevolent agencies

- a. Christian Health Care Center
Pine Rest Christian Mental health Services

Ground: Both of these institutions used to serve the membership of the CRC from a large geographic area. However, with the changes in mental health care these organizations have become almost exclusively regional in focus. Financial support may be appropriate from the classes in the region.

- b. International Aid, Inc.

Ground: Originally, International Aid, Inc. focused on providing material support to mission activity, especially in disaster situations. Increasingly, the focus has shifted to one similar to CRWRC and, therefore, falls outside of synodically approved guidelines for remaining an accredited agency.

U.S. educational agencies

- c. Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA

Ground: Originally, Westminster Theological Seminary offered advanced theological programs not available at Calvin Theological Seminary. That is no longer the case and, therefore, falls outside of synodically approved guidelines for remaining an accredited agency.

U.S. miscellaneous agencies

- d. Gideons International – U.S.
Lord's Day Alliance of The United States

Ground: Both of these organizations show financial assets and cash reserves substantially in excess of what synod permits for CRC agencies. The need for financial support appears to be minimal.

Canadian miscellaneous agencies

e. Work Research Foundation

Ground: The financial viability of this ministry, based on submitted reports, is fragile and diminishing. The BOT did not feel free to recommend its renewal for that reason.

5. That synod deny the following new request for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies:

The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity

Ground: While this organization is engaged in a worthwhile undertaking, it is the BOT's judgment that this activity falls outside of the synodically approved guidelines for being included as an accredited agency.

P. That synod adopt the denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (BOT Supplement section II, H).

Q. That synod note the communication of the BOT with reference to Dr. David H. Engelhard and Dr. Peter Borgdorff (BOT Supplement II, I).

R. That synod confer on Dr. Peter Borgdorff the title of executive director of ministries, emeritus (BOT Supplement II, I, 1).

S. That synod 205 confer on Dr. David H. Engelhard the title of general secretary, emeritus (BOT Supplement II, I, 2).

Board of Trustees of the
Christian Reformed Church in North America
Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries

Appendix A

Encouraging Healthy Congregations (continuation of Board of Trustees Report, Appendix B, *Agenda for Synod 2005*, pp. 46-52)

IV. Proposal for helping needy and smaller churches

Synod 2003 instructed the CRCNA Board of Trustees to propose a funding stream to support the ministries of smaller or needy congregations that do not qualify for assistance available through Christian Reformed Home Missions. Among the grounds given for this action were:

- There are those ministries that reflect the presence of God in high-need areas where most CRC congregations cannot effectively minister. Such ministries deserve a broader base of support than can be generated locally.
- Special provision must be made for the financial support of quality ministries in the light of denominational priorities.

The best way that small and needy congregations can be assisted is to encourage them to participate in a process that leads to revitalization and renewal and that would help equip them to be ministering agents in the communities where God has placed them. Recognizing that need, the Board of Trustees has approved a pilot project to place such training resources within

the regions of the denomination by appointing Congregational Advocates who will be available to churches for training and assistance. The advocate will work with the local church to review the avenues open to them to begin a process of renewal and revitalization that can lead to the long-term vitality and health of a congregation. These efforts will include various resources that are available through Home Missions as well as other agencies of the CRC, and could also include resources from outside the CRC that are more suitable to the local congregation's circumstances.

There will, no doubt, be a delay from the time a church commits to a process of revitalization and renewal to an actual fruit-bearing ministry that offers hope for sustainability. This proposal provides an avenue of assistance through bridge-financing to support a participating congregation that has made a commitment to developing a comprehensive renewal strategy until such a time that a revitalization plan is implemented and bears fruit. It is recognized that this delay should not, and cannot be, for an indefinite period. The length of time such support is appropriate will have to be judged on an individual basis.

Important components in any revitalization strategy, besides the spiritual vitality of the membership, are the competency, morale, and vision of the leadership. The biggest single expense an economically challenged and/or smaller congregation faces is the support of a minister of the Word. Health care insurance coverage and full contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund, which combined can total in excess of \$15,000 annually, are two investments often missing from the pay package. Covering a significant portion of these two compensation expenses would be an important benefit to the minister and, perhaps, create a more stable environment for the church as a whole while it is in the process of revitalization and renewal. It is suggested that, if funding can be made available, the level of annual bridge-support cover up to two-thirds of the cost of providing health care coverage and pension benefit to the first or only minister to a maximum of \$10,000 per participating church. In addition, and again depending on funding availability, additional ministry program encouragement grants might be considered if a congregation commits to, and is actively engaged in a process of renewal and revitalization. Such additional ministry program grants could also be capped at up to \$10,000 per participating church. If up to two hundred congregations request special help, this could require approximately \$3-4 million in annual payments. However, the stipulation that the congregation and Congregational Advocate agree to participation in a revitalization effort will likely reduce the pace and length of time congregations would receive such funding. In any event, a congregation would qualify for assistance from only one of the funding sources (e.g., either Home Missions, another agency, or the Denominational Offices).

It has to be acknowledged that the Additional Assistance for Smaller Churches grants available through Home Missions include a segment very similar to this bridge-funding recommendation. It is noted that the Home Missions assistance plans are more restrictive in that the receiving congregation is required to be working in concert with Home Missions' programs and initiatives. It is the intent of this new bridge-funding proposal that Home Missions would modify its policies to continue in a relationship with congregations that have completed the redevelopment process and/or are in need of further assistance following the cessation of the funding proposed above, or

even following the cessation of other funding received even if that funding was provided by Home Missions (i.e., new church development funding after organization).

The source of funding for the Congregational Advocate initiative as approved by the Board of Trustees at its February 2005 meeting, as well as the bridge-financing herewith proposed, are among the bigger challenges we presently face. Relying on an additional ministry share approval would place an increased burden on a funding system that is already stretched. Taking the needed funding from existing ministry share allocations would significantly reduce the funding of present ministry share funded ministries and programs. Without an adequate funding provision, however, any new initiative is "dead on arrival."

The only viable option that seems feasible is that the funding for this be requested from the CRC Foundation through a special \$4 million fund-raising initiative. The administration of the funding would be handled through the Denominational Offices with specific grants approved by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the Ministries Council. The proposed Congregational Advocates would be integral to the recommendation and approval of specific grants.

Recommendations:

1. That Synod 2005 authorize the establishment of a need-based, bridge-funding assistance initiative to encourage and assist smaller congregations in a process of revitalization and renewal.
2. That Synod 2005 endorse the provision that such bridge-funding is for assisting a congregation that commits to a process of renewal and revitalization:
 - a. In adequately providing for insurance and pension benefits for the first or only minister of the Word, and/or
 - b. For encouraging ministry program grants.
3. That Synod 2005 approve a supplementary ministry share amount of ten dollars (\$10) to assure the funding of this initiative as well as request the CRC Foundation to solicit funds for this initiative.

Grounds:

- a. Recommending a funding stream for this proposal is advanced in direct response to a decision of Synod 2003.
- b. A ministry share funding stream is the most secure way to implement the concern of synod for assisting the development of healthy congregations in need of temporary financial assistance.
- c. It is appropriate that funding for this proposal be provided by the whole church as a meaningful expression of the covenant underlying our denominational relationships.

Note: The BOT will oversee the formulation and administration of the policies governing the bridge-financing plan and distribution of funds.

Appendix B

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, 2004, 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, 2004

	The Back to God Hour	Calvin College	Calvin Seminary	CRCPublications	Denominational Services	CRCC Foundation
Categories Specified by Investment Policy:						
SHORT TERM						
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS						
Cash	\$ 51,246	\$ 88,336	\$ 33,896	\$ 92,765	\$ 496,650	\$ 60,092
Money-market mutual funds	1,231,240	10,502,229	1,378,280	1,268,053	2,338,992	612,554
Certificates of deposit	48,925	100,686	539	4,922	1,194,554	2,378
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES						
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	1,380,992	-	-	-	-	-
Other short term	-	-	-	-	-	-
FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)						
	3,059,010	-	-	1,444,487	-	224,106
COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS						
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	95,010	2,767,961	16,128,138	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	11,376 (3)	100,407,570	-	-	-	-
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)						
US treasuries or Canadian govt bonds	-	3,156,179	-	-	6,377,490 (9)	-
Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	-	3,315,341 (9)	-
Bond mutual funds	-	13,884,207	-	-	(9,723,233) (9)	-
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interagency Investments (Obligations):						
Loans to CRONA (Denom. Services)	-	-	-	147,408	(966,000)	71,208
Other Investments:						
Private equity fund	-	4,844,309 (4)	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	291,084 (5)	106,697 (6)	208,646 (5)	-	-	3,792 (5)
Notes receivable	-	598,951 (6)	-	-	-	-
Common stock—non-listed	-	287,175 (7)	-	-	-	-
Real estate (nonoperating)	6,000 (8)	241,500 (8)	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 6,174,873	\$ 136,966,000	\$ 17,749,481	\$ 2,957,655	\$ 3,033,793	\$ 974,130

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, 2004

	Fund for Smaller Churches		Home Missions	Loan Fund	World Missions	World Relief
Categories Specified by Investment Policy:						
SHORT TERM						
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS						
Cash	\$ 586,431	\$ 605,439	\$ 252,657	\$ 1,050,657	\$ 2,694,943	
Money-market mutual funds	262,112	4,303,042	5,846,486	2,942,433	1,242,671	
Certificates of deposit	911	16,702	20,330	10,674	8,893	
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES						
Foundation Liquidity Fund (1)	-	1,260,821	-	-	18,711	
Other short term	-	-	-	-	-	
FOUNDATION BALANCED FUND (2)						
	-	4,592,610	-	2,226,079	978,800	
COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS						
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-	-	
Equity mutual funds	-	-	-	217,880	43,077	
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)						
US treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	-	-	-	-	-	
Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	-	-	
Bond mutual funds	-	-	-	195,615	(3)	
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-	-	
Interagency Investments (Obligations):						
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	-	475,701	-	127,226	144,457	
Other investments:						
Private equity fund	-	-	-	-	-	
Partnerships	-	-	-	-	-	
Land contracts	-	-	-	-	-	
Life insurance cash value	-	-	-	-	22,282	
Notes receivable	-	53,343	(6)	5,530	(6)	
Common stock—nonlisted	-	-	-	-	5,530	
Real estate (nonoperating)	-	42,967	-	-	(8)	
Total	\$ 849,454	\$ 11,370,615	\$ 6,119,473	\$ 6,776,094	\$ 5,159,294	

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

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

Benefit Plans

As of December 31, 2004

	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 \$
\$ - \$	-	3,745,317	96,904	1,611,376	161,314	1,706,574	114,896	118,665
5,604,811	-	-	-	-	82,079	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9,347,389	-	65,291,248	-	-	1,405,171	14,192,059	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	406,462	-	-	-
2,218,504	-	25,708,081	-	2,838,990	151,623	9,100,825	-	-
\$ 17,370,704	\$ 94,744,646	\$ 96,904	\$ 4,450,366	\$ 2,206,669	\$ 24,999,458	\$ 114,896	\$ 118,665	

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
Diversified 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

Total

Footnotes to the December 31, 2004, Investment Summary

1. Foundation pooled/unitized fixed income account for agencies.
2. Foundation pooled/unitized balanced account (fixed income 59%, equities 41%) for agencies.
3. Donated mutual funds.
4. Interest in private equity funds, including unrealized gains and reinvestments.
5. Cash value of life insurance contracts received as gifts.
6. Includes promissory notes received in the sale of real estate and land received as a gift and notes outstanding on a life insurance policy.
7. Includes investment in Creative Dining Services, owned jointly with Hope College.
8. Real estate received as a gift.
9. 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

The Back to God Hour Supplement

The Back to God Hour recommends the following names to synod for ratification of a second three-year term:

Region 2

Mrs. Rose Olthuis (incumbent) is a homemaker and therapist. A member of Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church, she has served on various church committees and currently serves as the Back to God Hour church representative and regional representative for the Alberta area.

Region 5

Rev. Mark Van Haitsma (incumbent) is pastor of the Olympia, Washington, Christian Reformed Church. Previously he served the Christian Reformed Church in Paw Paw, Michigan. He has had extensive experience in the local church.

Region 7

Mr. Henry W. Rottschafer (incumbent) of Farmington, New Mexico, is a member of Maranatha Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. He is a funeral director who has served several terms on his local church council.

The following slates of names were presented to classes in their respective regions for vote at the spring classis meeting:

Region 10 (three-year term)

Rev. Marvin Hofman of Holland, Michigan, is pastor of Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church in Holland. Previously he served churches in Raymond, Minnesota, and Graafschaap, Michigan. He has served as a board member for CRC World Missions and Dordt College.

Rev. Keith Mannes of Marion, Michigan, is pastor of Highland Christian Reformed Church in Marion, Michigan. Previously he served churches in Muskegon, Michigan, and Orlando, Florida. He serves on the classical Home Missions committee. Rev. Mannes has written articles for *The Banner* and for the *Today* devotional.

Region 10 (three-year term)

Mrs. Carol De Mots Woltjer, a retired school social worker, is a member of Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church in Jenison, Michigan. Mrs. De Mots Woltjer has served the denomination and Calvin College on various committees and boards. She serves on the Classis Georgetown student loan committee and chairs the Ridgewood CRC stewardship life committee.

Mrs. Marilyn Greenway of Manton, Michigan, is a member of Lake City Christian Reformed Church. She is a homemaker who has served on various church and Christian school committees in the Northern Michigan area.

Region 11 (three-year term)

Mr. Martin V. Cunningham of Grove City, Ohio, is a member of Olentangy Christian Reformed Church in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Cunningham holds degrees in agricultural mechanization and agricultural economics from Ohio State University. He has served on many local church and classical committees and was a delegate to synod in 2004.

Mr. Arnold Morren of Grandville, Michigan, is a member of South Grandville Christian Reformed Church, where he has served as elder and deacon. He has served on Christian School boards and the Calvin College board and is currently serving on the Calvin Christian School Foundation board. He was graduated from Calvin College and received an MBA from the University of Michigan. He is president of Nagel Construction.

The Back to God Hour

Calvin L. Bremer, executive director

I. Introduction

The Calvin College Board of Trustees met May 19-21, 2005, and presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the college.

At this meeting, a dinner was held honoring retiring trustees, retiring faculty and staff, and three distinguished alumni, Mr. Ed and Mrs. Carol Bos, and Mr. Richard Katte. The board interviewed four faculty members, two for reappointment, and two for tenure, and ratified a new chair and a new institute as well as a number of faculty and administrative appointments. The board also attended commencement, which honored 887 graduates of Calvin College. The Commencement speaker was President George W. Bush.

II. Faculty matters

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

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

C. *Administrative reappointments*

The college made the following administrative appointments and reappointments:

1. Karen E. Saupe, Ph.D., co-director of the Writing Program (three years, partial load)
2. Joel A. Carpenter, Ph.D., director of the Institute for the Study of World Christianity (effective January 1, 2006, three and a half years)
3. Lee P. Hardy, Ph.D., coordinator of the Developing a Christian Mind (DCM) program (effective September 1, 2005, three years)
4. Dirk J. Pruis, M.B.A., vice president for advancement (effective August 1, 2005, for two years)

III. Election of college trustees

A. *Regional trustees* (see Recommendations IV, C, 1)

The terms of Mrs. Carol Bremer-Bennett and Mr. Robert Koole expire in 2005, and an alternate is needed to fill a vacancy in Region 9. The following slates of nominees were submitted to the respective regions for vote. The results of those elections will be ratified at Synod 2005.

1. Regions 1 & 2 (Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, Lake Superior [Canadian], British Columbia NW, British Columbia SE)

Rev. Christopher Fluit; B.A., Calvin College; M.Div., Calvin Seminary

Rev. Fluit has lived in Ontario and Alberta, Canada, as well as in California and Michigan. He is pastor of Brooks (Alberta) CRC where he is chair of council and a member of several church and community boards. Rev. Fluit has previously served on the Calvin Theatre Company board, the Church of the Servant (Grand Rapids) youth ministry team, and as clerk of council at Faith Christian Fellowship in Walnut Creek, California. He and his wife have two young children.

Dr. Alyce Oosterhuis; B.A., Calvin College, M.A., Michigan State University, M.Ed., Ph.D, University of Alberta

Dr. Oosterhuis is professor emerita at King's University College. She has served previously on numerous boards and committees including as program coordinator for the Association of Independent Schools in Alberta, board member of the Pastoral Care Institute of Edmonton, chair of St. Stephen's Doctoral Ministry Committee, and chair of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education. Dr. Oosterhuis has also been a board member and secretary for Christian Schools International (CSI) and the CSI District II director. She is a member of West End CRC where she currently serves as chair of the pastoral search committee. She also has served as a senator for the Institute of Christian Studies since 1996.

2. Region 7 (Arizona, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain)

Dr. Mary Poel Kruis; B.A., Dordt College; M.D., University of Michigan

Dr. Poel Kruis is a pediatrician by specialty and currently serves as vice president for Medical Affairs at Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Services in Gallup, New Mexico. She previously has served as a board member at Rehoboth Christian School and at Dordt College. Her current activities include membership on the Rehoboth Christian High School board; the Nursing Advisory Committee for the University of New Mexico, Gallup, and on the Education Committee of the New Mexico Pediatric Society. Dr. Poel Kruis is currently completing her term as a deacon at Bethany CRC in Gallup. One of her sons is a graduate of Calvin and now serves on the staff, while her two remaining sons are current Calvin students.

Dr. Philip Kamps; B.A., Calvin College; M.D., Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Kamps is an OB/GYN physician at the Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital in Gallup, New Mexico. He has served his church, Rehoboth CRC, as a deacon and an elder and was a delegate to Synod 1995, representing Classis Red Mesa. He has served on the executive committee of the New Mexico Medical Review Society and as a delegate to the New Mexico Medical Society. He currently serves on the finance committee for the Board of Trustees of Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital and as chief of staff-elect.

3. Region 9 (Chicago South, Illiana, Northern Illinois, Wisconsin), alternate position only

Mr. Gary Meyer; B.A., Calvin College; M.A., Loyola University

Mr. Meyer is retired and served for forty-two years as a teacher of English at Chicago Christian High School in Palos Heights, Illinois. He is currently serving his third term as an elder at Hope CRC where he is also the editor of the church newsletter. He has served for over thirty years on the Chicagoland Calvin Alumni Board, as chair of the Hope CRC Pastoral Search Committee, as well as three terms on the Christian Educators Planning Committee (one term as chair). Mr. Meyer currently spends his time volunteering at the Christian School Thrift Store, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Shakespeare Theatre. He and his wife, Beverly, and their daughters, are graduates of Calvin.

Mr. Perry Recker; M.Phil., Institute for Christian Studies; M.L.S., University of Pittsburgh

Mr. Recker is a librarian for Saint Xavier University and has served as librarian at Trinity Christian College. He was a founding board member of the Pittsburgh Urban Christian School and has served as an elder at the Friendship Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. He is currently a member of Pullman CRC in Chicago and has served as an elder and as cochair of the classical committee on Race Relations for Classis Chicago South. He has a heart for both Christian higher education and for racial reconciliation and has represented these issues to classis in various ways.

B. Alumni trustees (see Recommendations IV, C, 2)

The board recommends Mr. Ronald E. Baylor for a three-year term to replace Mrs. Connie Brummel, retiring alumni trustee. The board also recommends Ms. Ruth J. Vis to fill the uncompleted term of alumni trustee, Mr. Dirk J. Pruis.

Mr. Ronald E. Baylor was graduated with a B.A. from Calvin in 1977 and completed his J.D. cum laude at Wayne State University. He has practiced law for twenty-five years and has been a partner at Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, P.L.C., in Kalamazoo, Michigan, for eighteen years, primarily in the areas of Environmental and Regulatory Law and in Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution. Mr. Baylor is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan, the Kalamazoo County Bar, and the Defense Research Institute. He is named in *Best Lawyers in America* for Environmental Law 2005-2006. His church and community service includes the boards of Junior Achievement, Second Impressions Thrift Store, the Calvin Alumni Association (president 2001-2002), Kalamazoo Christian Schools, Chamber of Commerce, Pine Rest Counseling Center, Friends of Kal-Haven Trail, Inc., and the Statewide Public Advisory Council of Michigan (Great Lakes Areas of Concern). Mr. Baylor's wife, Mary, is a 1978 Calvin graduate. They are active members of Third Christian Reformed Church, and their three daughters chose a Calvin education with one a 2004 graduate, one a 2005 graduate, and one a current student.

Ms. Ruth J. Vis is a 1976 Calvin graduate with a B.A. in secondary music education and history. Ms. Vis taught English and choral music for one year in Ontario, California. Since 1977, she has served in various capacities for BankOne, initially in the audit division. She consistently moved up through the ranks and currently serves as BankOne's corporate grantmaker and public affairs officer in West Michigan. Her service for Calvin includes membership in the Calvin Alumni Choir, on the Calvin Around Town Committee, and Calvin's Discovery Club Fellowship program for precollege students. Ms. Vis is currently vice-chair of the Home Repair Services board and a member of the Public Relations Society of America. She has also served on the board of the Grand Rapids Calvin Alumni Chapter, East Grand Rapids Aquatics, and the Grand Rapids Symphony Volunteer Association. Ms. Vis and her husband, David ('79), have a son and a daughter and are members of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church.

C. *At-large trustees* (see Recommendations IV, C, 3)

1. At-large trustees Mr. David Vander Ploeg and Mrs. Janice Van Dyke-Zeilstra have completed their first terms. The board recommends them for a second three-year terms.

Mr. David Vander Ploeg received a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. in 1961. Mr. Vander Ploeg retired in 2001 as the executive director of the Barnabas Foundation, a position he assumed in 1993. He served as executive director of The Back to God Hour from 1988-1993 after a long career in law, specializing in business and estate planning. He and his wife, Sheryl, are lifelong members of the Christian Reformed Church, and he has served as a deacon, elder, and a delegate to synod. They are currently members of the St. Joseph Christian Reformed Church. Their three children are graduates of Calvin College. He currently serves the Calvin board as chair of the Trusteeship Committee.

Mrs. Janice Van Dyke-Zeilstra graduated from Calvin with a B.A. in 1970. Mrs. Van Dyke-Zeilstra is a member of the Elmhurst (Illinois) Christian Reformed Church where she has served as director of the Coffee Break program. She is CEO of Darwill and has served as a past member of Lombard CRC, on the boards of Timothy Christian School, Elim Christian School, Lombard Christian Reformed Church, the Barnabas Foundation, and as cochair of the Timothy Christian Schools Capital Campaign. Her community service includes membership in the University of Illinois Family Business Council where she serves on the Strategic Planning Committee. Prior to her appointment to the Board of Trustees in 2002, she served two terms as an alternate regional trustee for Region 9 for the Calvin College Board. She currently serves on the Enrollment and External Relations Committee of the Calvin board as an at-large board member. Two sons, two daughters-in-law, three step-children, and one son-in-law are all Calvin graduates.

2. Mr. Stephen Chong and Ms. Cynthia Veenstra have completed their second three-year terms and each is eligible for a third. The board recommends each for a third term.

Mr. Stephen Chong was graduated from Calvin in 1979 and Ohio State University with a J.D. in 1982. He is a partner in Nardella Chong, P.A. law firm in Altamonte Springs, Florida. His specialties include Real Estate, Probate and Estates, and litigation in commercial cases. Mr. Chong has published in real estate journals and given presentations at a number of symposiums and bar associations. He was a member of the Calvin Alumni Board from 1991-1994, and represented the alumni on the Presidential Search Committee. He and his wife, Sheryl, have five children and are members of the Lake Sherwood Presbyterian Church, where he has served as an elder since 1986.

Ms. Cynthia Veenstra serves as director of The EXODUS Network, a nationwide realtor referral network that prescreens, evaluates, and recommends realtors who are specialists in real estate and Christian community information. Trained as an elementary education teacher, Ms. Veenstra taught preschool and first grade in Christian schools in the West Michigan area. She was a CRWM volunteer in Bacolod City, The Philippines, for five years. She is involved in many volunteer organizations, including service as

secretary of the Calvin College Alumni Board. She and her husband, David, are members of the Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Kalamazoo.

3. The board recommends Ms. Michelle Van Valkenburg Van Dyke for a first term.

Ms. Michelle Van Valkenburg Van Dyke was graduated from Calvin with a B.A. in 1985. She joined Old Kent Banking as an intern in operations just prior to her Calvin graduation. She has since advanced into management, being appointed as an assistant vice president in 1992. In 1997, she was appointed President of Old Kent Mortgage Company. Ms. Van Dyke later served as executive vice president of Fifth Third Bank Western Michigan, and in June 2004, was appointed president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank, Western Michigan. She serves on a number of local boards including Davenport University, Spectrum Health Hospitals, and Downtown Development Authority. She currently is cochairing the \$16.3 million capital campaign for the new David D. Hunting YMCA and is involved in fund-raising for the American Cancer Society. Ms. Van Dyke and her husband, Michael, have four children and are active members of Ada Christian Reformed Church.

IV. Recommendations

A. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the chair of the board, Mr. Milt Kuyers; the vice chair of the board, Mr. Bastian Knoppers; 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:

Carl J. Huisman, M.F.A., professor of art, emeritus
Derald D. De Young, Ph.D., professor of music, emeritus
James J. MacKenzie, Ph.D., director of student academic services,
emeritus

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

Garth E. Pauley, Ph.D. *associate professor* of communication arts and sciences

C. That synod ratify the following appointments to the board (terms to begin and end on the convening date of the first full board meeting following the meeting of synod; names in *italics* indicate initial appointments):

1. Regional trustees

Regions 1 & 2

Dr. Alyce Oosterhuis, regular *Rev. Christopher Fluit*, alternate 2008

Region 7

Dr. Mary Poel Kruis, regular *Dr. Philip Kamps*, alternate 2008

Region 9

Mr. Gary Meyer, alternate 2008

2. Alumni trustees

Ms. Ruth J. Vis 2006

Mr. Ronald E. Baylor 2008

3. At-large trustee

Mrs. Michelle Van Valkenburg Van Dyke, first term 2008

Calvin College Board of Trustees

Cynthia Rozendal Veenstra, secretary

This report includes actions and recommendations of the seminary board of trustees from its May 19-20, 2005, meetings.

I. Information

A. Board of Trustees

The trustees, at their meeting on May 20, 2005, elected the following officers for 2005-2006: Mr. Sidney J. Jansma, Jr., President; Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis, Vice President; and Rev. Ruth Hofman, Secretary.

B. Graduates, licentiates, candidates

Sixty-seven students were graduated from our degree programs on May 21, 2005, and nine 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-four new candidacy applicants recommended by the faculty (see Recommendations III, B).

Five candidates from previous years, Mrs. Beth Guikema Bode, Mr. Rob Datema, Mrs. Wendy T. Fisher, Mrs. Carol Muller, and Mr. Winston Visser, each requested an extension of candidacy. The board so recommends to synod (see Recommendations III, C).

Forty-six students were granted either regular or temporary licensure to exhort.

C. Finances

The budget of \$6,026,620 was approved as presented for 2005-2006.

D. Associate professor of church education

The Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary includes the curriculum vitae of Dr. Darwin Glassford (Appendix) with regard to its recommendation to appoint him to the faculty position of associate professor of church education (see Recommendation D, Agenda for Synod 2005, p. 128).

II. Follow-up regarding communication to Synod 2004

A. Background

The Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees submitted a communication (*Acts of Synod 2004*, pp. 484-85) to Synod 2004 in which it pointed out the long-standing denominational value of strong interdependence of seminary and church and asked synod to "affirm this long-standing denominational value and address the implications of this value for future financial support of the seminary."

Synod 2004 adopted a motion "that synod refer the concern expressed by Calvin Theological Seminary to the Board of Trustees for consideration in connection with the budgeting process" (*Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 627).

At its February 24-25, 2005, meeting, the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA adopted the following resolution:

The Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees submitted a communication to Synod 2004 in which it points out the long-standing denominational value of strong interdependence of seminary and church, and asked synod to "affirm this

long-standing denominational value and address the implications of this value for future financial support of the seminary.”

A motion carries that the following response of the BOT be the response to the seminary’s communication to Synod 2004. Furthermore, that Calvin Theological Seminary’s communication and this BOT statement of affirmation and commitment to the seminary be forwarded to the budget review process “for its consideration in connection with the budgeting process.”

The Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church judges that the actions of Synod 2004 in response to the Alternate Routes to Ministry report as well as to the seminary’s communication constitute a strong endorsement of Calvin Theological Seminary as the denomination’s seminary and of the long-standing denominational value of strong interdependence of the seminary and the CRC. Among the actions of Synod 2004 that constitute this strong endorsement are: (1) its rejection of the alternate seminaries proposals, (2) its adoption of Calvin Seminary’s Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC), and (3) its adoption of a modified Synodical Ministry Candidacy Committee (SMCC) that is very closely aligned with, and dependent upon, Calvin Theological Seminary for the accomplishment of its mandate. While an affirmation of the interdependence of Calvin Seminary and the CRC assumes and entails financial commitments and priorities to CTS by the denomination, the exact amount and degree of a financial commitment cannot be further stipulated but must be determined alongside other denominational commitments and priorities.

(BOT Minute 2975)

B. Communication to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA

The seminary board authorized that the following communication be forwarded to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA:

The Board of Trustees of Calvin Theological Seminary expresses its gratitude to the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church for its strong affirmation of Calvin Theological Seminary and for the strong relationship between the seminary and the Christian Reformed Church. It further thanks the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church for the strong statement of support in the report of its Budget Review Team. The seminary pledges itself to continued loyalty to and strong leadership in the Christian Reformed Church.

III. Recommendations

A. That synod ratify the reappointment of Rev. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., as President of Calvin Theological Seminary with indefinite tenure.

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

Bryan D. Berghoef
Kenneth R. Bieber, Jr.
Mary L. Bosch
Ruth (Hoekwater) Boven
Ryan W. Braam
Daniel G. Brown
Michael A. Bruinooge
Jaclyn D. Guikema Busch

Steven J. deBoer
Heidi S. (Petersen) De Jonge
Paul J. Droogers
Ryan Faber
Stanley J. Groothof
Kyle E. Haack
Patrick A. Hennen
Charles M. Hong

Benjamin Hulst
Zachary King
Mark Klompfen
Kenneth T. Krause
Nathan F. Kuperus
David P. Loew
Christopher B. Pool
Mark C. Roeda
Paul S. Ryan
Steven L. Schulz
Jeffery W. Scripps

Sharon Segaar-King
J. Greg Sinclair
Benjamin W. Van Arragon
Norlyn J. Van Beek
Douglas J. VandeKamp
H. John Vanderburgh
Duane E. Vanderlaan
Lisa R. Vander Leek
Kenneth J. Vanderploeg
Aaron J. Vriesman
Willemina L. Zwart

C. That Mr. Robert Datema, Mrs. Wendy T. Fisher, Mrs. Beth Guikema Bode, Mrs. Carol Muller, and Mr. Winston Visser be granted a one-year extension of their candidacy.

D. That synod acknowledge with gratitude to God the years of faithful service of Dr. Robert C. De Vries and confer upon him the title of Professor of Church Education, Emeritus, effective July 1, 2005.

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
Ruth Hofman, Secretary

Appendix Curriculum Vitae

Darwin K. Glassford

EDUCATION

- D.Min. Christianity and Culture, Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, January 2001. Dissertation: *The Interface of Christianity and Technology*.
- Ph.D. Educational Foundations with minors in counseling and theology, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, May 1991. Dissertation: *The Reformed Understanding of the Kingdom of God as a Paradigm for Formulating and Evaluating Educational Programs*.
- M.Div. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL, May 1984.
- M.A. Educational Ministries (Camp Ministries), Wheaton Graduate School, High Honors, Wheaton, IL, August 1981.
- B.A. Biblical Literature, Taylor University, Cum Laude, Upland, IN, May 1980.
- A.S. Montreat-Anderson College [Montreat College], Montreat, NC, May 1978.
- Additional Graduate Study: Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

5/04-present

Professor of Bible and Christian Education, and Chair of the Biblical, Religious and Interdisciplinary Studies Department, Montreat College, Montreat, NC.

6/94-5/04

Assistant Academic Dean (appointed August 2002), Associate Professor of Bible and Christian Education, and Chair of the Department of Biblical, Religious and Interdisciplinary Studies (1992-present), Montreat College, Montreat, NC.

8/89-5/94

Assistant Professor of Bible, Christian Ministries, and Greek, Montreat-Anderson College [Montreat College], Montreat, NC. Other responsibilities included serving as the coordinator of the Human Services and Cultural Studies program, Co-Director of the Blue Ridge Youth Ministry Resource Center, and Advisor to the Student Christian Association (8/89-12/92).

1/89-7/89

Assistant Minister of Youth and Education, Christ Church, Grand Rapids, MI.

9/88-12/88

Teaching Assistant to Drs. Adrian Dupuis, John Ivanoff, and Carl Thom, School of Education, Marquette University.

2/88-7/88

Administrative Consultant to the PCA of Milwaukee.

9/87-6/88

Research Assistant to Drs. John Ivanoff, Ron Zaffrann, and John Augenstein, School of Education, Marquette University.

6/87

Teaching Assistant in Philosophical Foundations of Education, School of Education, Marquette University.

10/84-8/86

Minister of Junior High and College/Career (young singles/professionals), The Old Cutler Presbyterian Church, Miami, FL.

3/84-7/84

Director of Outdoor Ministries, Spring Hill Camps, Ewart, MI.

Summers (1980-87)

High Road Instructor for Wheaton College's North Campus - Honey Rock Camp. Responsible for planning, execution, evaluation (participation and student papers), and reporting of grades for Wheaton College transcripts (three undergraduate courses and one graduate course). Also instructed a Discovery Course for court-appointed youth that involved planning, execution, evaluation (personality observations for the court), and follow-up group meetings.

ADJUNCT TEACHING APPOINTMENTS & RELATED PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

6/02

Adjunct Professor, Geneva College Master's in Higher Education Program, Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA.

6/02

Visiting Instructor in Church Education, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI.

8/01-present

Visiting Associate Professor of Christian Formation and Leadership and Director of the D.Min. Program, Salt Lake Theological Seminary, Salt Lake City, UT.

8/01-present

Book Review Editor, Journal of Youth Ministry.

5/02

Adjunct Professor of Christian Education, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC.

5/02

Visiting Instructor in Church Education, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI.

7/01

Adjunct Professor of Leadership, Salt Lake Theological Seminary, Salt Lake City, UT

12/01

Adjunct Professor of Christian Education, Wheaton College/Honey Rock Camp, Three Lakes, WI.

7/00

Adjunct Professor of Leadership, Salt Lake Seminary, Salt Lake City, UT.

5/00

Visiting Instructor in Church Education, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI.

6/99

Adjunct Professor of Youth Ministry, Salt Lake Seminary, Salt Lake City, UT.

7/94

Adjunct Professor of Christian Education, Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology, Nairobi, Kenya.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Charles Arnett Service Award, Black Mountain Fire Department, Black Mountain, NC, January 2004.

David L. Parks Distinguished Professor Award, Montreat College, May 2002.

Outstanding Contributions to Youth Ministry in Western North Carolina,
Western North Carolina Youth For Christ, November 1999

David L Parks Distinguished Professor Award, Montreat College, May 1994

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION AND STATUS

Ordained a Teaching Elder, 3 February 1985, by the Presbytery of South
Florida of the Presbyterian Church in America. Currently a member of the
Presbytery of Western Carolina

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education
Evangelical Theological Society
International Council for the Advancement of Christian Higher Education
International Association for the Advancement of Youth Ministry
National Network of Youth Ministries
North American Association of Professors of Christian Education
Religious Education Association
Association of Youth Ministry Educators

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters

"The Biblical Foundations of Presbyterian Education." In *Called to Teach: The
Presbyterian Mission in Higher Education*. Edited by Duncan Ferguson and
William Weston. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2003.

"The Role of Vision in the Call for Public Service." In *From Personal Faith to
Public Service: Christian Higher Education at Its Best*. Edited by Susan P.
Speece. Anderson, IN: Anderson University Press, 1993.

Articles

"Philosophy of Ministry" in *The Evangelical Dictionary of Christian Education*.
Edited by Michael Anthony (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001), 536-38.

"Towards an Information Ethic: An Exploratory Essay." *Premise* 4.3 (October
1997).

"Towards a Theological Foundation for Christian Higher Education." *Premise*
3.5 (June 1996).

"The Hermeneutics of Reading Scripture and the Symbols of Faith in the PCA:
An Exploratory Essay." *Premise* 3.3 (March 29, 1996).

With J. Ivanoff, W. Pierce & A. Sinsky, "Student Generated Solutions to the
Alcohol/Drug Problem: A Wisconsin Profile." In *Journal of Alcohol and Drug
Education* 37:1 (Fall 1991): 65-71.

With J. Ivanoff, W. Pierce, M. Quirke & T. Sinsky. "Student Solutions to the
Youth Alcohol/Drug Problem: A Preliminary Report." Milwaukee, WI: By
the authors, 1988.

Book Reviews

- Winter, Richard. *Still Bored in a Culture of Entertainment*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.
Forthcoming in the *Journal of Youth and Theology*.
- Moore, T.M. *Redeeming Pop Culture: A Kingdom Approach*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003. Forthcoming in the *Journal of Youth and Theology*.
- Groothuis, Doug. *Truth Decay: Defending Christianity Against the Challenges of Postmodernism*. Downers Grove, IL.; InterVarsity, 2000. *North American Professors of Christian Education Newsletter* (Winter/Spring 2003): 6.
- Anthony, Michael. *Introducing Christian Education: Foundations for the Twenty-First Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001. In the *Journal of Evangelical Theological Society* 45.3 (September 2002): 556-58.
- Anthony, Michael, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Christian Education*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001. In the *Journal of Evangelical Theological Society* 45.3 (September 2002): 556-58.
- Whatley, June. *Will my Child Fit? An answer to the question: "What about socialization?"* Tuscaloosa, AL: June and Jim Publishers, 1996 in the *Greenhouse Report*.
- Wolfe, David L. and Harold Heie, *Slogans and Distinctives: Reforming Christian Higher Education*. Lanham: University Press of America, 1993, In *Religious Education* 93.3 (Summer 1998): 393-94.
- Pazmino, Robert. *Principles and Practices of Christian Education: An Evangelical Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992; Eugene Gibbs, Ed. *A Reader in Christian Education: Foundations and Basic Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992. In *Christian Scholar's Review* XXIV:3 (March 1995): 335-38.
- Gibbs, Eugene, Ed. *A Reader in Christian Education: Foundations and Basic Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992; Habermas, Ronald and Klaus Issler.
- Teaching for Reconciliation: Foundations and Practice of Christian Educational Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992. In the *NAPCE Newsletter* (Spring 1994): 5-6.
- Buetow, Harold. *The Catholic School: Its Roots, Identity, and Future*. New York: Crossroad, 1989; House, Wayne H., ed. *Schooling Choices: An Examination of Private, Public, and Home Education*. Portland: Multnomah, 1988. In the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 36 (June 1993): 241-42.
- Pazmino, Robert W. *Foundational Issues in Christian Education: An Introduction in Evangelical Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988; Weeks, Noel. *The Christian School: An Introduction*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1988. In the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 33 (September 1990): 416-17.
- Robbins, John W., Ed. *Education, Christianity, and the State: Essays by J. Gresham Machen*. Jefferson: Trinity Foundation, 1987. In the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 32 (June 1989): 269-70.

Lyon, David. *The Steeple's Shadow: On the Myths and Realities of Secularization*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. In the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 31 (June 1988): 214-15.

Brooks, Oscar Stephen. *The Sermon on the Mount: Authentic Human Values*. Washington: University Press of America, 1985. In *Counseling and Values* 33 (October 1988): 71-72.

Peterson, Michael L. *Philosophy and Education: Issues and Options*. Contours of Christian Philosophy Series, ed. C. Stephen Evans. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1986. In *Youthworker* 4 (Winter 1988): 74-75

Nelsen, Frank C. *Public Schools: An Evangelical Appraisal*. Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1987. In *Religion and Public Education* 14 (Fall 1987): 330.

Barlow, Daniel. *Educational Psychology: The Teaching- Learning Process*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985. In *Religious Education* 82 (Fall 1987): 662-63.

Buchanan, Duncan. *The Counseling, of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press, 1985. In *Presbyterian Journal* 45 (30 July 1986): 23-24.

Curriculum

"Philosophy of Faith and Learning." 2^od ed. Institute for Professional Development: Phoenix, AZ, 2002.

With Mark Gibbs, "Old Testament Theology." Institute for Professional Development: Phoenix, AZ, 1999.

With Mark Gibbs, "New Testament Theology." Institute for Professional Development: Phoenix, AZ, 1999.

With John Watson, "Business Ethics, Stewardship and the Legal Environment." Institute for Professional Development: Phoenix, AZ, 1997.

With Rich Gray and Isaac Owolabi, "Introduction to Graduate Studies." 2nd ed. Institute for Professional Development: Phoenix, AZ, 1996.

With Mark Gibbs, "New Testament Survey." 2nd ed. Institute for Professional Development: Phoenix, AZ, 1996.

"Old Testament Survey." Institute for Professional Development: Phoenix, AZ, 1995.

With Stan Bamberg, "Philosophy of Faith and Learning." Institute for Professional Development: Phoenix, AZ, 1995.

I. *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*

The document *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* is nearly two decades old. The executive director of ministries requested that the CRC Publications board discuss whether an update of this document would be helpful. If it is to be true to its name of being the *contemporary* testimony, it would seem that this question is a valid one.

The current document was developed by a synodical committee appointed by Synod 1979. Synod approved the committee's proposal in 1986.

Because the original document was prepared by a synodically appointed committee, the board also discussed whether this is a task that CRC Publications should take on.

The rationale for CRC Publications' doing this is as follows:

- CRC Publications is listed as the copyright holder of this document.
- The document mostly needs some editing and updating. This is the kind of work in which CRC Publications staff has expertise.
- The document is often used in worship and education settings. CRC Publications has a long tradition of developing resources for education and worship.
- No other entity for doing this work could be readily identified.

Rev. Morris Greidanus, the author of the current work, was contacted regarding the updating that may be needed. He responded with a number of specific suggestions and noted that a committee would probably find a number of other needed changes.

II. Recommendation

That synod ask the CRC Publications board to appoint a committee to develop and propose to Synod 2007 an updated version of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*.

Grounds:

1. The current document is almost twenty years old. Given the changes in our world and culture during the past twenty years, a *contemporary* testimony must be revised if it is to speak to people today.
2. Given CRC Publications' expertise and mandate, it is the agency most appropriate for carrying out this revision on behalf of the CRC.

CRC Publications

Gary Mulder, executive director

I. Board membership

In its search for two additional at-large members to fill vacancies arising on July 1, 2005, CRWRC-Canada board members were asked to look for candidates who would meet some of the board's objectives to increase the age, gender, and ethnic diversity of the board.

Four names of people with excellent qualifications were submitted by the nominating committee—two men and two women. At its February 2005 meeting, the board of CRWRC-Canada decided that it would like to put forward only the names of the two women for the two vacancies. An additional positive factor for these particular women is their involvement in justice issues.

The board asks that synod accept Ms. Gerda Kits and Ms. Ellen Vandergrift as CRWRC-Canada's sole nominees for the two at-large vacancies.

Ms. Gerda Kits was raised in Toronto, Ontario. She made her public profession of faith at First CRC of Toronto in 1999. In 2000, she moved to Edmonton, Alberta, to earn a bachelor of arts in environmental studies at The King's University College. Along the way, she held summer jobs at the Lighthouse Community Centre in Toronto, at Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, at the Christian Reformed Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action, and at King's as a research assistant. She also had the opportunity to attend the CRWRC Assembly of World-Wide Partners in 2002 as a youth representative and to travel to Honduras for a service and learning project coordinated by CRWRC and King's. Ms. Kits currently attends Inglewood CRC in Edmonton and is taking extra courses part-time and working at a Christian counselling center. In September, she plans to move to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she has been accepted into the master of development economics program at Dalhousie University.

Ms. Ellen Vandergrift is a lawyer who has practiced in the area of constitutional and administrative law for five years. She is currently on an extended maternity leave and recently moved from Edmonton, Alberta, with her husband, Albert Chu, to plant a multiethnic CRC church called The Tapestry in Richmond, British Columbia. Ellen; Albert; and their daughters Sophia, age 3, and Audrey, age 10 months, are enjoying this new church experience. Even when Ellen was not attending a CRC church she maintained her interest in the work of CRWRC, and she has enjoyed sharing CRWRC's work with those who are new to the church. She headed up a "We Want to 'Get Your Goat!'" campaign this past Christmas to draw attention to global inequities and to promote the purchase of goats from CRWRC's Christmas catalogue.

II. Statement on HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is at the core of many issues that challenge the Christians of North America. It needs our urgent attention.

It is an epidemic that constrains our ability to address the challenges facing the poor people of the world. In Africa, entire communities have been overwhelmed. Now it is threatening Asia, where the incidence has increased by almost 50 percent in the last two years. No region of the world is immune, but some, such as the United States and Canada, have greater resources available.

We ignore the situation at our spiritual and economic peril. For too long too many of us have been in denial. We now know how to tackle HIV/AIDS with medicines, with education, and with community support programs. What is required now is the will to act.

This prompts us to urge the Christian Reformed Church of North America to:

- Embrace an aggressive response to HIV/AIDS.
- Endorse and expand on the CRWRC efforts to initiate a vigorous education program, especially to make people aware of innocent victims, such as women, children, the poor, and the powerless.
- Undertake an energetic advocacy program, speaking to institutions, governments, and individuals regarding the need to ensure that resources are made available to the world's poor and powerless victims.

We, the members of the Joint Ministry Council of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, both collectively and individually, ask synod to urge the CRCNA and its key agencies to work as a united team on the challenge before us.

III. Recommendations

A. That synod accept Ms. Gerda Kits and Ms. Ellen Vandergrift as CRWRC-Canada board's sole nominees for the two at-large vacancies.

B. That synod urge the CRCNA and its key agencies to work as a united team on the challenge before us regarding our response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

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

I. Membership

Rev. Philip De Jonge has been reelected president of the U.S. subcommittee of the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) for the year 2005-2006.

Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, vice president of the IRC for the year 2004-2005, will assume the role of president for the year 2005-2006.

With the departure of Rev. William C. Veenstra as the Canadian Ministries Director (CMD), the IRC is missing one of our ex officio members. The CMD ordinarily plays a key role in many of the IRC's multilateral and bilateral relationships in Canada. The IRC continues to maintain these relationships as best we can with volunteers, but we look forward to the appointment of a new director of Canadian Ministries as soon as possible.

Due to illness, Rev. Simon Wolfert will not be able to complete his term as a member of the Canadian subcommittee of the IRC. Nominations for new representatives from the west include:

Mrs. Claire Elgersma, a member of Community CRC in Kitchener, Ontario, is an investment adviser. She has previously served on the Interchurch Relations Committee and the advisory committee for Campus Ministry. Mrs. Elgersma has served as a Sunday school teacher and on various church committees. She currently represents the CRC on the Reformed Ecumenical Council. She also serves as treasurer of the Institute for Christian Studies and as a member of the stewardship education committee.

Rev. Carel Geleynse is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario (1976), and Calvin Theological Seminary (1981). He is pastor of First CRC in Chilliwack, British Columbia, and has previously served as pastor in Port Perry, Ontario; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; and Flamborough, Ontario. He has served as a board member of CRWM and one year as an associate missionary in Haiti.

Nominees to replace Rev. Michiel De Berdt as a member of the U.S. subcommittee include:

Rev. Marvin J. Hofman is a graduate of Calvin College (1974) and Calvin Theological Seminary (1981). He is the pastor of Fourteenth Street CRC, in Holland, Michigan. Prior to that he served as pastor in Raymond, Minnesota, and Graafschap, Michigan. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Dordt College and on the board of Home Missions. He is currently a regional pastor and is also serving on the RCA-CRC Action Committee of Holland, Michigan.

Rev. James A. Molenbeek is a graduate of Calvin College (1971) and Calvin Theological Seminary (1975). He is a pastor at Plymouth Heights CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has also served as pastor in Luctor, Kansas; Salt Lake City, Utah; Howard City, Michigan; and Muskegon, Michigan. He is the former chairperson of the RCA-CRC committee of Greater Grand Rapids. He has also served as a synodical deputy.

II. 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. Joint 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.

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. Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) (1974)
(de Protestantse Kerk in Nederland)

Note: Ecclesiastical fellowship was originally established with the Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland. Fellowship has been restricted by

the CRCNA in 1983 and in 1996 and is before this synod for review. See the IRC Report, section V, A, Bilateral relationships-international; IRC Supplementary Report, section IV, Bilateral relationships-Protestant Church in the Netherlands.

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

Christian Reformed Church in Cuba (2001)
(La Iglesia Cristiana Reformada en Cuba)

6. South America

- a. Evangelical Reformed Church in Brazil (1974)
(Ireja Evangelica Reformada no Brasil)
- b. Reformed Church in Argentina (1974)
(Iglesias Reformadas en le Argentina)

III. Bilateral relationships—churches in corresponding fellowship

A. *Christian Reformed Church in Eastern Africa (Uganda)*

B. *Christian Reformed Church of Myanmar*

C. *Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Nkhoma Synod) Malawi*

D. *Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar*

E. *Evangelical Reformed Church of Burundi*

F. *Reformed Church in Zambia*

G. *Reformed Church of East Africa (Kenya)*

IV. IRC Hospitality Committee

The IRC has appointed Mr. Lee and Mrs. Marian Kickert, and Mrs. Lisa Applegate as the Hospitality Committee for Synod 2005.

V. Reformed Ecumenical Council's International Assembly

Due to health concerns, Dr. David H. Engelhard will be unable to attend the Reformed Ecumenical Council's International Assembly in Utrecht in July as a delegate of the CRC. Instead, Dr. Peter Borgdorff has agreed to serve in this capacity. Dr. Lyle Bierma and Dr. George Vandervelde will also be in attendance as representatives of the CRC during the discussion of the report, Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 80 and the Roman Catholic Eucharist.

VI. Conversation with the Reformed Church in America

The Interchurch Relations Committee of the CRC and the Commission on Christian Unity (CCU) of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) have worked diligently together during the past three years toward achieving the

mandate given them by their respective Synods in 2002. At that time, the IRC was instructed “to ascertain how our ministry and mission throughout the world might be strengthened by greater cooperation between our two denominations” (*Acts of Synod 2002*, p. 498).

Our collective efforts have produced the document “Orderly Exchange for Ordained Ministers” (Appendix A), which outlines how we, as two denominations in ecclesiastical fellowship, might exchange pastors. This proposal, if adopted by the two synods, would allow pastors ordained in the CRC and the RCA to accept calls from congregations in either denomination. It would eliminate the need for pastors to relinquish their ministerial credentials in their originating denomination.

The CRC-RCA Dialogue Group reached unanimous agreement on March 9, 2005, on the document entitled “Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers” that the IRC of the CRC and the CCU of the RCA are pleased to recommend in identical form to their respective synods of 2005. In addition, the IRC is recommending that synod revise Church Order Article 8 and its Supplement to reflect the orderly exchange of ordained ministers with the RCA. These recommended changes are found in Appendix B.

VIII. Recommendations

- A. That synod designate a time (15 minutes) during its sessions to receive greetings from Rev. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.
- B. That synod designate a time (15 minutes) during its sessions to receive greetings from Rev. Evert Overeem of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) to extend greetings.
- C. That Rev. Richard Vander Vaart be given the privilege of the floor during the discussion of the report on the Ecclesiastical Relationship between the CRC and the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN). Rev. Vander Vaart was a member of the subcommittee assigned to address our concerns with the PCN.
- D. That synod approve the Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers between the CRC and the RCA (Appendix A) subject to the additions or amendments to the Church Order (or supplements thereof) as recommended in Recommendation E below.

Grounds:

1. This is a response to the mandate of the IRC to “recommend which specific kinds of fellowship and cooperation shall apply to each church in ecclesiastical fellowship” (*Ecumenical Charter*, p. 7).
2. This is in response to the instruction given to the IRC by Synod 2002 to pursue means by which our two denominations might cooperate and demonstrate the unity of Christ’s body.
3. Orderly exchange of ordained ministers allows for responsible stewardship of our church’s ordained leaders and the enhancement of creative options for congregations, such as union churches, or the sharing of a pastor in a two-point charge where one church is CRC and the other RCA. It allows for shared gifts of ministry to meet the needs of mission.

4. Approval is consistent with the decision of Synod 2002:

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)

E. That synod propose the changes in Church Order Article 8 and its accompanying supplement (Appendix B).

Grounds:

1. The proposed changes are consistent with the encouragements of previous synods to seek closer fellowship and cooperative partnerships with the RCA.
2. The proposed changes will regulate a procedure that otherwise might be complex and implemented arbitrarily.
3. The proposed changes are consistent with an agreement achieved by the Commission on Christian Unity (CCU) of the RCA and the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) of the CRC.

F. That synod propose the changes with the understanding that Synod 2006 will have to adopt the same for the changes to take effect (cf. Church Order Article 47).

Ground: The IRC judges the proposed change to be substantial, and, therefore, the “propose and adopt” requirement of synodical procedure applies.

G. That synod designate the Interchurch Relations Committee to represent the change at Synod 2006 as per Church Order Supplement, Article 47, e.

Interchurch Relations Committee
Peter Borgdorff (ex officio in place of
David Engelhard)
Louisa Bruinsma
Michiel De Berdt
Philip De Jonge, president
Bertha Mook
James Payton
Teresa Renkema
David M. Rylaarsdam
Carlos G. Tapanes
Richard T. Vander Vaart
Abraham J. Vreeke
Ralph S. Wigboldus, vice president
Simon Wolfert

Appendix A

Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers—Christian Reformed Church in North America and Reformed Church in America

I. Preamble and history

The Reformed Church in America (RCA) and the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRC) have a lengthy history of cooperation and interaction, in spite of an occasional fracture in their relationship. Desirous of healing any remnant of past tensions and of lifting up a joint witness of unity in these present days and into the future, the two churches have taken mutual actions that have led to the exploration of ways to move toward greater unity between these two churches in their ministry and mission.

At the RCA General Synod of 1995 an overture from Classis Grand Rapids North encouraged “full programmatic and organizational union” between the RCA and the CRC by June of 2000. The overture resulted in a vote by the RCA General Synod “to encourage agencies of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America as well as the Commission on Christian Unity to maintain regular correspondence with the Christian Reformed Church in North America and its Interchurch Relations Committee and further, to explore avenues of reconciliation between the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church in North America for additional programmatic cooperation” (Minutes of the General Synod 1995, R-5, p.189).

In its continuing response to this encouragement, the RCA Commission on Christian Unity met with the Interchurch Relations Committee of the CRC on February 28-29, 2000. The Interchurch Relations Committee expressed its strong interest in working with the Commission on Christian Unity.

There was mutual agreement that there were advantages to joint theological study in several areas, including the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa’s Belhar Confession and Roman Catholic and Reformed dialogue. The Interchurch Relations Committee and Commission on Christian Unity agreed to meet again on September 23-24, 2001, for further conversations. This meeting was postponed due to the event of September 11, 2001, when the New York World Trade Towers were felled by an act of terrorism and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., was attacked and damaged. Still, the desire was there for conversations that would continue to explore avenues of reconciliation and cooperation.

At the RCA General Synod of 2002 an overture was received from the Synod of the Great Lakes encouraging the CRC and the RCA to “enter into a greater dialogue for the purpose of exploring ways to move toward a seamless ministry and mission.” Responding to the overture, the RCA General Synod voted “to instruct the Commission on Christian Unity to enter into dialogue with the Christian Reformed Church in North America, 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” (Minutes of the General Synod 2002, R-38, p. 179).

Through comparable action, the CRC, at Synod 2002, voted to “instruct the IRC, in consultation with appropriate agencies of the CRC 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" (*Acts of Synod 2002*, p. 498).

Responding to the actions of the synods of both churches, the Reformed Church of America Commission on Christian Unity and the CRC Interchurch Relations Committee met on December 11, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. Together, they reviewed the action of each synod, the ecumenical charters of both churches, current cooperative efforts among agencies or congregations, exchange of clergy, and the Belhar Confession and its relationship to both churches. There was agreement that the mandate of each synod was to engage in a dialogue to find areas of consent where the ministry and mission of both the CRC and the RCA would be strengthened by greater cooperation. Unity was seen as a gift of God to which the church is called to bear witness. An ecumenical witness by the CRC and the RCA was evident in shared ministry ranging from food pantries, neighborhood services, pulpit exchanges, small community union churches, resource distribution, and campus ministries. The gift of unity was seen as an integral goal for each church, expressed in ministry and mission.

A present sign of greater cooperation between the CRC and the RCA was identified. In the year 2004, both churches entered into a new relationship establishing Faith Alive Christian Resources, as the overarching entity for full partnership for publication of resources, selecting resources from other denominations for promotion, marketing, customer service, order fulfillment, warehousing, and distribution as a supplier of materials to support the ministry of CRC and RCA congregations.

In its Ecumenical Mandate, the RCA affirms the call to seek to manifest God's gift of unity. "We of the Reformed Church in America resolve to manifest the God given unity of the Church by working to overcome our divisions. The ways and means to unity are not always known. The goal of unity is a venture of faith. Therefore, trusting in the Holy Spirit for guidance, we shall be open to his counsel, willing to converse with any church, ready to cooperate with all Christians, committed to participate in councils of churches on all levels, prepared to merge with any church when it is clearly the will of God, eager to heal the brokenness of the Body of Christ in all ways known to us, until all are one, so that the world may know that the Father has sent the Son as Savior and Lord" (*An Ecumenical Mandate for the Reformed Church in America*, p. 21).

The Christian Reformed Church also affirms, in its ecumenical charter that the "unity of the church is a precious gift. The biblical challenge is to treasure, preserve, deepen, and demonstrate this given unity. The unity of Christ-followers is a flesh-and-blood testimony to God's reconciling work in Christ" (*Ecumenical Charter of the Christian Reformed Church*, p. 1).

After a general sharing of ecumenical charters and the mandates of each church, consensus was reached that the orderly exchange of ordained ministers should be the initial focus of conversations. A dialogue group was identified by each church and assigned the top priority of furthering the discussion on pastor exchange. It was agreed to formulate a set of principles and steps each church would have to take to allow for the orderly exchange of ordained ministers.

The following is an agreement of principles for the Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers between the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Reformed Church in America.

II. General principles of agreement

A. *Unity is a gift of God*

Ecumenism is a movement within the church that seeks to give visible expression to the unity that all believers have in Jesus Christ. In the Nicene Creed, we confess our belief in “one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.” The Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 54 concerning the holy catholic Church states: “I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith.

Moreover, I believe that I am and forever will remain a living member of it.”

Article 27 of the Belgic Confession states: “We believe and confess one single, catholic, or universal church—a holy congregation and gathering of true Christian believers, awaiting their entire salvation in Jesus Christ, being washed in his blood, and sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.”

In Jesus’ prayer (John 17:11), we learn that Christian unity is derived from the fellowship shown in the Trinity. It originates in the triune God and is a gift to be received and made manifest through the church.

B. *Unity draws people to Christ*

In the gospel of John 17:20-21 (NRSV), Jesus prays “not only on behalf of these, [his disciples] but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

The Ecumenical Mandate of the RCA states: “Here Jesus prays that the spiritual unity of the church will be something that the world can see, so that the world might believe. The spiritual unity of the church must never be separated from its visible expression in the institutional church” (An Ecumenical Mandate for the RCA, p. 8).

The CRC Ecumenical Charter states: “Division contradicts the good news of reconciliation in Christ. The call to unity is a summons to manifest the unity of God himself and the reconciling power of God’s love in Christ” (Christian Reformed Church Ecumenical Charter, p. 7).

C. *Unity’s chief aim is to manifest the saving work of God in the world*

Jesus’ prayer lifts up special concern for the proclamation of the gospel. The mission also takes into account our Lord’s particular concern for the poor and the disenfranchised of the world and the broader, biblical concern for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

“Focusing on the continuation of Christ’s ministry and mission in the world, Christ prays for the unity of the church, a unity as deep and wondrous as that between him and the Father: that all of them may be one . . . so that the world may believe that you have sent me (John 17:21 NIV). At stake in the unity of the church is the witness in and for the world to the unity of God, the one Father of us all (Eph. 4:6)” (Christian Reformed Church Ecumenical Charter, p. 1).

“We live in a fragmented world. Excessive individualism and corporate greed are tearing apart the fabric of our human relationships. The dignity of human life and respect for diversity of different peoples is severely eroded. Throughout the world, nation lifts up sword against nation, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening, and the suffering of the poor increases. We are out of harmony with the created world that God has entrusted to us. The church’s disputes and divisions have contributed to some of these problems. We are unable to sit down at the Lord’s Table and set an example to the world. A fragmented Christian witness exacerbates the fragmentation of the world” (An Ecumenical Mandate for the Reformed Church in America, p. 7).

D. Christian unity is to be lived out

The Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Reformed Church in America are called to live out their unity. Christian unity is to be lived out. “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:3-6 NIV).

III. Principles of agreement for orderly exchange

A. Provision for the orderly exchange of ordained ministers is a visible expression of unity. The RCA and the CRC have recognized each other’s ministry, and the orderly exchange of ordained ministers gives expression to and provides for full pulpit and table fellowship.

B. Orderly exchange is intended for ordained ministers to engage in extended service (a call) in another church (the inviting church) while remaining a member of his/her own church where he/she is carried on the roster.

- 2.1 An ordained minister of the CRC, in good standing, is eligible to engage in extended service (a call) in the RCA, and an ordained minister of the RCA, in good standing, is eligible to engage in extended service (a call) in the CRC.
- 2.2 Extended service is understood to mean that an ordained minister of the CRC may be invited to serve as a minister of an RCA congregation for an extended period of time while maintaining status as an ordained minister of the CRC, and, vice versa, a minister of the RCA may be invited to serve as a minister of a CRC congregation for an extended period of time while maintaining status as an ordained minister of the RCA. Such a person would preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in a manner consistent with the church polity of the church to which the congregation belongs (the inviting church).

C. Orderly exchange of ordained ministers allows for responsible stewardship of our church’s ordained leaders and the enhancement of creative options for congregations such as union churches, or the sharing of a pastor in a two-point charge where one church is CRC and the other RCA. It allows for shared gifts of ministry to meet the needs of mission.

D. Orderly exchange allows an ordained minister to express the desire, through appropriate channels, to serve in another denomination as an ecumenical witness. However, orderly exchange is always at the invitation of the inviting church and subject to that church's polity.

E. To be able to serve in another church, an ordained minister will demonstrate to the appropriate body of the inviting church knowledge of and appreciation for the theological and liturgical identity, history, polity, and discipline of the church.

F. Approval for extended service must be done in consultation and with the concurrence of the sending body. The minister remains accountable to the sending body for continuation of ministerial status.

G. Responsibility for the pastoral care of ordained ministers and their families is to be initiated by the served congregation, which will also inform both the sending and inviting bodies of the CRC and the RCA who will then share in that pastoral care.

H. The ordained minister is under the jurisdiction of the sending body with regard to a disciplinary review or judicial process. The inviting body shall have oversight of the congregation in which the minister serves. Both the inviting and sending bodies shall be in communication and participate as appropriate.

I. Each church will make provision for an ordained minister's being granted participation in the appropriate bodies of the church in which he/she is serving (the inviting church).

J. All ordained ministers shall continue to participate in the pension and benefits program of the church where they are carried on the roster (the sending church). The inviting church has the obligation to cover the pension and benefit costs.

IV. Conclusion

It is agreed that the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church of America will make the required changes in their respective polity to accommodate the principles of orderly exchange. Each church will be familiar and conversant with the polity and provision of the other and recognize the need to continue dialogue to enhance this process.

Appendix B

Proposed Changes to Church Order Article 8 and Its Supplement

I. Church Order Article 8—proposed revision (*revisions in italics*)

Article 8

a. Ministers of the Christian Reformed Church are eligible for call, with due observance of the relevant rules.

b. *Ministers of the Reformed Church in America are eligible for call to serve in the Christian Reformed Church, with due observance of the relevant rules.*

c. Ministers of other denominations, *other than from the Reformed Church in America*, desiring to become ministers in the Christian Reformed Church shall be declared eligible for a call by a classis only after a thorough examination of their theological training, ministerial record, knowledge of and soundness in the Reformed faith, and their exemplariness of life. The presence and concurring advice of the synodical deputies are required.

d. Ministers of other denominations who have not been declared eligible for a call shall not be called unless all synodical requirements have been met.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 8

II. New Church Order Supplement, Article 8, D (Orderly Exchange of Ministers)

D. Orderly Exchange of Ministers

1. *A church may call a minister of the Reformed Church in America with due observance of the relevant rules that govern the Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers. This shall apply only to a church that continues to have a viable ministry.*
2. *Orderly exchange is intended for ordained ministers of the other denomination to engage in extended service with an indefinite or long-term call in a church (the inviting church) while remaining a member of their own church that holds their ministerial credentials.*
3. *An ordained minister of the CRC, in good standing, is eligible to engage in extended service (a call) in the RCA and an ordained minister of the RCA, in good standing, is eligible to engage in extended service (a call) in the CRC.*
4. *Extended service is understood to mean that an ordained minister of the CRC may be invited to serve as a minister of an RCA congregation for an extended period of time while maintaining status as an ordained minister of the CRC, and, vice versa, a minister of the RCA may be invited to serve as a minister of a CRC congregation for an extended period of time while maintaining status as an ordained minister of the RCA. Such a person would preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in a manner consistent with the polity of the inviting church.*
5. *Orderly exchange allows an ordained minister to express the desire, through appropriate channels, to serve in another denomination as an ecumenical witness. However, orderly exchange is always at the invitation of the inviting church and subject to that church's polity.*
6. *To be able to serve in another church, an ordained minister will demonstrate to the appropriate body of the inviting church a knowledge of and appreciation for the theological and liturgical identity, history, polity, and discipline of the church.*

7. *Approval for extended service must be done in consultation with and with the concurrence of the sending body. The minister remains accountable to the sending body for continuation of ministerial status.*
8. *Responsibility for the pastoral care of ordained ministers and their families is to be initiated by the served congregation, which will also inform both the sending and inviting bodies of the CRC and the RCA, which will then share in that pastoral care.*
9. *The ordained minister is subject to the supervision of the sending body with regard to matters of discipline. The inviting body shall have oversight of the congregation in which the minister serves. Both the inviting and sending bodies shall be in communication and participate as appropriate. (Cf. Article 38, f, and its supplement.)*
10. *Each church will make provision for an ordained minister's being granted participation in the appropriate bodies of the church in which he/she is serving (the inviting church). (Cf. Article 38, f, and its supplement.)*
11. *All ordained ministers shall continue to participate in the pension and benefits program of the denomination that holds their ministerial credentials (the sending church). The inviting church has the obligation to cover the pension and benefit costs. (Cf. Article 38, f, and its supplement.)*

III. Revised Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E (formerly D)

E. Calling Ministers from Other Denominations

1. A church may consider calling a minister of another denomination only if it has put forth a sustained and realistic effort to obtain a minister from within the Christian Reformed Church *or the Reformed Church in America*. This shall apply only to a church that continues to have a viable ministry.

Current Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E, 2-11 remain as they are.

Current Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E becomes 8, F.

Current Church Order Supplement, Article 8, F becomes 8, G.

OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Overture 18: Also Interview Leading Female Candidate for Director of Denominational Ministries

I. Background

For decades, our denomination has expressed the desire that ethnic minorities and women be appointed to positions of influence and leadership as we seek to use the gifts of all our members in an increasingly diverse denomination that is growing in respect for each other's gifts. Unfortunately, our progress in pursuing this goal has been so painfully slow that it casts doubt on our will to achieve it.

That slow progress is evident again in several matters that will be considered by Synod 2005. Synod 1995 encouraged "boards, agencies and itself and future synods to include in their committees persons who reflect the ethnic, gender, and racial diversity of our denomination . . ." (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 656). Though that encouragement has been repeated by a number of synods since then, the Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisers to Synod reports that "since Synod 1996 . . . only 19 of our 47 classes have delegated ethnic minorities to synod" (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 337). Synod is being requested to approach this matter with much more intentionality than has been evident in the last decade.

The slow process in achieving the goal of greater diversity in denominational leadership positions is also illustrated in the recommendation of the denominational Board of Trustees to appoint two Anglo males for open positions—one to the position of Executive Director and the other to the position of Director of Denominational Ministries. Already in 1975, synod urged "the churches to make all possible use, within biblical guidelines and the restrictions of the Church Order, of the talents and abilities of women in the work of the church" (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 78). Since 1975, synod has repeated those words numerous times, and, yet, three decades later, synod is being implicitly told that we are unable to find women who are qualified to serve in a denominational leadership position.

A similar matter was addressed by Synod 1999. Its Education Advisory Committee reported, "Though genuine efforts have been made to diversify the staff [of the seminary], synod has been informed repeatedly that the lack of qualified candidates makes the attainment of that goal very difficult" (*Acts of Synod 1999*, p. 548). Synod responded by asking "the seminary board [to] present to Synod 2000 a plan designed to assist the seminary in recruiting qualified ethnic-minority and women faculty members." The ground for that request was: "The CRC must become more intentional in its efforts to include ethnic minorities and women on the seminary faculty" (*Acts of Synod 1999*,

p. 548). Synod made it very apparent that it was not content with the status quo. Synod's leadership in this matter produced the results that the denomination had talked about for years. Today both an ethnic-minority person and a woman serve as part of the faculty of our seminary.

We are specifically concerned about the Director of Denominational Ministries position; the position will be occupied by a person who will be supervised by the denomination's executive director. We are concerned about this position because two highly qualified females with extensive denominational and cross-denominational experience were nominated for and expressed interest in it. Unfortunately, the Board of Trustees did not seize this wonderful opportunity for more diverse leadership and instead is asking Synod 2005 to ratify its appointment of a male member of its own board to this position.

We realize that gender is not the only value involved in filling this position and that the candidate chosen by the Board of Trustees may be the best person for the job. However, we request that Synod 2005, as did Synod 1999, demonstrate by its actions that our denomination will be much more intentional in our efforts to include gender diversity in our leadership. We ask that Synod 2005 be allowed to weigh the goals and values that are involved in filling this position by interviewing the Board of Trustees' leading female candidate as well as the candidate chosen by the board.

II. Overture

Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church overtures Synod 2005 to interview the Board of Trustees' leading female candidate for the position of Director of Denominational Ministries as well as the Board of Trustees' appointee whose name is being submitted to synod for ratification.

Grounds:

1. For the past three decades, synod has urged "the churches to make all possible use, within biblical guidelines and the restrictions of the Church Order, of the talents and abilities of women in the work of the church" (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 78).
2. Two highly qualified female members of the denomination with extensive denominational and cross-denominational experience were nominated for and expressed interest in the position.
3. The denomination has a unique opportunity to demonstrate that we will be more intentional in our efforts to include diversity in our leadership.
4. This procedure allows synod itself to weigh the importance of more diverse leadership for the denomination.
5. In the past, synod has frequently decided between two candidates for a position.

Council of Sherman Street CRC,
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Jeffrey Schra, clerk

Note: This overture was submitted to Classis Grand Rapids East but was not adopted.

Overture 19: Request Additional Study on Restorative Justice

I. Overture

The Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, overtures synod to refer the Committee to Study Restorative Justice report back to the committee for more reflection and discussion by the committee itself and by the church before synod adopts recommendations on this matter.

Grounds:

1. There is considerable confusion and lack of clarity in a number of sections of the report.
2. The description of the biblical principles of justice is inadequate.

II. Concerns with the report

A. *Inadequate discussion of the issues involved in the subject of restorative justice*

We agree that the justice systems of the United States and Canadian leave much to be desired. We also believe that the ideals and proposals of the restorative justice movement, if rightly defined, delimited, and judiciously applied, appear to have much to commend them. We also agree that the church, as organism, as Christians individually and together, and as institute, have prophetic roles to play in society's establishment and operation of the justice system that the state is mandated to implement.

However, the report does not give the church an adequate instrument for synodical action at this time. In all its subdivisions, the discussion and the conclusions reached give evidence of our swimming on the surface of what are in fact very deep waters. This is not so much a reflection on the competence of the committee but on the haste in which the committee was mandated to work. Typically, a study committee appointed by synod has its first meeting in September following that synod, and its report must be given to the general secretary by the September before the meeting of the synod that will consider it. Thus, a committee mandated to report to synod in two years has only one year to do its work. Synod 2003 asked the committee to "make every effort to submit to the churches, by the spring of 2004, a draft copy of the report, inviting response for the committee's consideration" (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 531). Not surprisingly, that did not happen.

There are some matters that can be handled adequately by a study committee in a year. Others cannot be. The issues involved in this subject are complex and deserve more time for reflection and discussion by the committee itself and by the church before synod adopts recommendations on this matter.

What follows are specific comments to illustrate the general observation above.

B. *An inadequate address to the mandate*

The committee was asked to "identify and articulate the biblical basis for the administration of justice, particularly the distinction and interaction between retributive and restorative justice" (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 531). This instruction could be read: "Identify and articulate the biblical basis for the distinction and interaction between retributive and restorative justice," and that seems to be how the study committee read it. Unfortunately, such a reading does not bring into focus the essential distinctions that must be made

between the various *agents* of “the administration of justice.” *Whose* administration of justice is in view: the individual’s administration of justice in relationship to other individuals, the church’s administration of justice within its own structures, a business corporation’s administration of justice toward its employees and/or the larger community, or the state’s administration of justice among its citizens and in its dealings with other states or peoples? The mandate indicates that restorative justice may have application for “the home, school, and church” (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 531), but the particulars of implementation are not the same for all. The report lacks clarity because it does not sort out the unique and distinctive areas of responsibility for justice that belong to these different agents in the human community. Everything runs together in a confusing mix.

C. *An inadequate analysis of the crisis in the execution of criminal justice*

When the report addresses criminal justice, it narrows its focus on the state’s role in promoting, preserving, and/or implementing justice in society. More particularly, it narrows its focus on the state’s use of imprisonment in fulfilling its responsibilities. It notes the shifting attitudes of society toward imprisonment, the historical shift to imprisonment in the place of cruder and crueler forms of punishment, and the shift in the prison system from penal to correctional and back to penal functions.

Though the mere listing of raw data pertaining to incarceration may suggest that there is a crisis in the justice system, without further analysis, it does not establish the existence of a crisis and does not define the nature of a crisis that may exist. If there is a crisis, is it in the present state of the system itself, which calls for reforming the system? Or, is it in current public attitudes toward the function of imprisonment, which then calls for societal reform? In this part of its report, the committee may be on to something, but its argument is hardly adequate to convince the church, or society in general, or the state as to just what is amiss. What is precisely the crisis that needs change?

D. *An inadequate description of the development of the present criminal justice system*

This appears to be the weakest section of the report. This is especially evident in its discussion of the crucial *first* shift, which is simplistically described as “a shift from the law of the king to the codified law systems we now have” (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 533). This shift could better have been described as the shift from the rule of persons to the rule of law and should have been traced historically, with the reasons for the shift carefully weighed. This is especially true because proponents of restorative justice appear to assert that the shift to the rule of law, with all its consequences, is the chief source of what is wrong in U.S. and Canadian justice systems.

As is also apparent in the Bible, in the ancient world with its patriarchal social systems, sovereignty resided in the patriarchal head of the household. Thus, the chief in-house function of the sovereign was to adjudicate conflicts between members of the household. Where households became bound up with larger social units, the broadest sovereignty resided in the tribal chief or the tribal leaders, and the primary inner-tribal function of such leaders was to adjudicate conflicts between households. When tribes joined together into even larger social-political units under monarchs, the primary internal function of the monarch to the social-political unit was to adjudicate conflicts between tribal units and to serve as the final court of appeal in conflicts that

could not be settled in the household or within the tribal unit. No codes of law were issued to be enforced by agents of the state such as prosecuting attorneys, police, or criminal courts. Hence, there were no *criminal* cases for the state to deal with. All *court* cases were structurally like our modern civil cases. This was the rule of persons, a system in which the sovereign did not initiate judicial cases but adjudicated cases between two parties—cases of claimed injury, of conflicting property claims, and the like.

When empires emerged and sovereignty came to be extended over many peoples, tribes, and kingdoms, emperors began to issue *law codes* to regulate the local courts as much as possible so that the *justice* meted out by the local courts in dealing with the kinds of cases mentioned above would be generally equal throughout the empire and would conform to the emperor's sense of *justice*. Such *law codes* did not legislate or lay down a codified system of laws. Rather, they illustrated for the local courts how certain kinds of cases should be adjudicated. The *law codes* were simply a list of judicial precedents to guide judges in handling cases appealed to them.

As more complex societies evolved, two major developments radically changed the political landscape. First, citizens gained power to restrict the sovereignty of the sovereign. In the earlier stages of this development, citizens (parliaments) proposed legislation that had to be confirmed by the king or emperor. Formally, at least, the rule of persons (constitutional monarchy) continued. Later, with the American Revolution and others that followed it, the king or emperor was eliminated and sovereignty rested with the people. With this development, there finally emerged a genuine *rule of law* in distinction from a *rule of persons*.

A second major development changed the legal landscape. The people began to press the monarchs for the legislation of laws designed to *protect* citizens from the many forms of predation, exploitation, and injury that evil minds could think up and effect in the newly emerging complex socioeconomic structures. Later governments, through their legislative bodies, enacted such laws directly. With this development, together with the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers, the modern judicial system came into being.

These developments had a number of consequences:

1. Earlier sovereignty injected itself into human relations only when appeal was made to it *after* an injury was committed, but now sovereignty injects itself into human relations *before* an injury is committed. It does this by legislating a body of law designed to *protect* citizens against injuries *before* they happen—a body of law legislated by the people through their representatives and enforced by prosecuting attorneys and police.
2. Violation of such *protective* laws is a crime against the *state, the people*, which the state, acting for the people, prosecutes and penalizes. This results in a related fundamental shift, namely that public justice is now primarily concerned with equality before the *law* rather than equality before a *judge*.
3. As forms of injury multiply within an evolving culture and a morally confused society, *protective* laws multiply and, accordingly, instances of *crime* and punishment also multiply.

4. In such a criminal system, court trials are *initiated* by the *state* rather than by injured parties and are focused on the question of whether or not a crime, a violation of a law, has been committed. Because the accused has a right to be represented by legal counsel, the result is the *adversarial* structure of such a trial.
5. Recourse to the judicial system on the part of injured parties is by way of appealing a *civil* suit to the court, in which case the injured party *initiates* the judicial action, and the injured and offending parties confront each other in court.

Neither the report nor the most vocal proponents of restorative justice have sufficiently taken into account these fundamental changes in how sovereignty functions in modern democracies. These changes, however, bear heavily on how we should assess the statistics set forth in the report, how we should assess government's use of prisons for *criminal* justice, and how we should assess where and how restorative justice can and should come into play. For example, the imposition of *penal* sanctions by the state is the state's response to violations of the laws established by *the people* and is not a part of *evening the score* between a victim and an offender.

Much of the discussion about restorative justice does not deal adequately with the modern developments in the implementation of sovereignty. Instead, the discussion nostalgically harks back to a time when most matters that came before the sovereign for adjudication were relatively simple matters of a victim versus an offender. It is not clear from the report whether the call for restorative justice is a call for a systemic change in the modern public justice system, or a call for some supplementation of the current public justice system, or a call for a reformation of how it operates. One thing seems to be implied, however: There should be a major reduction in the number of laws legislated by the state for the *protection* of its citizens, laws that inject the state into human relations *before* injuries are inflicted and that *criminalize* acts that endanger citizens.

It comes down to this: Much more sorting out is necessary before a clear *prophetic* message can be addressed by Christians and/or the church to the governments of the United States and Canada or to their citizens.

E. *Lack of clarity concerning restorative justice philosophy*

The discussion about the philosophy of restorative justice is burdened with the same lack of clarity about the distinctive role of the state in modern democratic governmental systems and reflects the same nostalgia for an earlier form and functioning of state sovereignty. This lack of clarity gives rise to the same uncertainties that are noted above.

For example, the issue of retributive vs. restorative justice is particularly unclear in that it appears to be discussed in the assumed context of a form of sovereignty that functions merely as judge between two contending parties, the simple victim versus offender scenario. In modern states, such as those in the United States and Canada, state sovereignty penalizes convicted criminals for violating the state's protective laws, in which case retribution is for sins against the state or society rather than for sins against particular injured parties. Should the state also take on the role of inflicting retribution for sins against particular injured parties? If so, what would this mean for civil government?

Though the focus throughout this part of the report is still on the current *criminal justice system*, it becomes evident that the proponents of restorative justice have brought under their umbrella not only concerns with the criminal justice system but also concerns about the whole range of social justice issues. This leads to confusion as to where the boundaries are. In fact, there appear to be no boundaries. Virtually everything that is wrong or that leads to wrongdoing in society as well as in the state is directly or by implication brought into purview. Restorative justice comes to serve as a comprehensive term for a thoroughgoing social reformation as well as a systemic reformation of the modern state. It is true that in any social system everything hangs together, but there are distinguishable elements within any social system. When a discussion of what is wrong with the current *criminal justice system*, for which restorative justice is the proposed alternative, expands into a discussion of what is wrong in society as a whole, too much comes on the table. Both focus and clarity are lost.

E. Inadequate treatment of the biblical concept of justice

The report's attempt to elucidate the biblical principles of justice has much to commend it. One of the most striking features is its recognition of the essential role of retribution in biblical justice, something that many proponents of restorative justice have a strong tendency to ignore or even deny. However, what is most perplexing is that the discussion of the biblical concept of justice appears to be more an exposition of the biblical concept of *righteousness*, of *tsedaqah*, rather than of *mishpat*. Accordingly, we find an exposition of the deep grammar of righteousness rather than specifically of justice. One can only wonder why this turned out to be so. As an exposition of righteousness (*tsedaqah*), it is on target. Justice (*mishpat*), however, while having some semantic overlap with righteousness, has a significant semantic field of its own. This needs to be explored in a study devoted to issues of justice.

The virtual equation of justice and righteousness muddies the water somewhat under the sections titled Justice is broken, Justice does not pass over wrongs, and Governments are called to uphold justice (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, pp. 546-50). As noted above, the discussion is also muddied in these sections because there is a lack of clarity on how state sovereignty is structured and how it functions.

G. Lack of clarity in speaking of restoration

The section of the report titled The story of restoration (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, pp. 551-56) continues the equation of justice and righteousness and the confusion that flows from that equation. In fact, in restorative actions, God works out his righteousness rather than his justice, as is reflected, for example, in the language of Isaiah, who again and again associates God's righteousness with his salvation (see 45:8; 46:13; 51:5-6,8; 56:1; 59:16; 60:17-18; 61:10; 62:1).

This section also raises a question: Has the report actually established the responsibility of governments "not only to maintain a just order but [also] to call their citizens to overcome past divisions and find a new and richer unity" (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 554). The report again and again raises questions about the appropriate boundaries of civil government.

H. *Lack of clarity in the six justice principles*

Because one of the recommendations of the report is that “synod affirm the justice principles in IV, A above” (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 560), this section of the report calls for special scrutiny. Though we do not wish to address each of the six principles specifically, we do observe that, as they are stated, they reflect in various ways and to various degrees the confusions about the changed role of sovereignty in modern states and about the relationship between righteousness and justice, confusions that we have already noted above.

We do comment specifically on principle four. Here the confusions just noted come into rather sharp focus. The principle begins with “When justice is violated, we are called through the governments . . .” (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 557). This appears to assume the ancient role of sovereignty, becoming involved only after a wrong has been committed, rather than the modern role of sovereignty, becoming involved *before* injury is inflicted by legislating protective laws, which it then seeks to enforce. In principle four, we also find a much debated rendering of a key Scripture passage (Rom. 3:21-22)—*justice* instead of *righteousness* and *the faithfulness of* instead of *faith* in Jesus Christ, a rendering that synod should not endorse. (Note: In the same paragraph, 2 Cor. 5:18-19 appears to be intended by the reference to 2 Cor. 3:18-19.)

III. Conclusion

The matter of restorative justice needs more study and reflection before synod adopts the recommendations proposed by the report. We observe that the report begins by referring to a crisis in the criminal justice systems of the United States and Canada and ends with recommendations about the internal affairs of congregations, schools, denominational offices, and other Christian institutions. A number of the recommendations appear to view restorative justice not as a *practice* but as a *movement* that encompasses virtually the whole range of social justice. This discussion needs to be brought within more definite boundaries before the proposed recommendations can be warranted.

The committee’s original mandate asked that it “make every effort to submit to the churches, by the spring of 2004, a draft copy of the report, inviting response for the committee’s consideration” (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 531). Because of time constraints, the committee was unable to do that. We believe there is value in such a procedure. To enable that to happen and to give the committee two full years to do the work necessary, we suggest that the committee report again to Synod 2008.

Council of Fuller Avenue CRC
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Jim Krosschell, clerk

Note: This overture was submitted to Classis Grand Rapids East but was not adopted.

Communication 6: Classis Hamilton

Classis Hamilton sends this communication to Synod 2005 concerning the report from the Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisors to Synod. There is much in this report that is laudable. "May our gracious God guide our councils, classes, and Synod 2005 as they consider this report and as our denomination continues to be one in which people from all nations joyfully worship and serve our Savior" (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 333).

We are concerned, however, that the report may go too far when it recommends "that by Synod 2011 all classes will delegate at least one ethnic minority to Synod each year" (Recommendation B, *Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 349). Rather than setting quantifiable targets for synodical delegations, we suggest that our focus be on fostering full involvement of ethnic minorities in the life and government of the local church. This will allow for a more natural and genuine diversity to develop and grow in our broader assemblies.

Classis Hamilton
Peter Zwart, stated clerk

Communication 7: Classis Toronto

I. Introduction

At its meeting of May 19, 2005, Classis Toronto had before it an overture sent by Alliston CRC. This overture was in response to the report of the study committee to consider the practice of having ethnic advisors at synod. Classis was also served by a committee of advice.

Although classis did not adopt the overture from Alliston, it did decide to send the report of its advice committee as a communication to synod. To give context, the overture from Alliston is an Appendix to this communication.

II. Committee of advice re the Alliston overture

The committee of advice wishes to thank Classis Toronto for the honor of being placed in this role. It has met and prayed together as representatives from Newmarket Bethel CRC, All Nations CRC, Toronto First CRC, and members of the Classis Toronto Race Relations Committee. The materials studied in preparation for our meeting were:

- The overture from Alliston CRC.
- The communication from Barrie Covenant CRC.

- The report of the synodical Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisors to Synod, (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, pp. 333-51).
- Various other materials in the *Agenda for Synod 2005* such as Overtures 14, 15, 16, and 17, all of which are responses from various classes to the synodical committee's report and that have some similarities to the sentiments found in the Alliston overture and the Barrie Covenant communication.

The committee wishes to make three comments by way of introduction.

First, the advice committee comes to this task in a spirit of humility because it is fully aware as the synodical committee says on page 337 of the *Agenda for Synod 2005*, that "not a single ethnic minority has been delegated from all eleven Canadian classes combined in [the last] nine years." In other words, the committee does not feel that it has earned the right to presume that it has profound words of wisdom or that it can pretend to be an instructor to the classis or to the denomination.

Second, the advice committee felt very grateful that Alliston and Barrie Covenant took the time and effort to reflect on the synodical report and to put their analyses and views into writing (see Appendix for Alliston's overture), thereby helping to spur the broader church into further reflection. The committee feels that the same positive energy is present in the various overtures in synod's agenda that respond to the study committee. The very fact that so many people are thinking and talking about synod's study is a very good sign, and the committee is encouraged by it.

Third, the advice committee felt, in intimate discussions together about the church and about racism, that behind and under everything is a deeply spiritual truth, namely, that those who love the Lord Jesus are brothers and sisters in Christ. This advisory committee does not want to see its role as a burdensome chore or to view the synodical report with human hesitation. This entire topic is seen neither as a "problem" or an "issue." Rather, the committee senses the opportunities that abound and are thus led by the vision of a Spirit-filled direction. What is being discussed is actually something beautiful, not something inherently problematic.

The advice committee thus makes the following recommendations to Classis Toronto:

A. That classis acknowledge the overall sentiment in the Alliston overture that a "bottom-up" involvement of ethnic minorities is more energizing and effective than a "top-down" process. For example, classis could recommend to synod that the study committee could have added concrete lines such as, "whenever a classis has at least four member churches that have an ethnic minority officebearer, such a classis could be counted on by synod to be a denominational leader in demonstrating the desire to send an ethnic minority officebearer to synod as a delegate." Somehow the bottom-up process has to be stressed.

B. That Classis Toronto ask Synod 2005, in light of the above point, to instruct church visitors to have as one of their routine questions when making church visits: How is your congregation doing in the ministry of enfolding and embracing people of ethnic minorities? The members of this committee of

advice feel that the most significant ministries always occur on the local council and congregational level. Alliston's instinct about this is correct. Recommendation H (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 350) essentially recognizes this very same fact when it reminds the churches of the denomination that the CRC Office of Race Relations is available to help the *congregations* in this enfolding ministry.

C. That classis express appreciation to Alliston for noting that, while Alliston agrees with much of the synodical report, it has specific difficulty with Recommendations B and C. By being this focused, Alliston made it easier for this committee to focus on a specific advisory response.

D. That classis seek to alleviate Alliston's concern about Recommendations B and C by emphasizing, and by sending this comment to synod as well, that Recommendations B and C are above all else goals and recommendations that focus on the importance of being *intentional* as a church of Jesus Christ. Recommendation B sets forth a nonpunitive goal (not an order) that could help lead the denomination as a whole to embrace that what the synodical committee has discovered through its research on church and society is a reasonable threshold over an extended time period. This committee of advice feels that the overall importance of the concept of *intentionality* cannot be overstressed. Without *intentionality*, it would be difficult to walk together into the same horizon and future. It is a matter of desired direction. Spiritually, we all desire to go in this direction.

E. That classis further seek to alleviate Alliston's concern by stressing that Recommendations B and C are significantly affected by the overall context of all twelve recommendations in the synodical report. For example, the recommendation about allowing deacons to be seated at synod by way of exception, as a strategy for enlarging the pool of potential ethnic minority delegates, is an important consideration (Recommendation F). Furthermore, the synodical study recommends that Synod 2009 appoint a small committee to monitor how things are proceeding as Synod 2011 draws closer, so that the overall situation can be changed or modified if need be (Recommendation K). These are contextual items that affect the overall thrust and tenure of Recommendations B and C.

F. That classis alleviate Alliston's concern about the definition of *ethnic minority* by stressing and accepting the (admittedly unstated) definition in the synodical study, which is the same definition used in most work-place settings and that is considered by some legal experts to be a generic or common meaning, namely, *ethnic minority* means "nonwhite" or "non-Anglo."

G. That Classis Toronto communicate to synod that classis agrees with Overture 3 from Classis Zeeland (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 570). This overture asks synod "to allow former elders to serve as delegates to Synod." There are various reasons why Classis Toronto might endorse Overture 3 at this point. One prominent reason, however, is that the adoption of Classis Zeeland's idea would again *ipso facto* increase the potential pool of ethnic minority delegates who could be sent to synod. This committee of advice feels that this is a worthwhile overture, in part because it inadvertently dovetails with the kind of innovative thinking that exists in the synodical study on ethnic advisors.

H. That classis send the advice committee's document to synod so that it can be a helpful part of the database that the synodical advisory committee can process when it deals with the various overtures and communications that have already come, and that may yet come, to Synod 2005 regarding the report on ethnic advisors.

Classis Toronto
Hendrik P. Bruinsma, stated clerk

Appendix

Overture to Classis Toronto from the Council of Alliston CRC

At its January 11, 2005, meeting the council of the Christian Reformed Church of Alliston requested that Classis Toronto overture Synod 2005 in regard to the committee report on the practice of ethnic advisors to not accede to grounds B and C of that particular report, both of which deal with the recommendation that each classis in the CRC include a person of an ethnic minority to represent the classis as a synodical delegate. While Recommendation C only urges that this be encouraged in each classis beginning in 2006, Recommendation B advocates that by 2011 it should be a mandatory requirement of each classis.

The council of Alliston CRC understands the need for greater minority involvement in the various areas of the church, including synod. It agrees with the report's conclusion that the CRC has not done enough in this area. It also agrees that the CRCNA ought to do more to both make the denomination more ethnically diverse and to allow that ethnic population to have a greater voice. However, Recommendations B and C are not the necessary steps for accomplishing this.

Grounds:

1. It is recommended that each classis have at least one delegate who represents an ethnic minority, but the report does not specify exactly who would qualify as an ethnic minority. Is the report referring to people of different skin color? Does it include only those who speak a different language? In the context of the CRC, which is predominantly Dutch in its background and makeup, would a person from Hungary who came out of the Hungarian Reformed Church be considered an ethnic minority. Would a person who is a sixth-generation Canadian with British roots be considered an ethnic minority? This should be carefully defined before any decisions are reached.
2. The percentage of representation that would result from these recommendations seems to be disproportionately high. Currently, synod requires each classis to delegate four persons to each synod. The recommendation that at least one person be an ethnic minority would give ethnicities 25 percent of the representation. The report noted that in December 2002, the Office of Race Relations estimated that 5.8 to 7.4 percent of the membership in the CRC is made up of people from ethnic minorities and that currently their representation at synod is equal to or greater than that number. It is important for minorities to have a greater opportunity and that their representation at synod should not be limited

to their percentage of representation in the denomination. However, 25 percent seems to be significantly high.

3. These recommendations do not take into consideration the differences that exist in various geographical regions of the denomination. While the quota may be easily achieved in many classes, especially those with large, multinational urban centers, there are some classes that do not have many ethnic minorities in their churches or in their communities. This is especially true in more rural areas, which will make it more difficult for them to find suitable delegates.
4. It is risky when the criterion used to select people becomes one of race, or of culture, or of other such things rather than the gifts that people have for doing a particular task. It is certain that there are many gifted minorities in the church and that they should be allowed these opportunities, but giftedness should be the reason they are selected. Where they are from, what language they speak, or what color their skin is should not be the reason for delegation to synod. This should be true of all people and all delegates.
5. Affirmative action, such as these recommendations suggest, does not always help to alleviate many of the issues associated with race in the church. In fact, sometimes it makes them worse. There are many people who are opposed to affirmative action-not because they are racist but because they believe that all people are equal and ought to have equal opportunity based on the same criterion. Rather than solving the problem of race and ethnic inequality, affirmative action often creates bitterness and frustration, which in turn actually exacerbates the roots of the problems.

It is the opinion of the council of Alliston CRC that Recommendations B and C of this report are not a useful way of solving the problems that exist in the CRC in regard to minority representation and participation in the denomination.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,081	\$ 4,209	\$ 4,090	\$ 4,335
% of Total Income	42.6%	42.8%	44.2%	46.5%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 3,063	\$ 3,567	\$ 3,735	\$ 3,825
Estate Gifts	\$ 1,852	\$ 831	\$ 1,000	\$ 825
Total Gift Income	4,915	4,398	4,735	4,650
% of Total Income	51.3%	44.7%	51.2%	49.9%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants-Animation	\$ 237	\$ 321	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 339	\$ 908	\$ 425	\$ 340
Total Other Income	576	1,229	425	340
% of Total Income	6.0%	12.5%	4.6%	3.6%
TOTAL INCOME	9,572	9,836	9,250	9,325
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
English	\$ 2,702	\$ 2,832	\$ 2,525	\$ 2,000
FTEs	5	5	5	5
International	\$ 3,129	\$ 3,292	\$ 3,475	\$ 3,825
FTEs	12	13	13	13
Television	\$ 1,891	\$ 1,425	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,070
FTEs	10	5	5	4
Television - Animation	\$ 849	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -
	-	-	-	-
New Language Program Initiatives	\$ -	\$ 85	\$ 400	\$ 400
	-	-	-	-
Currency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 8,571	\$ 7,834	\$ 7,470	\$ 7,395
Total Program Service FTEs	27	23	23	22
% of Total \$	84.2%	81.0%	80.8%	79.3%
% of Total FTEs	75.0%	71.9%	71.9%	71.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 513	\$ 556	\$ 600	\$ 600
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 1,093	\$ 1,287	\$ 1,180	\$ 1,330
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Total Support Service \$	1,606	1,843	1,780	1,930
Total Support Service FTEs	9	9	9	9
% of Total \$	15.8%	19.0%	19.2%	20.7%
% of Total FTEs	25.0%	28.1%	28.1%	29.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 10,177	\$ 9,677	\$ 9,250	\$ 9,325
TOTAL FTEs	36	32	32	31
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ (605)	\$ 159	\$ -	\$ -

**Operating Budget (000s)
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 2,519	\$ 2,695	\$ 2,480	\$ 2,725
% of Total Income	47.6%	49.7%	43.1%	45.2%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 873	\$ 817	\$ 1,158	\$ 1,035
Estate Gifts	\$ 91	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Total Gift Income	964	867	1,208	1,085
% of Total Income	18.2%	16.0%	21.0%	18.0%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 1,318	\$ 1,480	\$ 1,659	\$ 1,855
Grants	\$ 369	\$ 334	\$ 357	\$ 334
Miscellaneous	\$ 124	\$ 51	\$ 56	\$ 28
Total Other Income	1,811	1,865	2,072	2,217
% of Total Income	34.2%	34.4%	36.0%	36.8%
TOTAL INCOME	5,294	5,427	5,760	6,027
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Instructional	\$ 2,471	\$ 2,330	\$ 2,531	\$ 2,602
FTEs	27	27	27	27
Public Service	\$ 66	\$ 50	\$ 76	\$ 53
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Academic Support	\$ 655	\$ 723	\$ 774	\$ 870
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Student Services	\$ 490	\$ 483	\$ 523	\$ 555
FTEs	4	4	4	5
Student Aid	\$ 263	\$ 234	\$ 274	\$ 268
FTEs	1	1	1	1
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 3,945	\$ 3,820	\$ 4,178	\$ 4,349
Total Program Service FTEs	35	35	35	36
% of Total \$	75.0%	71.3%	72.5%	72.2%
% of Total FTEs	77.8%	76.1%	76.1%	78.3%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 544	\$ 786	\$ 789	\$ 917
FTEs	5	6	6	5
Plant Operations	\$ 311	\$ 361	\$ 345	\$ 380
FTEs	2	1	1	1
Fund Raising	\$ 460	\$ 388	\$ 448	\$ 381
FTEs	3	4	4	4
Total Support Service \$	1,315	1,535	1,582	1,678
Total Support Service FTEs	10	11	11	10
% of Total \$	25.0%	28.7%	27.5%	27.8%
% of Total FTEs	22.2%	23.9%	23.9%	21.7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,260	\$ 5,355	\$ 5,760	\$ 6,027
TOTAL FTEs	45	46	46	46
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 34	\$ 72	\$ -	\$ (0)

Canadian Ministries Board

Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2005-2006

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 583	\$ 596	\$ 575	\$ 614
% of Total Income	94.6%	99.2%	93.5%	93.9%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 33	\$ 37	\$ 40	\$ 40
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	33	37	40	40
% of Total Income	5.4%	6.2%	6.5%	6.1%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ (32)	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Income	-	(32)	-	-
% of Total Income	0.0%	-5.3%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL INCOME	616	601	615	654
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Govt. Contact/Church in Soc.	\$ 45	\$ 53	\$ 70	\$ 72
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Indian Ministries	\$ 359	\$ 421	\$ 426	\$ 444
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Electronic Media	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Canadian Ministry Forum	\$ 2	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 19
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Other	\$ 23	\$ 32	\$ 29	\$ 36
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 429	\$ 524	\$ 543	\$ 571
Total Program Service FTEs	4	4	4	4
% of Total \$	91.9%	92.6%	92.0%	90.9%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 38	\$ 42	\$ 47	\$ 57
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	38	42	47	57
Total Support Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	8.1%	7.4%	8.0%	9.1%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 467	\$ 566	\$ 590	\$ 628
TOTAL FTEs	4	4	4	4
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 149	\$ 35	\$ 25	\$ 26

**Operating Budget (000s)
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 736	\$ 862	\$ 840	\$ 925
% of Total Income	12.6%	15.4%	13.7%	13.3%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 65	\$ 49	\$ 293	\$ 330
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	65	49	293	330
% of Total Income	1.1%	0.9%	4.8%	4.8%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 4,909	\$ 4,554	\$ 4,912	\$ 5,385
Grants	\$ 118	\$ 119	\$ 73	\$ 223
Miscellaneous	\$ 14	\$ 6	\$ 30	\$ 73
Total Other Income	5,041	4,679	5,015	5,681
% of Total Income	86.3%	83.7%	81.6%	81.9%
TOTAL INCOME	5,842	5,590	6,148	6,936
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Banner	\$ 819	\$ 757	\$ 848	\$ 1,225
FTEs	4	4	4	4
Education	\$ 3,390	\$ 3,202	\$ 3,992	\$ 4,008
FTEs	20	18	18	20
World Literature	\$ 493	\$ 350	\$ 514	\$ 530
FTEs	3	3	3	3
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	4,702	4,309	5,354	5,763
Total Program Service FTEs	27	25	25	27
% of Total \$	88.6%	86.2%	88.3%	88.8%
% of Total FTEs	93.1%	92.6%	92.6%	93.1%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 603	\$ 691	\$ 707	\$ 730
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	603	691	707	730
Total Support Service FTEs	2	2	2	2
% of Total \$	11.4%	13.8%	11.7%	11.2%
% of Total FTEs	6.9%	7.4%	7.4%	6.9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,305	5,000	6,061	6,493
TOTAL FTEs	29	27	27	29
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 537	\$ 590	\$ 87	\$ 443

Christian Reformed Home Missions

Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2005-2006

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,713	\$ 4,882	\$ 4,912	\$ 5,029
% of Total Income	62.9%	63.3%	64.7%	66.2%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 1,342	\$ 1,460	\$ 1,773	\$ 1,855
Estate Gifts	\$ 728	\$ 375	\$ 283	\$ 310
Total Gift Income	2,070	1,835	2,056	2,165
% of Total Income	27.6%	23.8%	27.1%	28.5%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 87	\$ 78	\$ 41	\$ 30
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 623	\$ 916	\$ 578	\$ 377
Total Other Income	710	994	619	407
% of Total Income	9.5%	12.9%	8.2%	5.4%
TOTAL INCOME	7,493	7,711	7,587	7,601
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
New-Church Development	\$ 4,077	\$ 4,112	\$ 3,838	\$ -
FTEs	13	13	13	-
Established-Church Develop.	\$ 1,645	\$ 1,408	\$ 1,545	\$ -
FTEs	17	17	17	-
Campus/schools	\$ 922	\$ 848	\$ 921	\$ -
FTEs	2	2	2	-
Ministry Teams	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,571
FTEs	-	-	-	26
Ministry Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,222
FTEs	-	-	-	10
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,644	\$ 6,368	\$ 6,304	\$ 6,793
Total Program Service FTEs	32	32	32	36
% of Total \$	82.7%	81.2%	80.8%	81.5%
% of Total FTEs	78.0%	80.0%	76.2%	78.3%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 725	\$ 803	\$ 729	\$ 760
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ 665	\$ 672	\$ 771	\$ 778
FTEs	6	5	7	7
Total Support Service \$	1,390	1,475	1,500	1,538
Total Support Service FTEs	9	8	10	10
% of Total \$	17.3%	18.8%	19.2%	18.5%
% of Total FTEs	22.0%	20.0%	23.8%	21.7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 8,034	\$ 7,843	\$ 7,804	\$ 8,331
TOTAL FTEs	41	40	42	46
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ (541)	\$ (132)	\$ (217)	\$ (730)

Fund for Smaller Churches

Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2005-2006

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 261	\$ 260	\$ 250	\$ 268
% of Total Income	91.3%	91.2%	90.6%	91.5%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 1	\$ 7	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	1	7	-	-
% of Total Income	0.3%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 24	\$ 18	\$ 26	\$ 25
Total Other Income	24	18	26	25
% of Total Income	8.4%	6.3%	9.4%	8.5%
TOTAL INCOME	286	285	276	293
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Subsidy Requests	\$ 405	\$ 422	\$ 442	\$ 191
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Auto & Moving Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Small Church Specialists	\$ 58	\$ 71	\$ 80	\$ 70
FTEs	-	1	1	1
Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Small Church Technology Upgrade	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Small Church Program Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 463	\$ 493	\$ 522	\$ 261
Total Program Service FTEs	1	2	2	2
% of Total \$	96.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	15	-	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 478	\$ 493	\$ 522	\$ 261
TOTAL FTEs	1	2	2	2
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ (192)	\$ (208)	\$ (246)	\$ 32

Christian Reformed World Missions

Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2005-2006

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 4,623	\$ 4,810	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,955
% of Total Income	36.9%	38.3%	38.7%	39.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 5,424	\$ 6,218	\$ 5,887	\$ 6,687
Estate Gifts	\$ 1,139	\$ 775	\$ 650	\$ 665
Total Gift Income	6,563	6,993	6,537	7,352
% of Total Income	52.3%	55.6%	56.2%	57.8%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 716	\$ 145	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 635	\$ 624	\$ 592	\$ 404
Total Other Income	1,351	769	592	404
% of Total Income	10.8%	6.1%	5.1%	3.2%
TOTAL INCOME	12,537	12,572	11,629	12,711
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Africa	\$ 3,362	\$ 3,352	\$ 3,061	\$ 3,284
FTEs	42	37	31	33
Asia	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,155	\$ 2,562	\$ 2,707
FTEs	25	25	19	21
Latin America	\$ 3,348	\$ 3,470	\$ 3,231	\$ 3,534
FTEs	33	29	26	28
Europe	\$ 700	\$ 629	\$ 607	\$ 674
FTEs	14	9	7	8
Education	\$ 608	\$ 575	\$ 515	\$ 683
FTEs	7	7	5	7
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 11,668	\$ 11,181	\$ 9,976	\$ 10,882
Total Program Service FTEs	120	107	88	96
% of Total \$	87.0%	86.3%	85.8%	85.6%
% of Total FTEs	89.7%	88.4%	88.8%	87.6%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 851	\$ 811	\$ 764	\$ 810
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ 894	\$ 962	\$ 889	\$ 1,019
FTEs	9	9	6	8
Total Support Service \$	1,745	1,773	1,653	1,829
Total Support Service FTEs	14	14	11	14
% of Total \$	13.0%	13.7%	14.2%	14.4%
% of Total FTEs	10.3%	11.6%	11.2%	12.4%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 13,413	\$ 12,954	\$ 11,629	\$ 12,711
TOTAL FTEs	134	121	99	110
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ (876)	\$ (382)	\$ -	\$ -

**Operating Budget (000s)
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 8,897	\$ 9,970	\$ 9,466	\$ 9,313
Estate Gifts	\$ 1,568	\$ 976	\$ 1,000	\$ 913
Total Gift Income	10,465	10,946	10,466	10,226
% of Total Income	76.1%	77.6%	85.9%	83.6%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 3,160	\$ 2,448	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,953
Miscellaneous	\$ 134	\$ 720	\$ 225	\$ 48
Total Other Income	3,294	3,168	1,725	2,001
% of Total Income	23.9%	22.4%	14.1%	16.4%
TOTAL INCOME	13,759	14,114	12,191	12,227
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Overseas programs	\$ 7,956	\$ 7,978	\$ 7,422	\$ 7,420
FTEs	54	61	61	52
No America programs	\$ 929	\$ 872	\$ 1,074	\$ 1,062
FTEs	8	10	10	7
Disaster relief programs	\$ 3,220	\$ 2,403	\$ 847	\$ 787
FTEs	8	8	8	8
Education	\$ 445	\$ 446	\$ 487	\$ 501
FTEs	2	3	3	4
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 12,550	\$ 11,699	\$ 9,830	\$ 9,770
Total Program Service FTEs	72	82	82	71
% of Total \$	84.2%	82.4%	81.3%	80.7%
% of Total FTEs	79.1%	81.2%	81.2%	78.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 1,165	\$ 1,152	\$ 1,039	\$ 1,039
FTEs	8	8	8	7
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ 1,198	\$ 1,354	\$ 1,225	\$ 1,305
FTEs	11	11	11	13
Total Support Service \$	2,363	2,506	2,264	2,344
Total Support Service FTEs	19	19	19	20
% of Total \$	15.8%	17.6%	18.7%	19.3%
% of Total FTEs	20.9%	18.8%	18.8%	22.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 14,913	\$ 14,205	\$ 12,094	\$ 12,114
TOTAL FTEs	91	101	101	91
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ (1,154)	\$ (91)	\$ 97	\$ 113

Denominational Services

Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2005-2006

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 1,995	\$ 2,089	\$ 1,910	\$ 2,276
% of Total Income	16.7%	20.2%	18.3%	19.0%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 52	\$ 17	\$ 10	\$ 10
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	52	17	10	10
% of Total Income	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 4,111	\$ 4,317	\$ 4,578	\$ 4,844
Grants	\$ 2,183	\$ 423	\$ 73	\$ 285
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,596	\$ 3,497	\$ 3,870	\$ 4,587
Total Other Income	9,890	8,237	8,521	9,716
% of Total Income	82.9%	79.6%	81.6%	81.0%
TOTAL INCOME	11,937	10,343	10,441	12,002
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Synodical Services & Grants	\$ 881	\$ 937	\$ 1,061	\$ 1,369
FTEs	5	5	5	5
Soc Just Ed./Communications	\$ 531	\$ 626	\$ 640	\$ 494
FTEs	3	3	4	4
CRCP/Plan/Lilly Grant	\$ 179	\$ 712	\$ 504	\$ 539
FTEs	2	2	2	2
CS/PS Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 4,355	\$ 4,516	\$ 4,618	\$ 4,896
FTEs	30	29	28	28
Finance/Payroll/Development	\$ 1,527	\$ 1,691	\$ 1,785	\$ 2,126
FTEs	17	21	22	24
Information Services	\$ 530	\$ 570	\$ 726	\$ 788
FTEs	7	7	7	8
Personnel	\$ 126	\$ 121	\$ 142	\$ 199
FTEs	2	2	2	2
Total Program Service \$	\$ 8,129	\$ 9,173	\$ 9,476	\$ 10,411
Total Program Service FTEs	66	69	70	73
% of Total \$	85.9%	87.0%	86.2%	82.8%
% of Total FTEs	88.0%	89.6%	89.7%	88.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 627	\$ 610	\$ 673	\$ 1,012
FTEs	5	4	4	5
Plant Operations/Debt Serv.	\$ 638	\$ 693	\$ 763	\$ 853
FTEs	3	3	3	4
Fund Raising (Foundation)	\$ 71	\$ 63	\$ 83	\$ 293
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Total Support Service \$	1,336	1,366	1,519	2,158
Total Support Service FTEs	9	8	8	10
% of Total \$	14.1%	13.0%	13.8%	17.2%
% of Total FTEs	12.0%	10.4%	10.3%	12.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 9,465	\$ 10,539	\$ 10,995	\$ 12,569
TOTAL FTEs	75	77	78	83
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 2,472	\$ (196)	\$ (554)	\$ (567)

Pastoral-Ministry Programs

Operating Budget (000s) Fiscal Year 2005-2006

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
Ministry Share	\$ 1,310	\$ 1,320	\$ 1,210	\$ 1,360
% of Total Income	85.0%	85.4%	88.4%	88.2%
Other Gift Income:				
Above Ministry Share	\$ 172	\$ 172	\$ 154	\$ 176
Estate Gifts	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Gift Income	173	172	154	176
% of Total Income	11.2%	11.1%	11.2%	11.4%
Other Income:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ 7	\$ -	\$ 5	\$ 6
Grants	\$ 52	\$ 54	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Income	59	54	5	6
% of Total Income	3.8%	3.5%	0.4%	0.4%
TOTAL INCOME	1,542	1,546	1,369	1,542
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Chaplaincy Services	\$ 267	\$ 231	\$ 187	\$ 222
FTEs	3	2	1	1
Race Relations	\$ 408	\$ 326	\$ 325	\$ 314
FTEs	4	4	3	3
Pastor-Church Relations	\$ 410	\$ 470	\$ 465	\$ 499
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Abuse Prevention	\$ 146	\$ 143	\$ 160	\$ 166
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Disability Concerns	\$ 180	\$ 186	\$ 194	\$ 203
FTEs	1	1	1	1
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 1,411	\$ 1,356	\$ 1,331	\$ 1,404
Total Program Service FTEs	12	11	9	9
% of Total \$	98.5%	97.8%	98.1%	97.6%
% of Total FTEs	92.3%	91.7%	90.0%	90.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund Raising	\$ 21	\$ 31	\$ 26	\$ 34
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Total Support Service \$	21	31	26	34
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	1.5%	2.2%	1.9%	2.4%
% of Total FTEs	7.7%	8.3%	10.0%	10.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,432	\$ 1,387	\$ 1,357	\$ 1,438
TOTAL FTEs	13	12	10	10
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 110	\$ 159	\$ 12	\$ 104

Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds - Canada

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

	MPF 2003 Actual	MPF 2004 Actual	SAF 2003 Actual	SAF 2004 Actual
ADDITIONS:				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	16
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	84.2%
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	\$ 1,151	\$ 1,645	\$ -	-
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,716	\$ 2,641	\$ 3	3
Total Other Income	3,867	4,286	3	3
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	15.8%
TOTAL ADDITIONS	3,867	4,286	3	19
DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 1,743	\$ 1,834	\$ 25	\$ 13
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 1,743	\$ 1,834	\$ 25	\$ 13
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	87.5%	83.9%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	-	-
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 248	\$ 352	\$ -	-
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	248	352	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	12.5%	16.1%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	-	-
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$ 1,991	\$ 2,186	\$ 25	\$ 13
TOTAL FTEs	1	1	-	-
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$ 1,876	\$ 2,100	\$ (22)	\$ 6

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

Changes in Net Assets (000s of U.S. \$)

	MPF 2003 Actual	MPF 2004 Actual	SAF 2003 Actual	SAF 2004 Actual
ADDITIONS:				
Ministry Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	66
% of Total Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	97.1%
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	\$ 2,889	\$ 4,018	\$ -	-
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Miscellaneous	\$ 15,137	\$ 8,913	\$ 2	2
Total Other Income	18,026	12,931	2	2
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	2.9%
TOTAL ADDITIONS	18,026	12,931	2	68
DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,261	\$ 40	\$ 80
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,261	\$ 40	\$ 80
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	90.4%	89.9%	100.0%	100.0%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%		
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 667	\$ 701	\$ -	-
FTEs	1	1	-	-
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	667	701	-	-
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	-	-
% of Total \$	9.6%	10.1%	0.0%	0.0%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%		
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$ 6,917	\$ 6,962	\$ 40	\$ 80
TOTAL FTEs	1	1	-	-
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$ 11,109	\$ 5,969	\$ (38)	\$ (12)

Employees' Retirement Plan - U.S.

Changes in Net Assets (000s of U.S. \$)

	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Actual
ADDITIONS:				
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:				
Employer Contributions	\$ 840	\$ 922	\$ 912	\$ 950
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ (464)	\$ (1,221)	\$ 2,020	\$ 1,239
Total Other Income	376	(299)	2,932	2,189
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
TOTAL ADDITIONS	376	(299)	2,932	2,189
DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Distributions	\$ 394	\$ 655	\$ 1,345	\$ 835
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program-service \$	\$ 394	\$ 655	\$ 1,345	\$ 835
Total Program-service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	91.0%	88.4%	93.9%	90.1%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 39	\$ 86	\$ 87	\$ 92
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support-service \$	39	86	87	92
Total Support-service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	9.0%	11.6%	6.1%	9.9%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$ 433	\$ 741	\$ 1,432	\$ 927
TOTAL FTEs	1	1	1	1
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$ (57)	\$ (1,040)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,262

Consolidated Group Insurance - U.S.

Changes in Net Assets (000s of U.S. \$)

	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Actual
ADDITIONS:				
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 Premiums	\$ 6,791	\$ 6,677	\$ 7,245	\$ 7,796
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 295	\$ 213	\$ 100	\$ 69
Total Other Income	7,086	6,890	7,345	7,865
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
TOTAL ADDITIONS	7,086	6,890	7,345	7,865
DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Claims Expense	\$ 5,406	\$ 5,110	\$ 5,828	\$ 6,747
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Insurance Premiums	\$ 354	\$ 363	\$ 353	\$ 366
FTEs	-	-	-	-
TPA & PPO Fees	\$ 251	\$ 612	\$ 529	\$ 554
FTEs	-	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Program Service \$	\$ 6,011	\$ 6,085	\$ 6,710	\$ 7,667
Total Program Service FTEs	-	-	-	-
% of Total \$	96.7%	97.0%	97.3%	97.7%
% of Total FTEs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 204	\$ 185	\$ 187	\$ 184
FTEs	3	3	3	3
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	204	185	187	184
Total Support Service FTEs	3	3	3	3
% of Total \$	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%
% of Total FTEs	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$ 6,215	\$ 6,270	\$ 6,897	\$ 7,851
TOTAL FTEs	3	3	3	3
NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)	\$ 871	\$ 620	\$ 448	\$ 14

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

	Fiscal 02-03 Actual	Fiscal 03-04 Actual	Fiscal 04-05 Budget	Fiscal 05-06 Proposed
INCOME:				
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:				
Tuition & Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 965	\$ 821	\$ 1,004	\$ 1,029
Total Other Income	965	821	1,004	1,029
% of Total Income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
TOTAL INCOME	965	821	1,004	1,029
EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):				
Program Services:				
Loan Interest	\$ 677	\$ 553	\$ 770	\$ 700
FTEs	1	1	1	1
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Service \$	\$ 677	\$ 553	\$ 770	\$ 700
Total Program Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	82.5%	76.4%	80.0%	74.2%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Support Services:				
Management & General	\$ 144	\$ 171	\$ 192	\$ 244
FTEs	1	1	1	1
Plant Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FTEs	-	-	-	-
Total Support Service \$	144	171	192	244
Total Support Service FTEs	1	1	1	1
% of Total \$	17.5%	23.6%	20.0%	25.8%
% of Total FTEs	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 821	\$ 724	\$ 962	\$ 944
TOTAL FTEs	2	2	2	2
NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)	\$ 144	\$ 97	\$ 42	\$ 85

REPORT OF SYNOD 2005

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Sunday, June 12, 2005
3:00 p.m.
Martin & Janet Ozinga Chapel
Trinity Christian College
Palos Heights, Illinois

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Bish
Ms. Nancy Vander Tuuk, Organist

Welcome & Greeting Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr.
Pastor of Palos Heights CRC

Call to Worship

WE PRAISE THE LORD

* *Psalter Hymnal* 253, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

* Opening Prayer, *ending in unison with the Lord's Prayer* . . Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr.

* Songs of Praise Palos Heights CRC Praise Team
"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"
"I See the Lord"

Preparation for the Lord's Supper Mr. Mark Ward
"Prayer of Dedication" Palos Heights CRC Choir
(Words by John Parker and music by Benjamin Harlan)

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

Offering: Calvin Theological Seminary

Offertory: "Sonata" by Veracini. Ms. Nancy Vander Tuuk, Pianist
Ms. Nikki Rinsema, Violinist

GOD OFFERS HIS GRACE

Prayer for Illumination Ms. Joanna Payne

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20 Ms. Joanna Payne

Sermon: "I Will Build My Church" Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr.

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Minister: We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of this sacrifice, until he comes again.

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, 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, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes” (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

All: We shall do as our Lord commands. We proclaim that our Lord Jesus was sent by the Father into the world, that he took upon himself our flesh and blood, and bore the wrath of God against our sin. We confess that he was condemned to die that we might be pardoned, and suffered death that we might live. We proclaim that he is risen to make us right with God, and that he shall come again in the glory of his new creation. This we do now, and until he comes again.

All: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit to sanctify us and your whole church through this sacrament. Grant that all who share the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ may be one in him and may remain faithful in love and hope. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

WE WITNESS OUR FAITH

Gift of Music: “Embrace the Cross” by Steve Green. Mr. Chris Van Noord

* *Psalter Hymnal* 267 “And Can It Be”

“Lord, I Believe,” by Larry Shackley. Palos Heights CRC Choir

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

* Benediction. Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr.

* *Sing! A New Creation* 231, “A Living Sacrifice”

Palos Heights CRC Praise Team

Minister: I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Be imitators of God, as beloved children

All: We present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

Minister: Live in love as Christ loved you.

All: We present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

Minister: Be imitators of Christ who gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

All: We present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

* "We Are an Offering" Palos Heights CRC Praise Team

Postlude: "Festival Postlude" Young

*Indicates that worshipers, if able, should stand

MINUTES OF SYNOD 2005

SATURDAY MORNING, June 11, 2005

First Session

ARTICLE 1

President pro tem Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr., pastor of Palos Heights Christian Reformed Church, Palos Heights, Illinois, the convening church, welcomes the delegates to Synod 2005 and introduces Dr. Steve Timmermans, president of Trinity Christian College. Dr. Timmermans welcomes delegates to Trinity's campus.

Rev. Hamstra reads from Psalm 113 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 170, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" and *Psalter Hymnal* 627, "Bless His Holy Name." He reflects on "Can Anything Good Come out of Galilee (or Chicago this week)?" He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 425 "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid."

ARTICLE 2

The president pro tem requests the executive director of ministries (EDM), Dr. Peter Borgdorff, to call the roll of delegates listed on the credentials of the forty-seven classes:

DELEGATES TO SYNOD 2005

Classis	Ministers	Elders
Alberta North	Russell J. Graff John A. Ooms	William Vanden Born Peter G. Jonkman
Alberta South/Saskatchewan	J. Cameron Fraser Philip J. Reinders	Mike Wind Ron Buschman
Arizona	James A. Hildebrandt Ray P. DeLange	Ken Rindels Eduardo A. Gonzalez
Atlantic Northeast	Kenneth J. Nydam Edward H. Gerber	Jan R. Huussen Kenneth Prol
B.C. North-West	Hilbrent Van der Heide Darren G. Colyn	William J.N. Crofton Jacob E. Colyn
B.C. South-East	Andrew G. Vander Leek Kenneth D. Boonstra	August Bremer Tony Siebring
California South	Tong K. Park Donald W. Lagerwey	Benton J. Mulder Richard H. Boonstra
Central California	George G. Vink Bruce A. Persenaire	Willie Bylsma Paul W. Whatley, Sr.
Chatham	Richard J. deLange Vic Vandermolen	John Eising George H. Douma
Chicago South	Robert J. Price Gerry G. Van Dam	Roger C. Lefers Richard Fennema

Columbia	D. Vance Hays	Walt Wierenga
Eastern Canada	William S. Wilton	Ivan R. Imig
Georgetown	Gary Van Leeuwen	Gerrit Tenyenhuis
Grand Rapids East	Benjamin J. Ponsen	Mike Van Dyke
Grand Rapids North	Terry L. Genzink	Dale Boeve
Grand Rapids South	David E. Den Haan	Melvin Vander Bie
Grandville	Peter M. Jonker	Peter P. De Boer
Greater Los Angeles	George F. Vander Weit	Wesley J. Febus
Hackensack	Henry Admiraal	Donald Oosterhouse
Hamilton	Edward J. Blankespoor	Daryl Vogel
Heartland	David J. Deters	Randall S. Ledeboer
Holland	Stanley P. Mast	John De Jager
Hudson	Daniel B. Mouw	Lawrence Hoogerhyde, Sr.
Huron	David L. Jolman	Henry J. Koetje
lakota	Norberto E. Wolf	Francisco Golon
Illiana	J. Daniel Mendez	Francis N. Kredit
Kalamazoo	Andrew K. Chun	Steve Jefferson
Lake Erie	Joel E. Kok	Joshua O. Amaezechi
Lake Superior	Gordon H. Pols	Cornelis Visser
Minnkota	Kevin P. De Raaf	Homer W. Lensink
Muskegon	Timothy J. Ouwinga	Ervin L. Hibma
Niagara	Nathan de Vries	Robert Wiersma
Northcentral Iowa	Douglas R. Fauble	Jack Berghoef
Northern Illinois	Wayne A. Brouwer	Ray Schrottenboer
Northern Michigan	Jack Wilson	David Lowe
Pacific Hanmi	Oh Kyung Kwon	Clarence A. Knyfd
Pacific Northwest	Edward Den Haan	Jack Tacoma
Pella	William F. Hoogland	Stan Puklicz
Quinte	Bernard J. Haan, Jr.	Nathan L. Hitchcock
Red Mesa	Clifford Hoekstra	
	Herman J. Schutt	Donald Dykstra
	Gerald L. Hoek	Harley D. Ver Beek
	Hendrik De Vries	Louis J. Meinema
	Loren J. Kotman	Kenneth R. Slager
	Kenneth M. Vander Horst	Theo Verbeek
	Peter Choi	Maurice A. Veenstra
	L. Bryce Mensink	Don Muilenburg
	Richard Zekveld	Don Wieberdink
	Timothy J. Brown	Verl E. Hieb
	Gerrit Besteman	Henry De Kruif
	Alvin L. Hoksbergen	John A. Frens
	Steven J. Datema	Hendrik Grashuis
	Derek Bouma	John TeBrake
	Walter H. Vanderwerf	Sylvan E. Gerritsma
	George M. McGuire	Billy DeKruyff
	Matthew D. Ooms	Ronald Klaasen
	James E. Wolff	Richard Brander
	Timothy H. Douma	Jack G. Wiersum
	Thomas A. De Does	John Rozeveld
	Carl J. Afman	Carl Veenstra
	Paul K. Im	Sung Chang Choi
	Hyung Ju Park	Chong Dae Yoon
	Timothy B. Toeset	Don L. Korthuis
	Rob W. Jansons	
	John Gorter	Jerry L. Uitermarkt
	Sheldon Starkenberg	Ernest L. De Jong
	B. Bernard Bakker	John Struyk
	Michael F. Miedema	Jim Van Halteren
	Raymond Slim	Caleb N. Dickson
	Bobby Boyd	Willie J. Bennally

Rocky Mountain	Kenneth R. Rip Thomas D. Draayer	Dick J. Katte Anthony Begay
Southeast U.S.	Scott Vander Ploeg Hector Garcia	Henry Perez Jack VanDerSlik
Thornapple Valley	Daniel J. Steen David D. Poolman	Harry L. Holwerda Richard N. Watzte
Toronto	Hendrik P. Bruinsma Jacob Kerkhof	Ronald Vance Willem Ubbens
Wisconsin	Glenn O. Gerdes Jeffrey J. Brower	Rob Buikema Ed Homan
Yellowstone	Jack A. Huttinga Randall Van Osdol	Brent Ligtenberg Wes Visser
Zeeland	William J. Renkema Marc A. Nelesen	Del Arendsen Ron Bergman

The roll call indicates that the following delegates are absent with notice: Terry L. Genzink (Georgetown), Douglas R. Fauble (Holland), James E. Wolff (Northern Illinois), Willie Bennally (Red Mesa).

ARTICLE 3

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

President: Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer
 Vice President: Dr. Stanley P. Mast
 First Clerk: Rev. Gordon H. Pols
 Second Clerk: Mr. Donald Dykstra

ARTICLE 4

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

Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr., for his participation in the opening of synod.

On behalf of himself and the other officers, Dr. Brouwer 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 officer (Dr. Peter Borgdorff, EDM), the seminary faculty advisers, the ethnic advisers, and the women advisers.

The EDM welcomes and individually introduces the fraternal delegates who are present: Rev. Joseph Murupus from the Reformed Church of East Africa and Rev. Evert Overeem from the Protestant Church in the Netherlands.

The EDM welcomes and individually introduces the faculty advisers who are present: Dr. Gaylen Byker, Dr. Henry De Moor, Dr. Robert C. De Vries, Dr. Duane K. Kelderman, Dr. Ronald J. Nydam, Dr. Neal Plantinga, Dr. David M. Rylaarsdam, and Dr. Ruth A. Tucker.

The EDM welcomes and individually introduces to synod the ethnic advisers who are present: Mrs. Verney Kho, Rev. Esteban Lugo, Mr. Socheth Na, Mr. Tim Nguyen, and Mr. Chris Pullenayengem.

The EDM welcomes and individually introduces to synod the women advisers who are present: Dr. Nell DeBoer, Mrs. Marlys J. Popma, Mrs. Mary Beth Ripmeester, Mrs. Patricia Storteboom, Mrs. Jane Vander Haagen, and Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks.

The EDM introduces the synod news office staff, the synod office staff, and Trinity Christian College staff.

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 EDM 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 2005 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 EDM presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 2005:

Committee 1—Synodical Services I—Polity Matters

Chairman: George G. Vink; **reporter:** Jacob Kerkhof; **ministers:** Thomas A. De Does, J. Fraser Cameron, Terry L. Genzink, Gerald L. Hoek, David D. Poolman, H. David Schuringa, James E. Wolff; **elders:** August Bremer, Ron Buschman, Peter P. De Boer, Don L. Korthuis, Kenneth Prol, Kenneth R. Slager, John TeBrake, Walt Wierenga; **advisers:** Michael Bruinooge, Marlys J. Popma, Chris Pullenayegem.

Committee 2—Synodical Services II—Program Matters

Chairman: Alvin L. Hoksbergen; **reporter:** John A. Ooms; **ministers:** Nathan de Vries, Timothy J. Ouwinga, Tong K. Park, William J. Renkema, Sheldon Starkenberg, George F. Vander Weit; **elders:** Francisco Golon, Eduardo A. Gonzalez, Jan R. Huussen, Clarence A. Knyfd, Roger C. Lefers, Henry Perez, Jack Tacoma, Richard N. Wattez, Paul W. Whatley, Sr.; **advisers:** Nell DeBoer, Verney Kho, Duane Visser.

Committee 3—Education

Chairman: Henry Admiraal; **reporter:** L. Bryce Mensink; **ministers:** B. Bernard Bakker, James A. Hildebrandt, Oh Kyung Kwon, J. Daniel Mendez, Benjamin J. Ponsen, Jack Wilson; **elders:** Anthony Begay, Jack Berghoef, Sung Chang Choi, Richard Fennema, Sylvan E. Gerritsma, Nathan L. Hitchcock, Peter G. Jonkman, Harley D. Ver Beek; **advisers:** Gaylen Byker, Tim Nguyen, Neal Plantinga, Jane Vander Haagen.

Committee 4—Publications

Chairman: Jack A. Huttinga; **reporter:** D. Vance Hays; **ministers:** Bobby Boyd, Edward Den Haan, Kevin P. De Raaf, Hendrik De Vries, John Gorter, Kenneth J. Nydam; **elders:** Joshua O. Amaezaechi, Richard H. Boonstra, Jacob E. Colyn, William J.N. Crofton, George H. Douma, Henry J. Koetje, Ken Rindels, John Rozeveld, Robert Wiersma; **advisers:** Socheth Na, David M. Rylaarsdam, Patricia Storteboom.

Committee 5—Missions

Chairman: Daniel B. Mouw; **reporter:** Timothy J. Brown; **ministers:** Peter Choi, William F. Hoogland, Paul K. Im, Rob W. Jansons, Kenneth R. Rip,

Andrew G. Vander Leek, Norberto E. Wolf; **elders:** John Eising, Ronald Klaasen, Louis J. Meinema, Benton J. Mulder, Ray Schrotenboer, John Struyk, Gerrit Tenyenhuis, Chong Dae Yoon; **advisers:** Verney Kho, Ruth A. Tucker, Beverly A. Weeks.

Committee 6—Financial Matters

Chairman: Herman J. Schutt; **reporter:** Bruce A. Persenaire; **ministers:** Edward H. Gerber, Loren J. Kotman, Donald W. Lagerwey, Philip F. Reinders, Vic Vandermolen; **elders:** Richard Brander, Hendrik Grashuis, Homer W. Lensink, David Lowe, Tony Siebring, Jerry L. Uitermarkt, Melvin Vander Bie, Jack VanDerSlik, Mike Van Dyke, Theo Verbeek; **advisers:** Chris Pullenayegem, Marlys J. Popma, John H. Bolt.

Committee 7—Interdenominational Matters

Chairman: Edward J. Blankespoor; **reporter:** David E. Den Haan; **ministers:** Steven J. Datema, Richard J. deLange, Hector Garcia, Clifford Hoekstra, George M. McGuire, Hilbrent Van der Heide; **elders:** Wesley J. Febus, Ervin L. Hibma, Verl E. Hieb, Francis N. Kredit, Stan Puklicz, Willem Ubbens, Cornelis Visser, Don Wieberdink; **advisers:** Esteban Lugo, Ronald J. Nydam, Patricia Storteboom.

Committee 8—Church Order and Appeals

Chairman: Bernard J. Haan, Jr.; **reporter:** Timothy B. Toeset; **ministers:** Darren G. Colyn, David J. Deters, Thomas D. Draayer, Robert J. Price, Kenneth M. Vander Horst, Gary Van Leeuwen, Randall Van Osdol; **elders:** Willie J. Benally, Ron Bergman, Dale Boeve, Willie Bylsma, Billy DeKruyff, Ivan R. Imig, Carl Veenstra, Jack G. Wiersum; **advisers:** Henry De Moor, Esteban Lugo, Mary Beth Ripmeester.

Committee 9—Christian Day School Education

Chairman: Peter M. Jonker; **reporter:** Hendrik P. Bruinsma; **ministers:** Carl J. Afman, Gerrit Besteman, Andrew K. Chun, Timothy H. Douma, Matthew D. Ooms, Walter H. Vanderwerf; **elders:** Del Arendsen, Rob Buikema, John A. Frens, Harry L. Holwerda, Ed Homan, Lawrence Hoogerhyde, Sr., Brent Ligtenberg, Jim Van Halteren, Mike Wind; **advisers:** Sari Mills, Duane K. Kelderman, Jane Vander Haagen.

Committee 10—Restorative Justice

Chairman: Donald Oosterhouse; **reporter:** Joel E. Kok; **ministers:** Kenneth D. Boonstra, Derek Bouma, Jeffrey J. Brower, Ray P. De Lange, Russell J. Graff, David L. Jolman, Gerry G. Van Dam, William S. Wilton; **elders:** Ernest L. De Jong, Henry De Kruif, Caleb N. Dickson, Don Muilenburg, Maurice A. Veenstra, Wes Visser; **advisers:** Nell DeBoer, Duane K. Kelderman, Tim Nguyen.

Committee 11—Church Education

Chairman: William Vanden Born; **reporter:** John De Jager; **ministers:** Glenn O. Gerdes, Michael F. Miedema, Marc A. Nelesen, Hyung Ju Park, Raymond Slim, Daniel J. Steen, Scott Vander Ploeg, Richard Zekveld; **elders:** Steve Jefferson, Dick J. Katte, Randall S. Ledebouer, Ronald Vance, Daryl Vogel; **advisers:** Robert C. De Vries, Sari Mills, Beverly A. Weeks.

Recommendation:

That synod adopt the report of the Program Committee, including membership on the advisory committees for Synod 2005 as amended.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 10

The EDM presents the Agenda Directory for Synod 2005, which contains a complete listing of every matter on the agenda that requires synodical action. He indicates where the materials may be found, to which advisory committee each item has been assigned, and where each committee will meet.

ARTICLE 11

The president of synod, Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer leads in closing prayer. Synod adjourns at 10:50 a.m. Synod will reconvene Monday at 8:15 a.m.

MONDAY MORNING, June 13, 2005

Second Session

ARTICLE 12

Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr., announces *Psalter Hymnal* 249, "Holy, Holy, Holy" and *Psalter Hymnal* 502, "The Church's One Foundation."

Dr. Joel H. Nederhood, pastor of preaching at Cottage Gove CRC, South Holland, Illinois, reads from Revelation 22 and addresses delegates regarding "The Glorious Church." He leads in opening prayer.

Rev. Hamstra announces *Psalter Hymnal* 620, "By the Sea of Crystal."

ARTICLE 13

The roll indicates that the following delegates who were absent on Saturday are now present: Terry L. Genzink (Georgetown), Douglas R. Fauble (Holland), James E. Wolff (Northern Illinois). They rise to express agreement with the forms of unity.

The roll indicates that delegate Robert J. Price (Chicago South) is absent.

It is noted that Willie Bennally (Red Mesa) is unable to attend Synod 2005.

ARTICLE 14

The officers of synod announce the following appointments:

Sergeant at Arms:

Elder delegate Henry Perez

Hospitality Committee:

Mrs. Lisa Applegate

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kickert

Minutes-Review Committee:

Elder delegate Jack Berghoef

Elder delegate Ronald Vance

Worship Planning Committee:

Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr.

Elder delegate Lawrence

Hoogerhyde, Sr.

Ethnic adviser Sotheth Na

Delegate Rev. Kenneth J. Nydam

Testimonial Luncheon Committee:
Elder delegate Edward J. Blankespoor
Delegate Rev. David J. Deters

The EDM welcomes and introduces fraternal delegate Dr. Seth Molefi Pitikoe from the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa.

The EDM recognizes representatives of denominational agencies who are present.

ARTICLE 15

A decision is needed each year to determine how the candidates are approved by synod. Some years the group of candidates is voted on as a block; other years each candidate is voted on individually. The chairman ruled that, unless he was challenged, the group of candidates would be voted on as a block. The chairman's ruling was challenged and sustained by a vote of the assembly.

ARTICLE 16

The morning session is adjourned at 9:00 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 13, 2005 Third Session

ARTICLE 17

Delegate Rev. Kenneth J. Nydam announces *Psalter Hymnal* 461, "Beautiful Savior" and reads from Isaiah 11. He leads in opening prayer remembering especially elder delegate Willie Bennally who is ill, Rev. Robert Price's father who has been hospitalized, and Rev. Douglas Fauble who was called home to be at the bedside of a dying member.

The EDM welcomes fraternal delegate Rev. Douglas Fromm from the Reformed Church in America who has arrived.

ARTICLE 18

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod reconsider the ruling made by the chair to declare the Calvin Theological Seminary candidates for ministry in the CRCNA in a single block.

Grounds:

1. The ruling made by the chair did not allow for any discussion on the procedure for approving candidates.
2. Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, B, 7 states that, "In the declaration of candidacy delegates may exercise their right to abstain from voting." With a block vote, those who cannot in good conscience declare women as candidates for ministry must then abstain their support for the male candidates also. Hence, the voice of those who do not support women in office will essentially be lost.

3. This decision may set a negative tone for other decisions that this body will be making this week because there may be the sense that not all are being given the opportunity to express their views.

—*Defeated*

ARTICLE 19

Advisory Committee 11, Church Education, Mr. John De Jager reporting, presents the following:

I. Committee to Study Church Education

A. *Materials*: Committee to Study Church Education Report including Appendices, pp. 482-528

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Mr. Keith Knight, reporter; and Rev. Robert DeMoor, CRC Publications representative when the report is discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod urgently remind the churches of their calling to nurture the faith of all its members (Church Order Articles 12, 63, and 64) and request classes to remind their church visitors to question churches specifically as to their fulfillment of this responsibility.

—*Adopted*

3. That the following question be added to Church Order Article 41: Does council diligently provide for the nurturing of the faith of all its members?

Ground: This vital part of church life is absent from the current list of questions posed by classes to its church delegates.

—*Deferred*

4. That synod call the churches and classes to make faith nurture a special focus beginning in the fall of 2007 through the summer of 2008 by:
 - a. Praying for the Holy Spirit's work of spiritual transformation, growth, and discipleship;
 - b. Placing special emphasis on building strong faith nurturing ministries for all ages, leading people to spiritual maturity, and raising up spiritual leaders; and that synod ask the BOT to instruct CRC Publications to support and equip churches as they seek to carry out these recommendations.

Grounds:

- a. The faith nurture of the church and all spiritual growth depends on the work of the Holy Spirit.
- b. This clear calling in Scripture is a prerequisite for any spiritual growth. See for example Luke 11:9-13.
- c. These recommendations support the initiative of Synod 2004 to grow healthy congregations.

d. These recommendations would serve the churches well as they celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2007 under the theme *Grace Through Every Generation*.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod remind the churches that the second worship service may be a teaching service, employing models such as small groups, house churches, and various congregational gatherings characterized by learning together, dialogue, and interaction.

Grounds:

- a. This is in keeping with the original intent of the second service.
- b. This is in line with Church Order Article 51-a and its Supplement.
- c. Churches that have experience with such models have testified to their effectiveness.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod ask the BOT to instruct CRC Publications to provide program support for the denomination's discipleship efforts for all ages by:

- a. Establishing a position of discipleship specialist to assist CRC agencies, the Children and Youth Ministry Council (CYMC), youth ministry organizations, and classical children and youth ministry personnel in integrating their discipleship programs and to serve as a discipleship consultant within the denomination.

Grounds:

- 1) The many agencies involved in discipleship ministry at the denominational, classical, and congregational levels would benefit greatly from the enhanced networking opportunities and coordination of ministry that a specialist would offer.
 - 2) This will enhance present efforts and processes that are working toward the integration of discipling ministries.
 - 3) The establishment of such a position is consistent with the Denominational Ministry Plan and the denominational ministry priority of creating and sustaining healthy congregations.
- b. Submitting to Synod 2006 a plan to offer high-quality teacher and leader training, conferencing, and consulting.

Grounds:

- 1) More than one-half of the churches surveyed mentioned the need for further training.
- 2) This supports the original mandate of CRC Publications.

—*Adopted*

7. That synod ask the BOT to submit to Synod 2007 a plan of how the CRCNA might develop a comprehensive adult discipleship program.

—*Adopted*

8. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to initiate the development of an annual Institute of Discipleship that will train church staff and volunteer leaders in areas such as Reformed interpretation of Scripture, Reformed

theology, biblical worldview, faith nurture, current culture, and church programming. This should be developed in partnership among CRC-related agencies and institutions.

Grounds:

- a. There is a demonstrated weakness in leadership development at the local level.
- b. This will assist staff to meet synodically established requirements for church staff.
- c. This is important for the ongoing ministry of our churches.

—*Adopted*

9. That synod encourage all professional church staff to become members of the Association of Reformed Youth Pastors and/or the Association of Christian Reformed Educators and to participate regularly in continuing-education events.

Grounds:

- a. This acknowledges the importance of a well-equipped ministry staff.
- b. This assists ministry staff in meeting and maintaining the standards set by synod for all CRC ministry personnel (see *Acts of Synod 2000*, pp. 702-4).
- c. This is consistent with the decision of Synod 2000 in urging all councils to permit, encourage, and fund the continuing professional education of all pastors and ministry staff (see *Acts of Synod 2000*, p. 681).
- d. The CRC through its Office of Pastor-Church Relations and the CRC Foundation has encouraged and assisted the establishment of these organizations.

—*Adopted*

10. That synod dismiss the Committee to Study Church Education with thanks.

—*Adopted*

11. That synod declare this to be its answer to Communication 3.

—*Adopted*

II. Overtures 3, 4, and 5

A. Materials

1. Overture 3, p. 570
2. Overture 4, p. 571-72
3. Overture 5, pp. 573-74

B. Recommendations

1. That synod accede to Overture 3.

—*Defeated*

2. That synod affirm the concerns expressed in Overtures 4 and 5 and ask the Board of Trustees to appoint a committee to recommend changes to Church Order Article 41.

Ground: The questions contained in Article 41 as it currently functions are perceived to be ineffective.

—*Adopted*

3. That this constitutes synod's answer to Overtures 4 and 5.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 20

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Timothy B. Toeset reporting, presents the following:

First Toronto CRC

A. *Materials*

1. Overture 7, pp. 574-75
2. Communication 4, pp. 606-11
3. Communication 5, pp. 611-14

B. *Background*

In the fall of 2002, First CRC, Toronto, Ontario, made a decision that it would consider homosexuals living in a same-sex committed relationship for office in the congregation. In January of 2003, Classis Toronto urged First Toronto to rescind its decision and to repent of its action. When this matter came to its attention in 2003, synod decided to trust Classis Toronto to continue to deal with the matter. In 2004, synod received an appeal, two overtures, and a communication regarding the position of First CRC, Toronto, and Classis Toronto's handling of the matter. Synod's response was:

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 guidelines of the reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002.

(Acts of Synod 2004, p. 632)

In response, Classis Toronto sent church visitors to First CRC, and they reported to classis in January of 2005. This report did not indicate that an investigation was conducted, and there was no pressure to comply with the reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002. This matter has come to synod again, and it is now necessary for synod to have First Toronto CRC clarify the position and practices of its council and to ensure compliance with the guidelines of synodical reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002.

Note: The initial discussion regarding First CRC, Toronto, took place. See Articles 24 and 38 for a continuation of the discussion.

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 24.)

ARTICLE 21

The EDM welcomes and introduces ecumenical guest Rev. Stephen Kendall of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

ARTICLE 22

Delegate Rev. B. Bernard Bakker leads in closing prayer. The afternoon session is adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

MONDAY EVENING, June 13, 2005

Fourth Session

ARTICLE 23

Elder delegate Mr. Gerrit Tenyenhuis reads from Psalm 145 and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 446, "If You But Trust in God to Guide You." He leads in opening prayer and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 446, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

The EDM welcomes and introduces fraternal delegate Rev. Erson Liphadzi from the Reformed Churches in South Africa – Synod Soutpansberg.

ARTICLE 24

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 20.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Timothy B. Toeset reporting, presents the following:

First Toronto CRC

A. *Materials*

1. Overture 7, pp. 574-752.
2. Communication 4, pp. 606-11
3. Communication 5, pp. 611-14

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod appoint a synodical committee in loco to investigate the position of the council of First CRC, Toronto, Ontario, regarding persons living in same-sex committed relationships and seek a response to the serious allegations raised against the church to determine if First CRC is in compliance with the guidelines of the reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002, by October 1, 2005, and report to a combined meeting of Classes Quinte, Huron, Hamilton, and Toronto, which is mandated to act in a manner appropriate to the Church Order and report all actions to Synod 2006 by way of the printed Agenda.

Grounds:

- a. Classis Toronto did not sufficiently carry out the synodical directives of 2004.
- b. The seriousness and ongoing nature of the allegations warrant synod's direct involvement in the situation.
- c. The principles found in Matthew 18 require us to take all the steps necessary before the assemblies might go to the step of deposition. Deposition requires clear opportunity for repentance and restoration.

d. This affords the council of First CRC, Toronto, Ontario, the opportunity to present its position.

—*Recommitted*

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 7 and Communications 4 and 5.

—*Recommitted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 38.)

ARTICLE 25

Advisory Committee 5, Missions, Rev. Timothy J. Brown reporting, presents the following:

I. The Back to God Hour

A. *Materials*

1. The Back to God Hour Report, pp. 113-17
2. The Back to God Hour Supplement

B. *Recommendations*

1. That Dr. Robert Heerspink, president; and Dr. Calvin L. Bremer, executive director, be given the privilege of the floor when The Back to God Hour matters are discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod commend The Back to God Hour for its strategic ministry decisions and initiatives, including its decision to move resources from the North American English radio budget to fund international media ministries.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod express its gratitude to Dr. Calvin L. Bremer for his excellent service as the executive director of The Back to God Hour.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod express its gratitude to the Rev. David J. Feddes for his insightful biblical proclamation as minister of English broadcasting and listener contact of The Back to God Hour.

—*Adopted*

II. Christian Reformed Home Missions

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed Home Missions Report, pp. 145-59

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 commend Christian Reformed Home Missions for its new statements of vision, mission, and goals and for its implementation of reorganization plans that will enable it to better carry out its mission.
—Adopted
3. 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

III. Christian Reformed World Missions

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed World Missions Report, pp. 160-73

B. *Recommendations*

1. That the president of World Missions-Canada, Rev. John Tenyenhuis; the president of World Missions-USA, Mrs. Joy Engelsman; and the World Missions executive director, Dr. Gary Bekker, represent World Missions to synod when synod deals with matters related to this agency.
—Granted
2. That synod commend Christian Reformed World Missions for its ministry of leading the CRCNA in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to the nations, including its development of new statements of vision, mission, and values and the restructuring of its board so that it may more effectively carry out its mission.
—Adopted
3. 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

IV. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

A. *Materials*

1. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee Report, pp. 174-84
2. Christian Reformed World Relief Supplement

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to any of the following: Ms. Mary Dengerink, president of CRWRC-U.S.A.; Mr. Jim Romahn, president of CRWRC-Canada; Mr. Andrew Ryskamp, director of CRWRC-U.S.A.; 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 urge the CRCNA and its key agencies to work as a united team on the challenge before us regarding our response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including:

- Embracing an aggressive response to HIV/AIDS.
- Endorsing and expanding on the CRWRC’s efforts to initiate a vigorous education program, especially to make people aware of innocent victims, such as women, children, the poor, and the powerless.
- Undertaking an energetic advocacy program—speaking to institutions, governments, and individuals regarding the need to ensure that resources are made available to the world’s poor and powerless victims.

Grounds:

- a. The number of people impacted cries out for a response:
 - 1) 42 million people are currently infected with HIV; 14,000 become infected every day.
 - 2) 28 million people have died from AIDS; 8,000 die every day.
 - 3) 15 million children have been orphaned; 6,000 are orphaned every day.
 - 4) Women and children are disproportionately affected.
- b. Both churches and faith-based organizations play a crucial role in prevention and in their response to people living with AIDS, their families, and their communities. Our faith calls us to act in partnership with them.

—Adopted

Note: A revised motion is presented by a delegate and adopted in Article 79.

4. That synod give Mr. Andrew Ryskamp and Mr. Peter Vander Meulen permission to make a presentation to the delegates regarding the Micah Challenge.

Ground: Synod 2004 endorsed the Micah Call and encouraged strong CRC participation in the Micah Challenge.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 26

Elder delegate Mr. Rob Buikema reads from Ephesians 4 and leads in closing prayer. The evening session is adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

TUESDAY MORNING, June 14, 2005

Fifth Session

ARTICLE 27

Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr., announces *Psalter Hymnal* 568, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” and *Sing! A New Creation* 19, “Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart.”

Mrs. Annalee Ward, professor of communication arts at Trinity Christian College, reads from Ephesians 4 and addresses delegates regarding “Caging the Tomatoes.” She leads in opening prayer.

Rev. Hamstra announces *Psalter Hymnal* 528, “Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak.”

ARTICLE 28

The roll indicates that the following delegates are absent: Robert J. Price (Chicago South) and Henry J. Koetje (Grandville).

ARTICLE 29

The EDM 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.

ARTICLE 30

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. L. Bryce Mensink reporting, presents the following:

I. Calvin College

A. *Materials*

1. Calvin College Report, pp. 118-23
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 vice chair of the board, Mr. Bastian Knoppers; 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. David M. Crump, Ph.D., professor of religion
- b. Janis S. Gormas, Ph.D., professor of education
- c. Kathi L. Groenendyk, Ph.D., *associate professor* of communication arts and sciences (reduced load)
- d. Paul E. Harper, Ph.D., associate professor of physics
- e. Matthew K. Heun, Ph.D., associate professor of engineering
- f. Jennifer L. Holberg, Ph.D., associate professor of English
- g. Kendra G. Hotz, Ph.D., associate professor of religion (reduced load)
- h. Elizabeth Howell, Ph.D., associate professor of biology (reduced load)
- i. Brian A. Ingrassia, Ph.D., associate professor of English
- j. Karin Maag, Ph.D., professor of history
- k. Garth E. Pauley, Ph.D., *associate professor* of communication arts and sciences
- l. Randall J. Pruijm, Ph. D., associate professor of mathematics
- m. Debra K. Rienstra, Ph.D., associate professor of English
- n. Charsie R. Sawyer, Ph.D., professor of music
- o. David I. Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of germanic languages
- p. Dianne N. Zandstra, Ph. D., associate professor of Spanish

—*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:

Carl J. Huisman, M.F.A., professor of art, emeritus
 Derald D. De Young, Ph.D., professor of music, emeritus
 James J. MacKenzie, Ph.D., director of student academic services,
 emeritus

—Adopted

4. That synod, by way of 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):

At-large trustee	
David Vander Ploeg, second term	2008
Janice Van Dyke-Zeilstra, second term	2008
Stephen C.L. Chong, third term	2008
Cynthia Rozendal Veenstra, third term	2008
Michelle Van Valkenburg Van Dyke, first term	2008

—Adopted

5. That synod ratify the following appointments to the board (terms to begin and end on the convening date of the first full board meeting following the meeting of synod; names in italics indicate initial appointments):

a. Regional trustees

Regions 1 & 2			
<i>Dr. Alyce Oosterhuis</i> , regular	<i>Rev. Christopher Fluit</i> , alternate		2008
Region 7			
<i>Dr. Mary Poel Kruis</i> , regular	<i>Dr. Philip Kamps</i> , alternate		2008
Region 9			
	<i>Mr. Gary Meyer</i> , alternate		2008

b. Alumni trustees

Ms. Ruth J. Vis	2006
Mr. Ronald E. Baylor	2008

—Adopted

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod commend Calvin College for receiving high marks in its accreditation review and being recognized as a “mission driven” institution.

—Adopted

II. Calvin Theological Seminary

A. Materials

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report including Appendix; pp. 124-31
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement including Appendix

B. *Recommendations*

1. That Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., chairman; and Rev. Ruth M. Hofman, secretary, be given the privilege of the floor when seminary matters are presented.
—*Granted*
2. That the following trustee appointments be ratified:

Rev. Ruth M. Hofman (trustee)	Region 11
Rev. Roze M. Bruins (alternate trustee)	Region 11
Rev. Xavier Suarez (alternate trustee)	Region 12

—*Adopted*
3. That the following faculty reappointments be approved (*italics indicates change in rank*):

Rev. Carl J. Bosma, associate professor of Old Testament for two years
Dr. Dean B. Deppe, associate professor of New Testament for two years
Dr. Ronald J. Nydam, professor of pastoral care <i>with tenure</i> .

—*Adopted*
4. That the interview for Dr. Darwin K. Glassford proceed as follows:
 - a. Rev. Henry Admiraal will interview Dr. Glassford for a maximum of thirty minutes.
 - b. Delegates will be permitted to ask questions for a maximum of thirty minutes.—*Adopted*
5. That synod commend Calvin Theological Seminary for the “Faculty Statement on the Nature of Excellence in Preaching” and for establishing the Center for Excellence in Preaching.
—*Adopted*
6. That synod approve two offerings for Calvin Theological Seminary (the Ministry Incentive Program and the Facing Your Future program).
—*Adopted*
7. That synod ratify the reappointment of Rev. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., as president of Calvin Theological Seminary with indefinite tenure.
—*Adopted*
8. That Mr. Robert Datema, Mrs. Wendy T. Fisher, Mrs. Beth Guikema Bode, Mrs. Carol Muller, and Mr. Winston Visser be granted a one-year extension of their candidacy.
—*Adopted*
9. That synod acknowledge with gratitude to God the years of faithful service of Dr. Robert C. De Vries and confer upon him the title of professor of church education, emeritus, effective July 1, 2005.
—*Adopted*

III. Dordt College

A. *Materials:* Dordt College Report, pp. 291-92

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Dordt College for adopting a strategic plan that, under the lordship of Jesus Christ, will guide them to continue as a center for reformational scholarship and instruction. We also commend them on their new initiatives in biotechnology. We congratulate them as they conclude their celebrations of their Jubilee year and rededicate themselves for vital service in the Christian community.

—Adopted

IV. Institute for Christian Studies

A. *Materials:* Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 293-94

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend the Institute for Christian Studies for providing creative, biblical, and thoughtful academic leadership within the Christian community, a leadership that has wide-ranging influence seemingly disproportionate to the Institute's size. We congratulate them on the recent quality review that culminated in their ability to grant their own doctor and master of arts in philosophy degrees.

—Adopted

V. The King's University College

A. *Materials:* The King's University College Report, pp. 295-96

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend The King's University College for their Reformed university education to a sizable student body and in expanding the facilities under the leadership of their retiring president, Dr. Henk Van Anel. We join them in prayer that God richly blesses them as they continue their service under the leadership of their new president, Dr. J. Harry Fernhout.

—Adopted

VI. Redeemer University College

A. *Materials:* Redeemer University College Report, pp. 297-98

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Redeemer University College for their provincially accredited teacher education program, for an additional year of enrollment growth, and for the vibrant spiritual atmosphere on their campus.

—Adopted

VII. Reformed Bible College

A. *Materials:* Reformed Bible College Report, p. 299

B. Recommendation

That synod commend Reformed Bible College for addressing the projected shortage of pastors in Reformed churches, for their efforts to develop a fully accredited social work program, and for maintaining their ministry-directed purpose as they make technical improvements.

—Adopted

VIII. Trinity Christian College

A. Materials: Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 300-301

B. Recommendation

That synod commend Trinity Christian College for their forward momentum toward their mission to “shape lives and transform culture,” for their new ventures to train special education teachers, and for their partnerships with other Christian service organizations.

—Adopted

IX. Dynamic Youth Ministries

A. Materials: Dynamic Youth Ministries Report, pp. 302-4

B. Recommendations

1. That synod commend Calvinist Cadet Corps for building relationships between men and boys while encouraging all to draw closer to God.
—Adopted
2. That synod commend GEMS Girls’ Clubs for their greatest growth in the number of clubs in recent history and for their ongoing efforts to lead girls, both churched and unchurched, into a living and growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
—Adopted
3. That synod commend Youth Unlimited for providing churches and their youth leaders with quality programming that glorifies God, changes teens’ lives, and improves youth ministry in local churches, through such programs as Compass 21.
—Adopted

Delegate Rev. L. Bryce Mensink leads in a prayer of thanksgiving for these Christian institutions and for the nurturing of our youth.

X. Board of Trustees

A. Materials: Board of Trustees Report, Appendix H, pp. 69-70

B. Recommendations

1. That synod commend the CRC Office of Race Relations for leadership toward racial reconciliation within the denomination as well as for various programs addressing the needs of people of color. We welcome Rev. Esteban Lugo to the position of director and pray that God will continue to use his leadership to increase both diversity and harmony in the churches.

—Adopted

2. That synod encourage churches and classes to celebrate All Nations Heritage Week from September 26 through October 2, 2005, with an invitation to celebrate All Nations Heritage Sunday with special services on October 2.

Grounds:

- a. The struggle against prejudice, discrimination, and racism need to be balanced by celebrating and affirming God's gift of unity in diversity through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 2). The congregations that also celebrate World Communion Sunday can find a meaningful Christian Reformed way of doing it by combining both celebrations.
- b. The financial support that our ministry receives from the All Nations Heritage Sunday celebrations dramatically increases Race Relations' ability to award scholarships and grants to promote leadership of people of color in the life of the denomination.

—Adopted

XI. Calvin Theological Seminary

A. Materials

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report including Appendix; pp. 124-31
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement including Appendix

B. Recommendation

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

Bryan D. Berghoef	Kenneth T. Krause
Kenneth R. Bieber, Jr.	Nathan F. Kuperus
Mary L. Bosch	David P. Loew
Ruth (Hoekwater) Boven	Christopher B. Pool
Ryan W. Braam	Mark C. Roeda
Daniel G. Brown	Paul S. Ryan
Michael A. Bruinooge	Steven L. Schulz
Jaelyn D. Guikema Busch	Jeffery W. Scripps
Steven J. deBoer	Sharon Segaar-King
Heidi S. (Petersen) De Jonge	J. Greg Sinclair
Paul J. Droogers	Benjamin W. Van Arragon
Ryan Faber	Norlyn J. Van Beek
Stanley J. Groothof	Douglas J. VandeKamp
Kyle E. Haack	H. John Vanderburgh
Patrick A. Hennen	Duane E. Vanderlaan
Charles M. Hong	Lisa R. Vander Leek
Benjamin Hulst	Kenneth J. Vanderploeg
Zachary King	Aaron J. Vriesman
Mark Klompfen	Willemina L. Zwart

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 42.)

ARTICLE 31

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

Bryan D. Berghoef	David P. Loew
Mary L. Bosch	Christopher B. Pool
Ruth (Hoekwater) Boven	Paul S. Ryan
Ryan W. Braam	Jeffrey W. Scripps
Michael A. Bruinooge	J. Greg Sinclair
Jaclyn D. Guikema Busch	Benjamin W. Van Arragon
Steven J. deBoer	Norlyn J. Van Beek
Heidi S (Petersen) DeJonge	Douglas J. VandeKamp
Paul J. Droogers	Duane E. VanderLaan
Ryan Faber	Lisa R. Vander Leek
Patrick A. Hennen	Kenneth J. Vanderploeg
Benjamin Hulst	Aaron J. Vriesman
Kenneth T. Krause	Willemina L. Zwart

Dr. Plantinga leads in a prayer of thanksgiving.

The president of synod congratulates the candidates and addresses them from Ephesians 5:8, and the delegates join in the singing of the doxology.

ARTICLE 32

Advisory Committee 4, Publications, Rev. D. Vance Hays reporting, presents the following:

I. CRC Publications

A. *Materials*

1. CRC Publications, pp. 132-44
2. CRC Publications Supplement

B. *Recommendations*

1. The CRC Publications Board requests synod to grant the privilege of the floor to the following people when matters of CRC Publications are discussed:

For the board

Rev. Michael De Vries, president
Mr. Gary Mulder, executive director

For *The Banner*

Rev. Bob De Moor, editor in chief

For Faith Alive

Ms. Pat Nederveld, director

—*Granted*

- 2 That synod recommend the Friendship Ministries (United States) and Friendship Series Charities (Canada) to the churches for financial support for 2006.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod ask the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the CRC Publications Board, to appoint a committee to develop and propose to Synod 2007 an updated version of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*.

Ground: The current document is almost twenty years old. Given the changes in our world that have taken place since then, along with the fact that *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* does not function at the level of a confession but has served instead as a dynamic statement of faith, it must periodically be reviewed and perhaps revised if it is to speak contemporaneously.

—Adopted

II. Historical Committee

A. *Materials:* Historical Committee Report, pp. 227-32

B. *Recommendations*

1. The committee requests that Dr. Richard H. Harms be given the privilege of the floor when matters pertaining to its mandate come before synod.

—Granted

2. Having completed a special one-year appointment, the committee recommends that Rev. Lugene Schemper be reappointed to a three-year term as a member of the committee.

—Adopted

3. The committee notes that First Christian Reformed Church of Grand Haven, Michigan, is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year. The church was founded in 1855, two years before the CRC was formed, and joined the denomination in 1866.

—Affirmation offered

4. The committee notices that the frequency of individual congregation's being unable to locate significant portions of councils, elders, and deacons minutes (all absolutely necessary for both congregational and legal purposes) has risen from one or two per year to more than ten during the past year. The committee asks that synod stress upon the local congregations that they diligently produce and keep these minutes, that synod emphasize that it is incumbent on retiring clerks to transfer to their successors all such records, and that newly appointed clerks make a specific effort to ensure that they receive a complete set of all minutes when they begin their term.

The committee asks that synod urge congregations to contact the Archives before discarding any copies of minutes and noncurrent membership records in order that existing gaps in the archival holdings may be filled. Further, that congregations regularly contact the archives to determine whether it is time to microfilm minutes, typically done once every ten years.

Finally, the committee requests that all classes add the Archives to their mailing lists (surface or electronic) as the most expedient means to prevent gaps from occurring in these records. We also ask 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. 285

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 website.

—Adopted

2. That synod approve the appointments of Rev. John Kerssies, Rev. Gordon Pols, and Rev. Paul Stadt for three-year terms.

—Adopted

IV. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials:* Board of Trustees Supplement (Section I, H)

B. *Recommendation:* That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to the Form of Subscription (BOT Supplement section I, H):

1. That a revised edition of the Form of Subscription be presented to Synod 2007 for consideration and possible adoption, with the understanding that the purpose of the revision is to clarify the meaning of the Form of Subscription.

2. That the proposed revision of the Form of Subscription be drafted by a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees.

3. In their work, we encourage the committee to take note of the guidelines as to the meaning of subscription found in the 2004 Church Order Supplements (p. 26).

4. That the draft of a proposed revision be sent to the churches no later than January 1, 2007.

5. That the text of the proposed revision be printed in the *Agenda for Synod 2007*.

Grounds:

a. The survey conducted among the churches indicates that a substantial number of churches believe that an update is desirable.

b. The present Form of Subscription contains statements that are subject to misinterpretation.

c. A more contemporary expression of agreement will make the requirement more meaningful.

—Adopted

V. Response to Overture 8: Appoint a Study Committee re Improving the Relational Health and Nurture of Marriage and Family Life

A. *Materials:* Overture 8, pp. 575-77

B. Recommendations

1. That synod acknowledge the deeply painful issues raised in the overture of Classis Quinte and the paramount importance of addressing them.
—Adopted
2. That synod refer the overture back to Classis Quinte with the following suggestion: That any new overture provide a clear and specific mandate for a possible study committee; e.g., pertaining to marriage and family relationships.
—Adopted
3. That this be synod's answer to Overture 8.
—Adopted

ARTICLE 33

Advisory Committee 6, Finance, Rev. Bruce A. Persenaire reporting, presents the following:

I. CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

A. Materials: CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report, pp. 185-87

B. Recommendations

1. That the Loan Fund's executive director, or any members of the board of directors of the CRC 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 elect two board members from the nominees provided to serve on the board of directors of the CRC Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.
—Adopted

II. Pensions and Insurance

A. Materials: Pensions and Insurance Report and Appendix, pp. 189-226

B. Recommendations

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to members of the Canadian Pension Trustees and of the U.S. 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 2006 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 by way of the printed ballot elect two members to the U.S. Board of Pensions and Insurance from the slate of nominees presented.
—Adopted

4. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect Ms. Claire Veenstra and one additional member to the Canadian Pension trustees from the slate of nominees presented.

—Adopted

III. Board of Trustees

A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (Appendix K); pp. 78-109
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Sections II, D-F, H, and J, and Appendix B)
3. *Agenda for Synod 2005—Financial and Business Supplement*

B. Recommendations

1. That synod receive as information the condensed financial statements for the agencies and educational institutions (see Appendix K).

—Adopted

2. That synod approve the stated supply compensation for 2006 as follows: not less than \$465 per week for churches in the United States, and not less than \$480 per week for churches in Canada (BOT Supplement II, D).

—Adopted

3. That synod receive as information the BOT's confirmation of the matters presented by the Pension Trustees (BOT Supplement II, E).

—Adopted

4. That synod receive the agencies and institutional budgets as information and approve a ministry share of \$270.08 for calendar year 2006 (BOT Supplement II, F).

—Adopted

5. That synod adopt the following denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (BOT Supplement II, H):

—Adopted

2005-2006 Salary Grade and Range Structure

Level	U.S. Range			Canadian Range		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
20	\$90,268	\$112,835	\$135,402			
19	\$82,128	\$102,660	\$123,192			
18	\$74,575	\$93,219	\$111,863	\$86,268	\$107,835	\$129,403
17	\$68,201	\$85,251	\$102,301	\$75,311	\$94,139	\$112,966
16	\$62,850	\$78,562	\$94,275	\$66,218	\$82,772	\$99,327
15	\$58,346	\$72,932	\$87,519	\$58,607	\$73,258	\$87,910
14	\$51,214	\$64,018	\$76,821	\$52,181	\$65,226	\$78,271
13	\$45,234	\$56,543	\$67,851	\$46,789	\$58,487	\$70,184

6. That synod receive for information the summary of denominational investments and compliance with investment policy (BOT Supplement II, J; Appendix B).

—Adopted

IV. Response to Overture 9: Develop a Denominationally Supported Fund to Assist with the Cost of Christian Day School Education for the Children of Seminary Students

A. *Materials:* Overture 9, pp. 578-79

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to conduct a study on how to assist Calvin Theological Seminary students whose intention is to enter into the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church with Christian school tuition for their children.

Grounds:

- a. Your committee has become aware that there is significant need. At the present time there are 115 M.Div students enrolled at Calvin Theological Seminary. Twenty-nine of those students have families with school-age children. The total number of school-age children of those 29 families is 66. The cost of educating these 66 children is in excess of \$350,000 in the Grand Rapids Christian School system, and this is only taking into account those students who are enrolled in the M.Div program at Calvin Theological Seminary.
- b. The cost of Christian schools for those entering the seminary should not be a hindrance for those contemplating entering the ministry.
- c. Right now the burden for assisting Calvin Theological Seminary students with their tuition falls on just a few of our churches and classes.
- d. We do not believe that it is wise or prudent for synod to specify how relief (i.e., a ministry share or asking student fund committees for greater assistance for those students who have school-age children) might be given to these students and who is to administer such relief without further study and reflection.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod declare this be its answer to Overture 9.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 34

Woman adviser Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks leads in closing prayer. The morning session is adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 14, 2005

Sixth Session

ARTICLE 35

The president introduces Dr. Neal Plantinga, Jr., president of Calvin Theological Seminary, who addresses delegates on the work of Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS). In addition to a sound classical/theological education, CTS helps students to translate culture. The administration, faculty,

and staff are working at creating an atmosphere in which every student can bloom.

He introduces CTS candidates Steven J. deBoer and Heidi Peterson DeJonge who share with delegates their experiences as CTS students.

Dr. Plantinga announces *Psalter Hymnal* 387, "Alleluia! Alleluia!"

ARTICLE 36

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. David E. Den Haan reporting, presents the following:

Interchurch Relations Committee

A. Materials

1. Interchurch Relations Committee Report (including Appendices A through F), pp. 233-81
2. Interchurch Relations Committee Supplement (including Appendices A and B)

B. Recommendations

1. That Dr. Philip De Jonge (president) and Rev. Ralph Wigboldus (vice president), along with members of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) subcommittee, be given the privilege of the floor when matters relating to the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) are being discussed.

—*Granted*

2. That synod welcome as observers representatives of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC).

—*Adopted*

3. That synod designate a time (15 minutes) during its sessions to receive greetings from Mr. Bruce Clemenger, chairman of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC).

—*Adopted*

4. That synod designate a time (15 minutes) during its sessions to receive greetings from Rev. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod designate a time (15 minutes) during its sessions to receive greetings from Rev. Evert Overeem of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) to extend greetings.

—*Adopted*

6. That Rev. Overeem be given the privilege of the floor during the deliberations of synod.

—*Adopted*

7. That the privilege of the floor be given to the following fraternal and ecumenical delegates to extend greetings to synod: Rev. Douglas Fromm (Reformed Church in America), Rev. Erson Azwifaneli Liphadzi

(Reformed Churches in South Africa – Synod Soutpansberg), Rev. Joseph Murupus (Reformed Church of East Africa), and Rev. Paul Heidebrecht (Evangelical Presbyterian Church).

—Adopted

8. That synod, by way of the printed ballot, elect members for the IRC from the slate of nominees presented in the IRC report, Section VII, pp. 242-43 and in the supplemental report.

—Adopted

The EDM introduces Rev. Douglas Fromm, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Church in America, who addresses synod. The president of synod responds.

9. That synod approve the Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers between the CRC and the Reformed Church of America (RCA) (IRC Supplement, Appendix A) subject to the additions or amendments to the Church Order (or supplements thereof) as recommended.

Grounds:

- a. This is a response to the mandate of the IRC to “recommend which specific kinds of fellowship and cooperation shall apply to each church in ecclesiastical fellowship” (Ecumenical Charter, p. 7).
- b. This is in response to the instruction given to the IRC by Synod 2002 to pursue means by which our two denominations might cooperate and demonstrate the unity of Christ’s body.
- c. Orderly exchange of ordained ministers allows for responsible stewardship of our church’s ordained leaders and the enhancement of creative options for congregations, such as union churches, or the sharing of a pastor in a two-point charge where one church is CRC and the other is RCA. It allows for shared gifts of ministry to meet the needs of mission.
- d. Approval is consistent with the decision of Synod 2002:

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)

—Adopted

10. That synod propose the following changes in Church Order Article 8 and its Supplement (revisions in italics) (IRC Supplement, Appendix B):

Grounds:

- a. The proposed changes are consistent with the encouragements of previous synods to seek closer fellowship and cooperative partnerships with the RCA.
- b. The proposed changes will regulate a procedure that otherwise might be complex and implemented arbitrarily.
- c. The proposed changes are consistent with an agreement achieved by the Commission on Christian Unity (CCU) of the RCA and the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) of the CRC.

Article 8

- a. Ministers of the Christian Reformed Church are eligible for call, with due observance of the relevant rules.
- b. *Ministers of the Reformed Church in America are eligible for call to serve in the Christian Reformed Church, with due observance of the relevant rules.*
- c. Ministers of other denominations, other than from the Reformed Church in America, desiring to become ministers in the Christian Reformed Church shall be declared eligible for a call by a classis only after a thorough examination of their theological training, ministerial record, knowledge of and soundness in the Reformed faith, and their exemplariness of life. The presence and concurring advice of the synodical deputies are required.
- d. Ministers of other denominations who have not been declared eligible for a call shall not be called unless all synodical requirements have been met.

—Cf. Supplement, Article 8

Church Order Supplement, Article 8, D (Orderly Exchange of Ministers)

D. Orderly Exchange of Ministers

1. *A church may call a minister of the Reformed Church in America with due observance of the relevant rules that govern the Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers. This shall apply only to a church that continues to have a viable ministry.*
2. *Orderly exchange is intended for ordained ministers of the other denomination to engage in extended service with an indefinite or long-term call in a church (the inviting church) while remaining a member of their own church that holds their ministerial credentials.*
3. *An ordained minister of the CRC, in good standing, is eligible to engage in extended service (a call) in the RCA and an ordained minister of the RCA, in good standing, is eligible to engage in extended service (a call) in the CRC.*
4. *Extended service is understood to mean that an ordained minister of the CRC may be invited to serve as a minister of an RCA congregation for an extended period of time while maintaining status as an ordained minister of the CRC, and, vice versa, a minister of the RCA may be invited to serve as a minister of a CRC congregation for an extended period of time while maintaining status as an ordained minister of the RCA. Such a person would preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in a manner consistent with the polity of the inviting church.*
5. *Orderly exchange allows an ordained minister to express the desire, through appropriate channels, to serve in another denomination as an ecumenical witness. However, orderly exchange is*

always at the invitation of the inviting church and subject to that church's polity.

6. *To be able to serve in another church, an ordained minister will demonstrate to the appropriate body of the inviting church a knowledge of and appreciation for the theological and liturgical identity, history, polity, and discipline of the church.*
7. *Approval for extended service must be done in consultation with and with the concurrence of the sending body. The minister remains accountable to the sending body for continuation of ministerial status.*
8. *Responsibility for the pastoral care of ordained ministers and their families is to be initiated by the served congregation, which will also inform both the sending and inviting bodies of the CRC and the RCA, which will then share in that pastoral care.*
9. *The ordained minister is subject to the supervision of the sending body with regard to matters of discipline. The inviting body shall have oversight of the congregation in which the minister serves. Both the inviting and sending bodies shall be in communication and participate as appropriate. (Cf. Article 38, f, and its supplement.)*
10. *Each church will make provision for an ordained minister's being granted participation in the appropriate bodies of the church in which he/she is serving (the inviting church). (Cf. Article 38, f, and its supplement.)*
11. *All ordained ministers shall continue to participate in the pension and benefits program of the denomination that holds their ministerial credentials (the sending church). The inviting church has the obligation to cover the pension and benefit costs. (Cf. Article 38, f, and its supplement.)*

E. Calling Ministers from Other Denominations

1. *A church may consider calling a minister of another denomination only if it has put forth a sustained and realistic effort to obtain a minister from within the Christian Reformed Church or the Reformed Church in America. This shall apply only to a church that continues to have a viable ministry.*

Note: The current Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E, 2-11 remain as they are. Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E becomes 8, F. Current Church Order Supplement, Article 8, F becomes 8, G.

—Adopted

11. That synod propose the changes with the understanding that Synod 2006 adopt the same for the changes to take effect (cf. Church Order Article 47).

Ground: The IRC judges the proposed change to be substantial, and, therefore, the "propose and adopt" requirement of synodical procedure applies.

—Adopted

12. That synod designate the Interchurch Relations Committee to represent the change at Synod 2006 as per Church Order Supplement, Article 47-e.
—*Adopted*
13. That synod instruct the IRC to add to Appendices A and B of its supplemental report a glossary of the terms used within it to help prevent confusion about the meanings of those terms.
—*Adopted*
14. That synod instruct the denominational Board of Trustees to clarify the obligations of an inviting church to the CRC Pension Plan when and if it is contributing to the RCA pension plan on behalf of the RCA pastor it has called.
—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 53.)

ARTICLE 37

The president introduces Mr. Andy Ryskamp, executive director of CRWRC, who presents a video production of the Micah Challenge. This is a growing movement to reduce and overcome poverty in the third world.

ARTICLE 38

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 24.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Timothy B. Toeset reporting, presents the following:

First Toronto CRC

A. Materials

- 1 Overture 7, pp. 574-75
2. Communication 4, pp. 606-11
3. Communication 5, pp. 611-14

B. Background

In the fall of 2002, the First CRC of Toronto made a decision that it would consider homosexuals living in a same-sex committed relationship for office in the congregation. In January of 2003, Classis Toronto urged First CRC to rescind its decision and to repent of its action. When this matter came to its attention in 2003, synod decided to trust Classis Toronto to continue to deal with the matter. In 2004, synod received an appeal, two overtures, and a communication regarding the position of First CRC, Toronto and Classis Toronto's handling of the matter. Synod's response was:

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 guidelines of the reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002.

(Acts of Synod 2004, p. 632)

In response, Classis Toronto sent church visitors to First CRC, and they reported to classis in January of 2005. This report did not indicate that an

investigation was conducted, and there was no urging to comply with the reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002. This matter has come to synod again, and it is now necessary for synod to have First Toronto CRC clarify the position and practices of the council and to ensure compliance with the guidelines of synodical reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002.

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod appoint a synodical committee in loco:
 - a. To investigate the position of the council of First CRC, Toronto, regarding persons living in same-sex committed relationships and seek a response to the serious allegations raised against the church to determine if First CRC is in compliance with the guidelines of the reports on homosexuality of 1973 and 2002.
 - b. To report to the meeting of Classis Toronto in September 2005 and make pertinent recommendations for its deliberation and action.
 - c. If necessary, to invite Classes Quinte, Huron, Hamilton, and Toronto to attend a combined meeting of the classes to assist the committee in dealing with the issues re First CRC, Toronto.
 - d. To report to Synod 2006 by way of the printed Agenda its own actions and any classical actions taken and present its recommendations.

Grounds:

- 1) Classis Toronto did not sufficiently carry out the synodical directives of 2004.
- 2) The seriousness and ongoing nature of the allegations warrant synod's direct involvement in the situation.
- 3) The principles found in Matthew 18 require us to take all the steps necessary before the assemblies might go to the step of deposition. Deposition requires clear opportunity for repentance and restoration.
- 4) This affords the council of First CRC of Toronto the opportunity to present its position to the denomination.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 7 and Communications 4 and 5.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 57.)

ARTICLE 39

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. John A. Ooms reporting, presents the following:

I. Board of Trustees

A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (Program Section, including Appendices C-G, I-J; pp. 33-43, 52-69, 70-77)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Sections I, B; II, A, B, and I)

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the new vision statement for the CRC as follows (Section II, B, p. 34):

The Christian Reformed Church is a diverse family of healthy congregations, assemblies, and ministries expressing the good news of God's kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide.

Grounds:

- a. The denomination's current vision and mission statement has served us for close to ten years and needs to be refreshed.
 - b. Working through a scorecard for denominational ministries brought to light the desirability of a revised vision and mission statement.
- Adopted
2. That synod affirm the decision of the BOT that the designation "employing agency" is no longer needed to deal with the status of CRC chaplains (II, B, 2, b, p. 36).
- Adopted
3. That the interview of Dr. Calvin L. Bremer proceed as follows:
 - a. Elder delegate Mr. Henry Perez will interview Dr. Bremer for a maximum of thirty minutes.
 - b. Delegates will be permitted to ask questions for a maximum of thirty minutes.
- Adopted
4. That synod authorize the BOT to ratify the appointment of a Director of Canadian Ministries when one has been chosen for appointment by the BOT (II, B, 5, p. 39).
- Grounds:*
- a. This will expedite the filling of this vacancy.
 - b. Waiting until Synod 2006 ratifies the appointment may unduly hinder the effectiveness of this ministry.
- Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 43.)

ARTICLE 40

Mr. Gary Mulder, executive director of CRC Publications, addresses synod on the work of CRC Publications.

He introduces Mrs. Pat Nederveld, director of Faith Alive Publications, who addresses synod and presents a video production on the *Walk With Me* curriculum.

Rev. Robert De Moor, editor-in-chief of *The Banner*, addresses synod about positive reception of the every-household *Banner*.

Rev. Alvin L. Hoksbergen leads in closing prayer remembering especially Rev. Michael and Mrs. Marianne De Vries (Marianne was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor) and the work of CRC Publications. The afternoon session is adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

TUESDAY EVENING, June 14, 2005

Seventh Session

ARTICLE 41

Ethic adviser Mr. Socheth Na announces *Psalter Hymnal* 530, “I Love to Tell the Story” and reads from the book of John. He leads in opening prayer.

ARTICLE 42

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 30.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education, Rev. L. Bryce Mensink reporting, presents the following:

Calvin Theological Seminary

A. Materials

1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report including Appendix; pp. 124-31
2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement including Appendix

B. Recommendations

Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure and, following the completed interview, considers the following recommendation:

1. That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Darwin K. Glassford as associate professor of church education for three years.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod declare that the appointment of Dr. Glassford to teach at Calvin Theological Seminary satisfies the “need requirement” of Church Order Article 8 so that the classis to which he makes application may proceed with a *colloquium doctum* and, should that examination be sustained, declare him eligible for call as a minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.

—*Adopted*

The president congratulates Dr. Glassford in his new appointment.

Delegate Rev. Henry Admiraal leads in a prayer of blessing for Dr. Glassford.

ARTICLE 43

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 39.)

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. John A. Ooms reporting, presents the following:

Board of Trustees

A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (Program Section, including Appendices C-G, I-J; pp. 33-43, 52-69, 70-77)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Sections I, B; II, A, B, and I)

B. Recommendation

Synod proceeds according to the adopted procedure and, following the completed interview, considers the following recommendation:

That synod appoint the Reverend Doctor Calvin L. Bremer to the position of Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America effective August 22, 2005 (II, B, 4).

—*Adopted*

The president congratulates Dr. Bremer in his new appointment.

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 52.)

ARTICLE 44

Delegate Rev. Kenneth R. Rip leads in closing prayer. The evening session is adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 15, 2005

Eighth Session

ARTICLE 45

Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr., leads in opening prayer and announces *Sing! A New Creation!* 81, “Cry of My Heart.” He announces *Sing! A New Creation!* 223, “Shout to the Lord.”

Ethnic adviser Rev. Esteban Lugo sings “If Heaven Was Never Promised” and addresses synod regarding “Coming to Grips with Reality.” He leads in prayer and announces *Sing! A New Creation!* 47, “Lord Most High.”

ARTICLE 46

The roll call indicates that all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 47

Mr. Henry Hess, director of communications, introduces Rev. Joseph Murupus, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Church of East Africa, who addresses synod. The president responds.

ARTICLE 48

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Jacob Kerkhof reporting, presents the following:

I. Response to Overture 1: Permit the Transfer of the Los Angeles Church of Love CRC to Classis Pacific Hanmi

A. Materials: Overture 1, p. 569

B. Recommendation

That synod grant the request of Classis Greater Los Angeles to transfer the Los Angeles Church of Love CRC to Classis Pacific Hanmi.

Ground: This church has tried to work within Classis Greater Los Angeles and has had great difficulty doing so because their membership is primarily first generation Korean.

—*Adopted*

II. Response to Overture 2: Convene Synod 2010 at The King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta

A. *Materials:* Overture 2, p. 569

B. *Recommendation*

That synod accept the gracious invitation extended by Classis Alberta North to host synod at The King's University College in 2010.

Ground: While there would be considerably increased cost, denominational exposure to the churches in Western Canada would be a long-term benefit. A similar benefit has been experienced by churches in the Pella, Ancaster, Sioux Center, and Chicago regions of the church.

—*Adopted*

III. Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisers to Synod

A. *Materials:* Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisers to Synod Report, pp. 333-51

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to chairman Rev. Esteban Lugo; reporter, Pastor George Vander Weit; and committee member Ms. Sari Mills.

—*Granted*

2. That synod encourage each classis to include at least one ethnic minority person in its synodical delegation beginning with Synod 2006.

Grounds:

- a. Although synods have repeatedly encouraged classes to delegate ethnic minorities to synod, the response of most classes has been minimal.
- b. There are classes that can achieve this goal by 2006 because a number of ethnic minority officebearers already serve in their member congregations.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 54.)

ARTICLE 49

Rev. Ralph Wigboldus, vice chair of the Interchurch Relations Committee, introduces Rev. Evert Overeem, fraternal delegate from the Protestant Church of the Netherlands, who addresses synod. The president responds.

Rev. Wigboldus introduces Rev. Erson Liphadzi, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Churches in South Africa – Synod Soutpansberg, who addresses synod. The president responds.

Mr. Keith Knight introduces Rev. Stephen Kendall, ecumenical guest from The Presbyterian Church in Canada, who addresses synod. The president responds.

Rev. Wigboldus introduces Dr. Seth (Molefi) Pitikoe, fraternal delegate from the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, who addresses synod. The president responds.

Rev. Wigboldus introduces Rev. Paul Heidebrecht, fraternal delegate from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, who addresses synod. The president responds.

Rev. Wigboldus leads in prayer for all of the churches represented in our ecclesiastical relationships.

The president of synod welcomes Dr. and Mrs. David H. Engelhard. Dr. Engelhard expresses gratitude for all the prayers offered on their behalf. Dr. Engelhard is on medical disability leave.

ARTICLE 50

Ethnic adviser Mrs. Verney Kho reads from Rev. 19:6-8 and leads in closing prayer. The morning session is adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 15, 2005

Ninth Session

ARTICLE 51

The vice president assumes the chair.

The vice president welcomes Mrs. Mary Buteyn, president of the Home Missions Board. She announces *Psalter Hymnal* 533, vs. 1, 2, and 4, "Church of God, Elect and Glorious" and reads from Philippians 1. She leads in opening prayer.

Rev. John Rozeboom, executive director of Home Missions, addresses synod regarding "Capacity" and the work of Home Missions. He announces *Psalter Hymnal* 533, "Crown Him with Many Crowns."

ARTICLE 52

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 43.)

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. John A. Ooms reporting, presents the following:

I. Response to Overture 18: Also Interview Leading Female Candidate for Director of Denominational Ministries

A. *Materials*: Overture 18, Supplementary materials

B. *Observations*

The council of the Sherman Street CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, overtured synod to "interview the Board of Trustees' leading female candidate for the position of Director of Denominational Ministries as well as the Board of Trustees' appointee whose name is being submitted to synod for ratification."

In consultation with representatives from the search committee and from the Board of Trustees, the advisory committee was informed that the Board's search committee solicited names of "persons who reflect the ethnic, gender and racial diversity of our denomination" in keeping with the decision of Synod 1995 (*Acts of Synod 1995*, p. 656). The Board of Trustees is committed to this important denominational value as it fills vacancies for positions within the denominational structure. No persons of diverse racial or ethnic background were nominated or applied for this position. Two women sent in applications and were among a number of people interviewed by the search committee.

C. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to the overture.

Grounds:

1. The Board of Trustees followed due process in the nomination and interview procedures.
2. The Board of Trustees sent a letter to every council requesting nominations that reflect the diversity of our denomination. In addition, members of the Board made personal efforts to secure such nominations.

—*Adopted*

II. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Program Section, including Appendices C-G, I-J; pp. 33-43, 52-69, 70-77)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Sections I, B; II, A, B, and I)

B. *Recommendation*

That synod ratify the appointment of the Reverend Gerard L. Dykstra to the position of Director of Denominational Ministries effective August 1, 2005 (II, B, 4, pp. 39, 73-75, 77).

—*Adopted*

Rev. Dykstra briefly responds with appreciation for synod's approval.

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 73.)

ARTICLE 53

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 36.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. David E. Den Haan reporting, presents the following:

Interchurch Relations Committee (majority report)

A. *Materials*: Interchurch Relations Committee Report, IV (including Appendix G), pp. 236-39, 282-84

B. *Recommendation*

That synod maintain a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the newly formed Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PCN) with continuing

restrictions on table and pulpit fellowship and that synod instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) to provide a report to Synod 2008 regarding the status of our relationship with the PCN, with particular attention paid to the progress made in resolving the issues that divide us (particularly the authority of Holy Scripture, the acceptance of homosexual practice among members of the church, and the relationship between the church and the people of Israel).

Grounds:

1. The PCN confesses the Bible to be the authoritative, infallible Word of God in conformity with the Reformed confessions. Even though some of their affirmations about the nature, extent, and character of the Scriptures as the Word of God and some of their interpretations have been unsatisfactory to the CRC, they have more recently adopted the REC's document entitled "Hermeneutics and Ethics."
2. The principles of ecumenicity demand that we relate to the whole church of Jesus Christ in whatever ways are prudent; it follows that the CRC should certainly not surrender its opportunities for interchurch fellowship with the PCN when such exchange is readily available.
3. The CRC has an ongoing ecumenical responsibility to the PCN particularly as they struggle to be a Reformed church in a radically secular European environment. This responsibility may not be abandoned as long as the CRC has an opportunity to fulfill its ecumenical task with the PCN.
4. The PCN expresses its fervent desire to remain in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC and would be distressed by our termination of fellowship. They continue to express appreciation for the way in which the CRC seeks to exercise its ecclesiastical fellowship and responsibility.
5. The PCN tolerance of homosexual practice is in the judgment of the CRC contrary to the Scriptures and in conflict with the decisions of Synod 1973, and, therefore, the restrictions on table and pulpit fellowship should be maintained.
6. The historical character of the CRC's relationship to the GKN, which is continued in the PCN, has been vital to the life of the CRC and should not be terminated lightly.
7. The expressed wish of the Gereformeerde Bond (Reformed Alliance), a conservative alliance of ministers and congregations within the PCN, is that we continue our relationship with the PCN.
8. The PCN is a new union of three churches: The former Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland/Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (GKN), the former Hervormde Kerk (NHK), and the former Evangelisch Lutherse Kerk (ELK).
9. Repairing a fractured relationship at a later time is much more difficult than continuing to nurture a strained relationship.

According to the Rules of Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the issue of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PCN) is presented as information by delegate Rev. Richard J. deLange:

Interchurch Relations Committee (minority report)

A. *Materials*: Interchurch Relations Committee Report, pp. 223-82

B. *Observations*

For over thirty years, the CRC and the Gereformeerde Kerk (GKN) have had a strained relationship over issues of the authority of Scripture and church discipline with respect to the GKN's increasing tolerance of homosexual practice. While we thank the Lord for the Reformed faith that many in the CRC came to know and love as a direct result of our spiritual nurture in the GKN, as well as through the relationship between our denominations, we acknowledge with sadness that the GKN has wandered from the faith it taught us. Moreover, the GKN now exists as part of a union with two other denominations in the Netherlands (in English, The Netherlands Reformed Church [NRC] and the Evangelical Lutheran Church [ELC]) who together form the Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PCN) with which the CRC has restricted ecclesiastical fellowship as a carryover from our relationship with the GKN.

C. *Recommendation*

That synod dissolve our bilateral relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the PCN.

Grounds:

1. Our previous ecclesiastical fellowship with the GKN was restricted in 1983 and again in 1996 with no sign of change or repentance on the part of the GKN. Despite the CRC's urging, the GKN, and now the PCN has only forged forward.
2. The PCN confesses to believe that the Bible is the authoritative, infallible Word of God but does not in practice submit to it as our Reformed confessions spell it out (cf. Belgic Confession, Article 5). Our Ecumenical Charter states, "The CRCNA, in accordance with Church Order Article 49, seeks rapprochement (cordial relations) with all churches of Christ, particularly those churches which are Reformed as to confession, polity and liturgy, as *determined* not only by their formal standards but also *by their actual practice*" (III, B, 1, emphasis added). Even though the PCN has recently adopted the REC's document entitled "Hermeneutics and Ethics," there is ample evidence that it does not hold to the historic understanding of the nature and extent of biblical authority. Some examples are:

The PCN bylaws allow for the blessing of other forms of relationship besides marriage. Moreover, the IRC report itself, with respect to the PCN's stance on homosexuality, states, "The PCN's unwillingness to enter into any further discussions on this important matter continues to be a significant disappointment to a relationship of mutual accountability," meaning the PCN is not willing to rethink its position biblically.

The PCN does not see the need to evangelize the Jews. The new Church Order of the PCN, Article 1, point 7, states, "The church is called to give expression to its unrelinquished solidarity with the

Jewish people.” In the 2000 report of the Uniting Protestant Churches in the Netherlands (now formally the PCN), entitled “Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour,” we read, “. . . Israel remains God’s chosen people. The church has not come in the place of Israel” (Par. 2.1).

The PCN has a questionable view on the historical reliability and thus the inspiration of Scripture. In the “Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour” report, we read this complete paragraph:

Another question arising from the proclamation that Jesus died for us is whether Jesus himself viewed his death as a mandate and as bringing salvation. This historical question cannot be answered with certainty with the means of historical research. The gospels which relate Jesus’ ministry deal to a large extent with his suffering. No doubt they contain recollections of things said by Jesus himself. At the same time they are shaped by the faith of his disciples that Jesus’ cross and resurrection were for the world’s salvation. This faith assumed shape after Easter and found expression, for example, in the gospels. It would be very strange if the story of Jesus’ life would not be colored by it. Precisely this coloring makes the gospel, that is, good news. This implies that not all facts are recoverable with the precision and certainty required by historical research. Historical investigation cannot always establish what Jesus himself actually said; at the most it can say that something is more or less probable. (Par. 3.3)

3. The CRC would not begin ecclesiastical fellowship with the PCN today if it were asked to do so were it not for our earlier connection to the GKN. We never sought relationships with the other two partners in this new denomination. In the PCN, we are dealing with a denomination that does not fit our own criteria for ecclesiastical relationships.
4. By removing ourselves from this bilateral relationship, we are not losing our ability to influence the PCN with dialogue because we will maintain multilateral relations with her through organizations such as the REC and WARC. These organizations give us a forum to challenge other denominations through our delegates.
5. The letter that Rev. E. Overeem, the Deputy Director of Ministries of the PCN, sent to this synod (*Agenda for Synod 2005*, p. 282) indicates that the PCN values its relationship with the CRC and seeks to be given full “ecclesiastical fellowship” rather than continuing in restricted fellowship. It further states that the PCN has exerted much effort “on restoring our relationship.” Sadly, the effort has been an attempt to show us that the PCN is not doing anything wrong or un-Reformed rather than to indicate to us where it has corrected its ways from that of the GKN for which the GKN was placed under restricted fellowship.
6. Nothing really prevents the PCN or the CRC from beginning a new dialogue in the future that could lead to the reestablishment of ecclesiastical fellowship under the rules of our ecumenical charter at a time when the PCN brings its practice in line with its formal confession.
7. Biblically, we ought to heed the word of the proverb quoted by the apostle Paul: “Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character’” (1 Cor. 15:33). Earlier in that same letter, Paul wrote about a sinner in the church: “What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside.

‘Expel the wicked man from among you’” (1 Cor. 5:12-13). He reminds us as a church of our duty to remove negative influences from our lives.

Following the rules of procedure, synod returns to consideration of the recommendation of the advisory committee’s majority report.

Interchurch Relations Committee (majority report)

A. *Materials:* Interchurch Relations Committee Report, IV (including Appendix G), pp. 236-39, 282-84

B. Recommendation

That synod maintain a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the newly formed Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PCN) with continuing restrictions on table and pulpit fellowship and that synod instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) to provide a report to Synod 2008 regarding the status of our relationship with the PCN, with particular attention paid to the progress made in resolving the issues that divide us (particularly the authority of Holy Scripture, the acceptance of homosexual practice among members of the church, and the relationship between the church and the people of Israel).

Grounds:

1. The PCN confesses the Bible to be the authoritative, infallible Word of God in conformity with the Reformed confessions. Even though some of their affirmations about the nature, extent, and character of the Scriptures as the Word of God and some of their interpretations have been unsatisfactory to the CRC, they have more recently adopted the REC’s document entitled “Hermeneutics and Ethics.”
2. The principles of ecumenicity demand that we relate to the whole church of Jesus Christ in whatever ways are prudent; it follows that the CRC should certainly not surrender its opportunities for interchurch fellowship with the PCN when such exchange is readily available.
3. The CRC has an ongoing ecumenical responsibility to the PCN particularly as they struggle to be a Reformed church in a radically secular European environment. This responsibility may not be abandoned as long as the CRC has an opportunity to fulfill its ecumenical task with the PCN.
4. The PCN expresses its fervent desire to remain in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC and would be distressed by our termination of fellowship. They continue to express appreciation for the way in which the CRC seeks to exercise its ecclesiastical fellowship and responsibility.
5. The PCN tolerance of homosexual practice is in the judgment of the CRC contrary to the Scriptures and in conflict with the decisions of Synod 1973, and, therefore, the restrictions on table and pulpit fellowship should be maintained.
6. The historical character of the CRC’s relationship to the GKN, which is continued in the PCN, has been vital to the life of the CRC and should not be terminated lightly.

7. The expressed wish of the Gereformeerde Bond (Reformed Alliance), a conservative alliance of ministers and congregations within the PCN, is that we continue our relationship with the PCN.
8. The PCN is a new union of three churches: The former Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland/Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (GKN), the former Hervormde Kerk (NHK), and the former Evangelisch Lutherse Kerk (ELK).
9. Repairing a fractured relationship at a later time is much more difficult than continuing to nurture a strained relationship.

—*Recommitted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued in Article 65.)

ARTICLE 54

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 48.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Jacob Kerkhof reporting, presents the following:

I. Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisers to Synod

A. Materials: Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisers to Synod Report, pp. 333-51

B. Recommendations (continued)

3. That synod request all classes to develop a strategy to intentionally incorporate ethnic minorities into the life and government of the local church and broader assemblies and submit their plan to the BOT by March 15, 2007.

Grounds:

- a. Submitting strategy plans provides an intentional accountability to one another by way of a denominational board that can report such plans to synod.
- b. Sharing classical plans has the benefit of classes' learning from one another.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod encourage ethnic minority members of the denomination to participate in the meetings and activities of their classes.

Ground: Such participation gives people familiarity with how the denomination functions and helps members of classes become better acquainted with each other's gifts.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod encourage classes to specifically invite ethnic minorities to participate in the meetings and activities of classis.

Ground: Such participation gives people familiarity with how other cultures function and helps members of classes become better acquainted with each other's gifts.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod remind councils and classes that the CRC Office of Race Relations is available to assist with leadership development and other services to incorporate ethnic minorities into the ongoing work of the church.

Ground: The Office of Race Relations is the agency mandated to assist councils and classes in this work.

—Adopted

7. That synod continue the position of ethnic adviser as long as the number of ethnic minority delegates is fewer than twenty-five, after which time it shall be discontinued. The Board of Trustees should appoint as many ethnic advisers as are needed to reach twenty-five, except that no more than seven (and no fewer than two) shall be appointed.

Ground: Continuing this position only to the point where the number of ethnic minorities at synod is comparable to current levels reflects synod's desire that this position be a temporary catalyst to encourage classes to delegate ethnic minorities.

—Adopted

8. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to report in the annual Agenda for Synod, and to make recommendations if necessary, on the denomination's progress in attaining its goal of at least one ethnic minority synodical delegate from each classis and on the denomination's progress in incorporating ethnic minorities on denominational boards.

Ground: Because our Board of Trustees acts for synod between sessions and because it supervises all denominational ministries, this Board is uniquely qualified to measure denominational progress and to encourage us in it.

—Adopted

9. That synod declare that this is the response to the Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisers to Synod, Overtures 14, 15, 16, and 17, and Communications 1, 6, and 7.

—Adopted

10. That synod discharge with thanks the Committee to Review the Practice of Appointing Ethnic Advisers to Synod.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued in Article 76.)

ARTICLE 55

Elder delegate Mr. Caleb N. Dickson reads from Matthew 28:18-20 and Romans 12:1-5. He leads in closing prayer. The afternoon session is adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

ARTICLE 56

The president of synod resumes the chair.

Delegate Rev. Ed Den Haan announces *Psalter Hymnal* 469, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” and reads from Genesis 32:22ff. He leads in opening prayer, remembering especially Dr. Neal Plantinga’s mother who is on her death bed, the family of Dr. Ron Nydam in the loss of a grandchild, and the son of elder delegate Mr. Kenneth Prol who is serving in Iraq.

ARTICLE 57

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 38.)

Advisory Committee 8, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Timothy B. Toeset reporting, presents the following:

Committee to Review the Classical-Local Options with Respect to Women Serving in the Office of Minister, Elder, and Evangelist

A. *Materials*

1. Committee to Review the Classical-Local Options with Respect to Women Serving in the Office of Minister, Elder, and Evangelist including Appendix; pp. 307-32
2. Overture 10, pp. 579-90
3. Overture 11, pp. 590-92
4. Overture 12, pp. 592-93
5. Overture 13, pp. 593-97

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Howard Vanderwell (chair), Dr. William Koopmans (reporter), and Dr. Stephanie Baker-Collins for the discussion of this report.

—*Granted*

2. That synod encourage the churches to make use of the gifts of women, including invitations to ordained women to preach and licensed women to exhort in those congregations where it is permitted.

Grounds:

- a. Although previous synods have already urged councils and classes to make use of the gifts of women, the use of the gifts of all the church’s members is of such significance for the healthy ministry and fellowship of all congregations that this encouragement warrants repeating.
- b. It is the experience of some women that even churches that in principle support women’s ordination are in practice hesitant to make full use of women’s gifts.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod express gratitude for the efforts of the churches to live together in harmony and peace amidst evident pain and strongly differing convictions.

Ground: Expressions of unity and peace within the church should be gratefully acknowledged and appreciated (Eph. 4:16, Rom. 15:55-6, Col. 3:15).

—Adopted

4. That ordination and installation forms be reviewed by CRC Publications to make the language gender inclusive.

Ground: Making available gender-inclusive language on forms is consistent with the denomination's position that allows women's ordinations as a classical-local option.

—Adopted

5. That synod support ongoing educational efforts by:

- a. Asking the BOT to post on the denominational website an excerpt from the report of the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000, particularly the biblical summaries (see *Agenda for Synod 2000*, pp. 351-407, especially pp. 356-83).
- b. Encouraging classes to provide a forum for the study of this material.
- c. Encouraging church councils to study this material and recommend its inclusion in their adult education ministry.

Grounds:

- a. The diversity of conviction that exists on this issue illustrates the need to continue together in a spirit of humility to seek God's wisdom and leading.
- b. Ongoing dialogue and interaction concerning this issue is necessary to build respect for the view of others.
- c. Our denomination can benefit from the study of sources both from within the CRC and from the broader Christian community.

—Adopted

6. That synod revise Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, B, Regulation 4, to read as follows (addition in bold):

If a local congregation, in keeping with its understanding of the biblical position of the role of women in ecclesiastical office and in response to local needs and circumstances, desires to call and ordain a female pastor or ministry associate but its classis has not authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and ministry associate, the classis is encouraged to declare an exception to Church Order Article 3-A to allow the church to proceed, but it may also make an additional ruling that the female pastor may not be delegated to classis until classis extends an invitation. No members of classis shall be required to participate against their convictions in a candidate's examination or in processing ministerial credentials. **The examination for ordination of a female candidate may then be conducted by a *classis contracta* consisting of delegates**

from churches that do not object. In the event that a quorum cannot be found, representatives from churches in a neighboring classis may be invited to achieve the equivalent of a quorum.

Ground: This addition to Regulation B, 4 further specifies the manner in which a classis may proceed with a candidate's examination without requiring members of classis to participate against their convictions.

—*Adopted*

(The following recommendation of the advisory committee's majority report is presented.)

7. That synod adopt the minority report recommendation of the study committee and revise the Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, Regulation 1 to read:

A classis that has authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and ministry associate may delegate women officebearers to synod.

Grounds:

- a. Synod permits the difference in understanding of the relevant biblical materials on the women-in-office issue to be expressed by allowing ordination at the classical-local level. A consistent classical-local option would allow those classes that have declared the word *male* inoperative to delegate women to synod.
- b. A significant number of classes, a number now approaching half of the denomination's classes, have declared the word *male* inoperative and are restricted in carrying out that declaration when it comes to synodical delegation. Their classical decision on this issue is not honored at the denominational level.
- c. The presence of women as advisers to synod, as an alternative to delegation, restricts their role at the institutional denominational level in that they are unable to participate in decision-making through voting and fails to reflect the reality that women are serving in local settings as elders and ministers of the Word.

According to the Rules of Synodical Procedure, the minority report re the issue of the revision of Church Order 3-a, Regulation 1 is presented by delegate Rev. Randall Van Osdol for its consideration:

Committee to Review the Classical-Local Options with Respect to Women Serving in the Office of Minister, Elder, and Evangelist (minority report regarding Recommendation 7)

That synod revisit the issue of female delegates to synod at such a time when a majority of classes has declared the word *male* inoperative.

Grounds:

1. To date, fewer than half of the classes (46%) have declared the word *male* in Church Order Article 3-a inoperative.
2. Close to half of the classes have declared the word *male* inoperative.
3. The results of the survey of councils clearly favor not removing the current restrictions on the delegation of females to synod.
4. A provision at the present time to send female delegates to synod might create a considerable strain in the denomination.

Note: To *revisit* means that when the threshold has been passed, the Board of Trustees will take note of that and recommend appropriate actions in their report to the next synod.

Synod considers the recommendation of the minority report. Following discussion, the recommendation of the minority report is

—*Adopted*

Synod returns to the report of Advisory Committee 8.

8. That synod revise Church Order Supplement, Article 3-a, B, Regulation 2, to read:

A classis that has authorized its constituent churches to ordain and install women in the offices of elder, minister, and ministry associate may appoint a female minister to serve as synodical deputy as long as, out of consideration for neighboring classes, a male minister is the alternate.

Ground: Such a regulation would facilitate the use of the gifts of female ministers as synodical deputies while respecting the right of neighboring classes to choose to be served by male deputies.

—*Adopted*

9. That synod declare the work of the Committee to Review the Classical-Local Options with Respect to Women Serving in the Office of Minister, Elder, and Evangelist completed and dismiss them with thanks.

—*Adopted*

10. That synod declare this to be its answer to Overtures 10, 11, 12, and 13.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 78.)

ARTICLE 58

Ethnic adviser Rev. Esteban Lugo leads in closing prayer. The evening session is adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

THURSDAY MORNING, June 16, 2005
Eleventh Session

ARTICLE 59

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

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

ARTICLE 60

The roll indicates that all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 61

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

I. Committee to Study Restorative Justice

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

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. John De Vries, Dr. Clayton Libolt, and Ms. Gail Rice.

—*Granted*

2. That synod affirm the justice principles listed in section IV, A of the Restorative Justice report. (We note an editorial change that IV, A, 5, b should begin by saying “Take seriously the harm done to the victim. . . .”)

—*Adopted*

3. That synod call our churches to preach and teach restorative justice as a biblical perspective and to apply the principles of restorative justice to the problems of crime in our communities and countries.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod encourage the active participation of churches and church members in restorative justice efforts in order to restore and reconcile victims and offenders where possible, and to effect, as far as possible, the establishment of justice for all members of our societies.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod ask the Board of Trustees to request that the denominational Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action work with CRC Publications and our educational institutions, including Calvin Theological Seminary, to provide materials and create opportunities for our members to learn the practices and principles of restorative justice (including the maintenance of a suitable website) so that they can better witness to and work within our societies to promote and practice restorative justice.

—*Adopted*

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

II. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*

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

B. *Recommendations*

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

d. The congregation exercises financial stewardship for the continuing development and effectiveness of its ministry and, prior to organization, provides the classis with financial information that reflects its capacity and commitment toward financial self-support, including personnel expenses and classical and denominational ministry shares.

—*Adopted*

e. The community in which the congregation is located offers the potential for continuing ministry, and the congregation gives evidence of its continuing commitment to fulfill the great commission with the resources and opportunities God gives.

Grounds:

a. Synod 2003 requested such criteria.

b. Such criteria will insure that similar decisions regarding organization will be made by all classes.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod adopt the following criteria as sufficient indicators that a classis should begin discussing with a congregation the appropriateness of its continuing organized status, and also make this part of Church Order Supplement, Article 38-c:

If a church has diminished to fewer than forty-five active confessing members or shows that it lacks a sufficient number of members who can provide leadership or it can no longer meet its financial obligations or there is no prospect of continued growth, then a classis should consider that these are sufficient indicators for it to begin discussing with such a congregation whether it is still appropriate for it to retain organized status.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 10 is continued in Article 75.)

ARTICLE 62

Delegate Rev. Timothy J. Brown gives special recognition to Dr. Calvin L. Bremer, executive director of The Back to God Hour; and Rev. David J. Feddes, minister of English broadcasting for The Back to God Hour, for their years of service for The Back to God Hour. Rev. Feddes addresses synod.

ARTICLE 63

Elder delegate Mr. Lawrence Hoogerhyde announces *Psalter Hymnal* 427, "Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit" and reads from John 15. He leads in closing prayer. The morning session is adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

ARTICLE 64

Woman adviser Mrs. Patricia Storteboom reads from 2 Corinthians 4. She announces *Sing! A New Creation* 216, "Give Thanks" and *Psalter Hymnal* 473, "To God Be the Glory." She leads in opening prayer and in the singing of "Father, We Adore You."

ARTICLE 65

(The report of Advisory Committee 7 is continued from Article 53.)

Advisory Committee 7, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. David E. Den Haan reporting, presents the following:

Interchurch Relations Committee

A. *Materials*: Interchurch Relations Committee Report, IV (including Appendix G), pp. 236-39, 282-84

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) to clarify in the Ecumenical Charter what it means for a church to be in ecclesiastical fellowship, corresponding fellowship, or dialogue with the Christian Reformed Church and articulate the expectations and goals that the Christian Reformed Church should have for such relationships.

Ground: While provisions of such relationships are listed in the IRC's Ecumenical Charter, the expectations and goals of such provisions are not clear.

—Adopted

2. That synod instruct the IRC to determine whether the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) is a new denomination or the continuation of an existing denomination and to identify the implications of this determination for our relationship with it.

Ground: Such a determination will guide the way we relate to the PCN.

—Action withheld

3. That synod instruct the IRC to clarify for synod the current position of the PCN in the following areas, making use of their officially published documents:

- a. Scripture and hermeneutics.
- b. Homosexual practice.
- c. Mission to the Jews.
- d. Christology and the Atonement.

—Adopted

4. That synod instruct the IRC to make a recommendation regarding our relationship to the PCN, based on its findings, to Synod 2006.

—Adopted

The president of synod offers prayer for the relationship with the PCN.

ARTICLE 66

Advisory Committee 9, Christian Day School Education, Rev. Hendrik P. Bruinsma reporting, presents the following:

Committee to Study Christian Day School Education

A. *Materials*: Committee to Study Christian Day School Education Report including Appendices, pp. 352-481

B. *Background and observations*

We praise God for the gift of Christian day school education and the fruit it has borne over the last 150 years in our congregations and in the world. We give thanks to God for all the leaders who have been trained in the classrooms of these schools and how these people have lived out and articulated the lordship of Christ in their various disciplines.

We also appreciate how the report helps us to look to the future. There are many challenges facing Christian schools, and this report provides assistance and suggestions for addressing these challenges.

Specifically, the advisory committee appreciates and our discussions addressed the following:

- We appreciate that the report reflects openness and encouragement to evangelism in the Christian schools.
- We appreciate that the report acknowledges the brokenness and hurt in these schools as well as our successes and that it also suggests strategies for addressing these concerns in a pastoral way.
- We appreciate the report's suggestions for small churches who struggle with a lack of resources to support Christian schools.
- We appreciate the call to diversity in Christian schools.
- We appreciate the report's addressing the issue of parental liberty without the report losing commitment and vision for Christian schools.
- Most of all, we appreciate that together we can affirm and sharpen our vision for biblical Reformed Christian day school education and look to a future where our sharpened vision can help assure that our schools will remain strong and grow in the years ahead.

The Committee to Study Christian Day School Education was appointed by Synod 2001 and reported to Synod 2003 with sixteen recommendations (*Agenda for Synod 2003*, pp. 360-64). Delegates to synod were challenged by this passionate reaffirmation of our historic commitment to Christian day schools, and they thought about its implications in the context of personal and corporate experience. Synod 2003 ended up adopting most of the committee's recommendations. These can be summarized as follows:

1. While honoring Christian liberty through respect for the various educational choices made in good faith by families, synod reaffirmed the CRC's historic commitment to Reformed Christian education from the elementary level through college and university (*Acts of Synod 2003*, p. 619).
2. Synod reaffirmed the Reformed emphases on covenant and kingdom of God as foundational for Reformed Christian schools and affirmed mission/evangelism as an additional block (*Acts of Synod 2003*, p. 620).

3. Synod affirmed that Christian day school education is a communal as well as parental responsibility and encouraged churches and groups of churches to develop and promote plans for congregational support so that all the church's children have an opportunity to receive an education where the lordship of Jesus Christ is acknowledged (*Acts of Synod 2003*, pp. 626, 627).
4. Synod adopted the following change for Church Order Article 71:

The council shall diligently encourage the members of the congregation to establish and maintain good Christian schools in which the biblical, Reformed vision of Christ's lordship over all creation is clearly taught. The council shall also urge parents to have their children educated in harmony with this vision according to the demands of the covenant.

Synod 2003 was not ready to recommend the report to the churches for study, guidance, and reflection on Christian education. Therefore, Synod 2003 mandated the committee to augment its study with special attention to three matters. These were:

1. The relationship between the church's commitment to Christian education and its commitment to evangelism;
2. Ways in which small churches can fulfill their baptismal obligations with respect to Christian education; and
3. How to deal with the brokenness and division in churches where not all have the same financial resources, commitments, and sensitivities concerning Christian education (*Acts of Synod 2003*, pp. 630-31).

The committee's response to the new mandate has resulted in a report and recommendations that go a long way toward addressing the concerns raised in 2003. They lead us to celebrate the gift our denomination has in its Reformed worldview that nurtures thinking about all of life in terms consistent with the lordship of Christ. The Christian education borne of this worldview has not only blessed generations within the Christian Reformed Church, it has also been our gift to others. We also note that this new report not only claims that Christian day school education need not be a barrier to evangelism but also challenges believers to see the classroom of the Christian school as an aid to and context for evangelism.

The 2005 report differs from the 2003 report in several respects. Section III is new. It deals with some of the matters that pertain to the relationship between the church's commitment to Christian education and its commitment to evangelism. After making the case that Christian schools have done much to nurture the continuity of the Reformed worldview within the church and to strengthen the church's witness to the world with a framework for interpreting the world from a viewpoint that is Reformed, it goes on to say that Christian schools help the church with the task of discipleship. After all, following Jesus involves more than knowing basic doctrine and giving attention to private matters of the soul. While frankly acknowledging the fact that the implementation of a strong commitment to Christian day schools has too often had unintended consequences, which at times have caused pain, it maintains that the vision of such a comprehensive approach to discipleship is a gift that

we must not lose. Whether we are training new believers in the faith or instructing the children of believers, we must be guided by the same robust understanding of what it is to follow our Lord.

In response to the additional mandate, material in section V (Biblical and theological foundations) has been rewritten and elaborated in order to clarify what the report means by evangelism/mission and how the mission mandate of Matthew 28:18-20 is to be understood in relationship to the cultural mandate of Genesis 1:27-30.

Section VII, A, which is also new, explores foundational elements for dealing with the brokenness and pain that can (and sometimes does) occur where not all have the same financial resources, commitments, and sensitivities concerning Christian education. Section VII, B, especially, gives the answer of the committee to the question of how small churches can with imagination explore what it means to fulfill their baptismal obligations with respect to Christian education.

The 2005 report is much more explicit and direct in challenging the Christian school movement and its supporters to live up to the ideals of good Christian scholarship, high expectations of exemplary Christian discipleship, and genuine inclusiveness, including warnings against isolation and ghettoization. The 2005 report will require more of our churches in terms of self-examination and reflection and openness to correction and renewal.

Some of the new elements in the report address the variety of ways in which the church's evangelistic task and its commitment to education mutually support each other—a conclusion already reached by Synod 2003. What the new report does is to spell out ways in which church and school, while retaining their own distinctive identity and task, nonetheless can mutually support each other and cooperate in carrying out their calling to be faithful witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the claims of his lordship. The report and its recommendations call the CRC and its members to serious reflection on the degree to which they are actively living out the Reformed vision in their congregations and the schooling of their children. The report also proposes specific ways in which Christian educators and Christian schools can help the church's mission efforts to reach the lost and ways in which the church and its agencies can support and also make use of the schools' assistance in the overall witness of God's people in the world.

While we do recommend this report to the churches for study and discussion, we concede that for many its length may thwart its usefulness. Therefore, we also recommend that a more concise document be made available to the churches.

We also call synod to give attention to its own rules as they apply to the adoption of a change of Church Order Article 71 by Synod 2004. Normally a synod will recommend a church order change and a following synod may be asked to adopt it.

This process was not followed in 2004. Therefore, we recommend the adoption of the change to Article 71 of the Church Order.

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Dr. Dan Vander Ark, chair, and Dr. John Bolt, reporter.

—*Granted*

2. That synod adopt the change to Church Order Article 71 recommended by Synod 2003 (changes in bold).

The council shall diligently encourage the members of the congregation to establish and maintain good Christian schools **in which the biblical, Reformed vision of Christ's lordship over all creation is clearly taught. The council shall also** urge parents to have their children educated in harmony with this vision according to the demands of the covenant.

—Adopted

3. That synod declare that the purpose of all Christian education, in the home, in the church, and in the school, is to tell the story of God, his people, and his world, with the goal that children become active participants in that story and accept as their own the mission of God's people in his world (section III).

—Adopted

4. That synod advise the members and churches of the CRC to consider the responsibilities they bear both for Christian education and for doing evangelism as vitally important and complementary and declare that support for Christian education should never be used to undermine the work of evangelism and that evangelistic outreach should never be given as a ground for failing to support Christian day school education (sections III and IV).

Grounds:

- a. Both tasks flow from a Reformed understanding of Christian discipleship rooted in the covenant and kingdom of God as well as the mission of God's people in the world.
- b. Both tasks are callings placed before the CRC, its congregations, and through its officebearers to its members by Church Order Articles 71, and 73-77.
- c. Consideration of this dual calling and recognition of the diversity of gifts and interests of Christian believers are the essential first steps in diffusing potential tension and conflict in congregations regarding Christian education.

—Adopted

5. That synod give thanks to God for bringing the CRC *anno domini* 2005 to new circumstances of greater diversity thanks to new churches and members and declare this to be a wonderful opportunity to bear witness to the Reformed vision of an integral Christian education wherever it takes place—in the home, school, or church. That synod also urge all the members and churches of the CRC to give leadership to the many other Christians who are increasingly opting for some kind of Christian education (section IV, A, 4).
6. That synod encourage all the member churches of the CRCNA to commit themselves in the church calendar year 2005-2006 to study, reflection, and self-examination as to the Reformed identity of their faith and practice as individual believers and as congregations. Use of denominational

statements and study guides available from CRC Publications is recommended (section VII, C).

Grounds:

- a. The occasion of significant discussion about Christian education is a great opportunity to consider the meaning of our Reformed identity and the nature of a Reformed understanding of Christian discipleship in our world.
- b. Our Reformed confessional heritage is a gift from God, and we are called to be good stewards of the Reformed biblical worldview of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation, which is a needed message in our religiously confused times.
- c. There are concerns in the CRCNA about the strength of our Reformed identity, our understanding of it, and our commitment to it.

—*Adopted*

7. That synod urge all parents, as they face an increasing number of options for educating their children, to examine carefully and prayerfully whether the schools they are considering are in harmony with the Reformed Christian vision of life where the lordship of Jesus Christ over all creation is clearly taught (section VI, A, 2).

Ground: This consistent vision of Christian education is set forth in Church Order Article 71.

—*Adopted*

8. That synod urge parents whose children attend Reformed Christian day schools, and CRC members who support these schools, to stay informed and be vigilant in helping such schools retain their Reformed identity and character (section VI, A, 1).

Ground: This consistent vision of Christian education is set forth in Church Order Article 71.

—*Adopted*

9. That synod urge parents whose children attend Christian day schools, and CRC members who support these schools, to stay informed and be vigilant in helping their schools be truly inclusive communities where diversity does not create unnecessary barriers to any student's full involvement in the life of the school (section VI, B, 1, 2, and 6).

Ground: This is a mandate of the gospel (James 2) and an implication of the CRC's commitment to becoming a more diverse community.

—*Adopted*

10. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to encourage and assist all CRC agencies in the implementation of the denominational strategy of including "Christian day school education in a full-orbed CRCNA mission program" (BOT Minute 2592, 3) (section VI, A, 5).

Grounds:

- a. Reformed Christian day school education is important for equipping a leadership for the CRC that is committed to the Reformed faith.
- b. In view of the growing secularization of public schools, the Reformed tradition's long practice of good Christian education is an integral part of our Reformed kingdom witness and mission to our fellow citizens. This is one of our distinctive contributions to the growth of God's kingdom in North America.
- c. There is a growing awareness among evangelicals in mission work globally that evangelism and missions in our world are incomplete without distinctly Christian education at all levels (section VII, C, 3, p. 437).

—Adopted

11. That synod provide the following advice to small churches with respect to Church Order Article 71 and Christian day school education (section VII, B):
- a. That councils of small churches continue to encourage preaching that is consistent with the Reformed world-and-life view and that recognizes and promotes Christ's lordship over all areas of life as articulated in *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*.
 - b. That councils of small churches urge parents to have their children educated in harmony with the Reformed vision of Christ's lordship over all creation. Where possible, councils shall diligently encourage the members of the congregation to establish and maintain good Christian schools.
 - c. That councils encourage parents who need to supplement the day school education with faith-based materials, or parents who home-school, to consider publications from organizations that produce excellent curricular materials that support the Reformed vision of Christian education such as Christian Schools International (CSI), Society of Christian Schools in British Columbia (SCSBC), Prairie Association of Christian Schools (PACS), or Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS).
 - d. That churches be encouraged to intentionally use Faith Alive Publications' curriculum and materials based on a Reformed vision for as many of its youth and adult educational programs as possible.
 - e. That churches encourage their youth to attend Reformed Christian colleges and universities via scholarships, campus visits, and other ways. (See Recommendation 14, *Acts of Synod 2003*, p. 629.)
 - f. That those responsible for adult education in the churches promote the Reformed vision of Christian education by (1) encouraging the discussion of books and articles supporting this vision, (2) inviting speakers who are insightful advocates of Christian education to lead workshops, and (3) including materials on Christian education in their libraries.

—Adopted

12. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to ask CRC Publications (if possible, in cooperation with CRC Home Missions and Christian school organizations) to investigate the prospect of producing a curriculum to be used by churches, Christian parents, or youth leaders to help integrate faith and learning.

Ground: This would help to ensure that the “Reformed vision of Christ’s lordship over all creation” (Church Order Art. 71) could be more clearly taught to the youth and more clearly understood by all involved in giving leadership to the youth of the church.

—*Adopted*

13. That synod instruct Denominational Services to develop a best-practices resource file for small churches, enabling the sharing of insights and programs that creatively implement the intentions of Article 71 (section VII, B).

—*Adopted*

14. That synod declare the following statements to be the Christian Reformed Church’s understanding of the relationship between our commitment to Reformed Christian day schools and the church’s work of doing evangelism in North America (section VII, C, 1):

- a. The very presence of Reformed Christian day schools in our increasingly secular public square is itself a Christian witness, a testimony to the lordship of Jesus Christ; their existence is to be celebrated and their mission to be encouraged.
- b. Institutionally, Christian day school education is not the responsibility of the official church. In mission situations, especially in cases of great need, it may be necessary for the church to engage in such activities as education as part of its larger ministry. Such activity should be ad hoc and temporary in nature and should strive toward indigenous ownership and governance.
- c. CRC mission activity in North America is to be guided by an *integral* vision of Christian discipleship with a view toward establishing solid families and communities and Christian day schools as well as worshipping congregations.

Ground: This is in keeping with the BOT’s denominational strategy statement.

By the year 2002, the CRC will have developed a deeper understanding of and response to God’s claim to obedience in all areas of our lives (business, labor, government, media, health, education, justice, peace, affluence, pursuit of pleasure, earthkeeping, racial relationships, etc.).

(*Agenda for Synod 1997*, p. 61)

- d. CRC members who are actively involved in Christian education are encouraged to consider their calling to be evangelists in a threefold sense:

- 1) In their personal lives and conduct as teachers to demonstrate their own personal commitment to Jesus Christ and use all appropriate

means to nurture the faith and spiritual development of their students.

- 2) To pursue their vocations as a means of testifying to the lordship of Jesus Christ and in that way bear witness to the world.
- 3) To pursue creative ways of using their gifts as educators to be *directly* evangelistic, either in specific mission situations (e.g., teaching English as a second language) or by encouraging the schools in which they work to be creative in reaching out to the lost with the good news of the gospel.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued in Article 69.)

ARTICLE 67

Delegate Rev. William J. Renkema reads from 2 Corinthians 5:20 and leads in closing prayer. The afternoon session is adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

THURSDAY EVENING, June 16, 2005 Thirteenth Session

ARTICLE 68

Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries, announces *Psalter Hymnal* 475, "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" and leads in opening prayer. He reads from Isaiah 61 and Ephesians 4 and reflects on his years of service to the church. Dr. Borgdorff addresses synod on what makes a healthy church. In conclusion, he reads from Ephesians 3.

ARTICLE 69

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued from Article 66.)

Advisory Committee 9, Christian Day School Education, Rev. Hendrik P. Bruinsman reporting presents the following:

Committee to Study Christian Day School Education

A. *Materials*: Committee to Study Christian Day School Education Report including Appendices, pp. 352-481

C. *Recommendations* (continued)

15. That synod declare the following statements to be the Christian Reformed Church's understanding of the relationship between our commitment to Reformed colleges and universities and the church's work of doing evangelism in North America (section VII, C, 2):
 - a. The very presence of Reformed colleges and universities in our increasingly secular public square is itself a Christian witness, a testimony to the lordship of Jesus Christ; their existence is to be celebrated and their mission and work encouraged.

- b. Reformed colleges and universities are encouraged to see themselves as being in a global mission context and are urged to guide their work by an *integral* vision of Christian discipleship in which academic concerns do not overshadow the spiritual and evangelistic components of the educator's task.
- c. CRC members who are actively involved in teaching at the college and university level are encouraged to consider their calling to be evangelists in a threefold sense:
 - 1) In their personal lives and conduct as teachers to demonstrate their own personal commitment to Jesus Christ and use all appropriate means to nurture the faith and spiritual development of their students.
 - 2) To pursue their vocations as a means of testifying to the lordship of Jesus Christ and in that way bear witness to the world.
 - 3) To pursue creative ways of using their gifts as educators to be *directly* evangelistic, either in specific mission situations (e.g., teaching English as a second language), or, in the case of those teaching at our Reformed colleges and universities, by encouraging the schools in which they work to be creative in reaching out to the lost with the good news of the gospel.

—Adopted

16. That synod declare the following statements to be the Christian Reformed Church's understanding of the relationship between our commitment to Reformed Christian day schools and the church's work of world missions (section VII, C, 3):
- a. Although establishing Christian day schools is not, in the first place, the task of the official church, in mission situations, especially in cases of great need, it may be necessary for the church to engage in such activities as education as part of its larger ministry. Such activity should be ad hoc and temporary in nature and should strive toward indigenous ownership and governance.
 - b. CRC mission activity around the world is to be guided by an *integral* vision of Christian discipleship with a view toward establishing solid families and communities and Christian day school as well as worshiping congregations.

Ground: This is in keeping with the BOT's denominational strategy statement.

By the year 2002, the CRC will have developed a deeper understanding of and response to God's claim to obedience in all areas of our lives (business, labor, government, media, health, education, justice, peace, affluence, pursuit of pleasure, earthkeeping, racial relationships, etc.).

(Agenda for Synod 1997, p. 61)

- c. That CRWM be encouraged to seek out allies and avenues in encouraging Christian higher education opportunities in its mission fields outside North America.

Grounds:

- 1) This is consistent with, and a complement to Recommendation 15, b above.
- 2) From the strength of our theology and practice, the CRC has a golden opportunity today to provide needed assistance to and leadership for the global church and its mission work around the world.

d. CRC members who are actively involved in Christian education are encouraged to consider their calling to be evangelists on the world scene by pursuing creative ways of using their gifts as educators to be *directly* evangelistic in global contexts (e.g., teaching English as a second language).

—*Adopted*

17. That synod give thanks to God for the visionary leadership of CRWM in developing a strong educational mission ministry around the world; for the many missionaries who have served our Lord and his church so well in diverse educational settings in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific; and dedicate a time of prayer asking the Lord for increased opportunities for educational mission service, for missionaries to supply new posts, and for the financial resources to send them (section VII, C, 3).

—*Adopted*

18. That synod encourage all its member churches to develop goals, strategies, and processes toward the healthy resolution of differences and conflicts (section VII, A).

Grounds:

- a. The changes and cultural pressures underscored in this report make it clear that building authentic community needs to be a high priority for the church at this point in its history.
- b. Christ's high priestly prayer makes it clear that disunity in the church undermines the gospel message (John 17:20-23).

—*Adopted*

19. That synod instruct the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee to include as a ministry standard for Church Order Article 6, 7, and 8 candidates a knowledge of the CRC's position on and commitment to Christian day school education. This report could serve as part of the required reading for ministry candidates (section VII, C, 2).

—*Adopted*

20. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to develop a summary document using the 2005 synodical report and synodical recommendations, as well as other applicable denominational materials on Christian day school education to clearly articulate the CRC position on Christian day school education. This document should be designed to be useful for our local congregations and for the purpose of education, training, and encouragement in the denomination as a whole.

—*Adopted*

21. That synod commend the summary of the CRC's position on Christian day school education to the churches for study and discussion.

—Adopted

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

—Adopted

Delegate Rev. Carl J. Afman leads in a prayer of thanks for educational mission ministry around the world.

ARTICLE 70

Elder delegate Mr. Mike Van Dyke reads from 2 Timothy 1 and leads in closing prayer remembering especially Mr. Ken Draayer, brother of delegate Rev. Thomas D. Draayer, who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. The evening session is adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

FRIDAY MORNING, June 17, 2005

Fourteenth Session

ARTICLE 71

Rev. Sam Hamstra, Jr., announces "Zion/We're Marching to Zion" and *Sing! A New Creation* 106, "Soon and Very Soon."

Delegate Rev. Robert J. Price, pastor of Roseland CRC, Chicago, Illinois, reads from Revelation 21:1-5, 22, 23 and addresses synod regarding "The New City." He announces "Have You Heard of the City?"

ARTICLE 72

The roll indicates that all delegates are present.

Note: Rev. Douglas R. Fauble (Holland) and Rev. Bernard J. Haan (Iakota) are absent with notice.

ARTICLE 73

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 52.)

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services II, Rev. John A. Ooms reporting, presents the following:

I. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials:* Board of Trustees Report (II, B, 2, a; Appendices D, D-1, D-2, pp. 35, 54-60)

B. Recommendations

1. That Ms. Beth Swagman, Director of the Office of Abuse Prevention, be given the privilege of the floor.

—Granted

2. That synod establish within the Advisory Panel Process outlined in “Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader” the role of an advocate for the accuser (see *Agenda for Synod 2005*, pp. 56-58).

Grounds:

- a. The neutrality of the advisory panel will be safeguarded by an advocate for the accuser.
- b. Experience has shown that an advocate for the accuser is needed.

—Adopted

3. That synod approve the following additions to the “Procedures and Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader” (additions in bold). (The complete guidelines for the advisory panel are found in the *Manual of Christian Reformed Church Government*, 2001 Revision, pp. 493-96. See also the *Agenda for Synod 2005*, pp. 58-60.)

- a. **If a classis has an abuse response team, then the person with the allegation or an advocate should contact either a member of the executive committee of the accused person’s church or a member of the abuse response team. The contact should include the allegation in writing with a request for an advisory panel.**

In those cases when the abuse response team is contacted directly, the chairperson of the abuse response team notifies the executive committee of the church where the accused person is a member that an advisory panel has been requested and then identifies the accused person, and the allegation known at that time. Confidentiality among these parties is very important.

- b. **If a classis does not yet have an abuse response team, then the person with the allegation or an advocate should contact a member of the executive committee of the accused person’s church. The contact should include the allegation in writing with a request for an advisory panel.**

The executive committee (or its equivalent), after consulting with one another (no one of those consulting may be implicated by the victim) and after reviewing the alternatives, should **contact the nearest classical abuse response team to convene a panel**. The advisory panel should be convened as soon as possible after the allegation is presented to a member of the executive committee or its equivalent.

- i. Within one week of the advisory panel’s formulation of its summary, the chairperson of the advisory panel, **accompanied by the advocate**, should report the panel’s summary to the executive committee. The advisory panel should notify the accuser and the accused in writing of the panel’s findings.
- j. The executive committee (or its equivalent) of the council should convene the consistory within one week to bring the panel’s summary and its recommendations for pastoral care and/or discipline. The advisory panel ends when the chairperson of the advisory panel

reports the panel's summary to the consistory of the alleged abuser's church. If one of the consistory/council members is implicated by the alleged victim, he/she is excluded from participation in the deliberative work of the consistory/council dealing with the allegations against that member. **The chairperson of the advisory panel should report the panel's summary, and the advocate will be present.**

The consistory has thirty days from receipt of the report to adjudicate the allegations and decide the next course of action. The consistory should notify the accused and the accuser of its findings. **If a decision is made to take no further action on the report, or if the action taken by the consistory is contrary to the findings of the advisory panel, then the chairperson of the advisory panel, after consultation with the advocate, will submit a copy of the report to the Classical Interim Committee (CIC) with a request for further action.**

Note: Further action could include the following:

1. The classical interim committee meets with the executive committee of the council, the chairperson of the panel, and the advocate to review the findings and discuss the possible steps to take with respect to the report.
2. The classical interim committee meets with the consistory to review the findings and discuss the possible steps to take with respect to the report.
3. The classical interim committee reports on the matter at the next classis meeting.

Grounds:

- a. The person with an allegation gains access to the advisory process more quickly and comfortably.
- b. The classical abuse response team, which has experience in abuse dynamics, becomes the access point for the advisory panel process.
- c. The role of advocate is integrated into the advisory panel process.

—Adopted

4. That synod impress upon classes the need to have abuse response teams in place and urge congregations to have abuse prevention policies and procedures in place.

Grounds:

- a. Approximately two-thirds of classes have not yet appointed an abuse response team.
- b. Synod has encouraged and instructed classes and congregations to do so (*Acts of Synod 2001*, p. 526; *Acts of Synod 2003*, p. 682).

—Adopted

II. Diversity of staff

A. Observations

While discussing the staffing of our denominational offices, the advisory committee expressed the desire that ethnic and racial minorities and women be hired into the administrative positions of our denomination. Though efforts

have been made to diversify the staff, there has not been sufficient progress. In the next few years, several administrative positions will need to be filled, and the advisory committee is concerned that the denomination do everything possible to ensure that ethnic and racial minorities and women are included in administrative positions. Our commitment to becoming an inclusive denomination must come to more visible expression in the denominational offices.

B. Recommendation

That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to report to Synod 2007 as to how the Board plans to reflect the diversity of our denomination in its administrative positions.

Ground: The CRC must continue to be intentional in its efforts to include ethnic and racial minorities and women in its administrative positions.

—Adopted

III. Expression of thanks to our governments

A. Background

Six years ago in response to two overtures and the actions of the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action, Synod 1999 affirmed that “. . . the crushing international debt carried by many third world countries very much affects the poor and, for Christians, is a serious matter” (*Acts of Synod 1999*, p. 573).

During the past six years, the Office of Social Justice as well as other agencies, groups, and individuals within our denomination have actively raised their voices as part of the increasing consensus among people of faith that the burden of international debt born by those least able to afford it is morally wrong.

Recently, the finance ministers of the seven wealthiest countries agreed to completely absolve eighteen heavily indebted poor countries of their international debt totaling forty billion dollars. We rejoice that these governments have responded affirmatively to the call to act in this manner.

B. Recommendation

That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to write the Canadian and United States governments to strongly affirm their actions in absolving these eighteen heavily indebted poor countries of their international debt and urge them to even greater efforts of compassion and justice for poor and hungry people.

Grounds:

1. The church is called to speak and act on behalf of the poor.
2. Our denomination has been an active part of the debt relief campaign.
3. Our denomination should support and encourage just actions as well as oppose and discourage injustice.

—Adopted

IV. Board of Trustees

A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (Program Section, including Appendices C-G, I-J; pp. 33-43, 52-69, 70-77)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Sections I, B; II, A, B, and I)

B. Recommendations (continued)

6. That synod adopt the Resolution of Gratitude in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the CRC in Canada (II, B, 9, p. 41).

—*Adopted*

7. That synod authorize the BOT to ratify the appointment of a director for the Back to God Hour (BOT Supplement II, A).

Grounds:

- a. This will expedite the filling of the vacancy created at The Back To God Hour by the synodical appointment of Dr. Calvin L. Bremer as the executive director of the CRC.
b. Waiting until Synod 2006 ratifies the appointment may unduly hinder the effectiveness of this ministry.

—*Adopted*

8. That synod recognize with gratitude and joy the contributions of Dr. Peter Borgdorff to the Christian Reformed Church in North America (BOT Supplement II, I, 1).

—*Adopted*

9. That synod confer on Dr. Peter Borgdorff the title of executive director of ministries, emeritus effective August 22, 2005 (BOT Supplement II, I, 1).

—*Adopted*

10. That synod recognize with gratitude and joy the contributions of Dr. David H. Engelhard to the Christian Reformed Church in North America (BOT Supplement II, I, 2).

—*Adopted*

11. That synod confer on Dr. David H. Engelhard the title of general secretary, emeritus effective May 1, 2005 (BOT Supplement II, I, 2).

—*Adopted*

V. Sesquicentennial Committee

A. Materials: Sesquicentennial Committee Report, pp. 286-88

B. Observation

Dr. Peter Borgdorff replaces Dr. David Engelhard as committee member and organizer of the sesquicentennial celebration.

C. Recommendation

That synod approve the work of the committee and encourage all congregations to send representative images, audio recordings, and audio-visual recordings of the church in worship to the Sesquicentennial Committee in care of the Archives at Calvin College.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 74

Mr. Henry Hess, director of communications, introduces a Power point presentation on the Sea to Sea Bike Tour in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the CRC in Canada.

ARTICLE 75

(The report of Advisory Committee 10 is continued from Article 61.)

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

I. Board of Trustees

A. Materials

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

B. Recommendations (continued)

3. That synod instruct the BOT to rework the BOT report, Appendix B, III "Membership Count" (pp. 49-52) in consultation with Dr. Henry De Moor and report back to Synod 2006.

Grounds:

- a. The BOT's recommendation raises issues that must be addressed with resources beyond what this committee has available to it during synod.
- b. The current proposals do not sufficiently distinguish ministry share considerations from pastoral concerns.
- c. The implication of inactive status has been somewhat fuzzy from the beginning.

—Adopted

4. That synod instruct the BOT and Home Missions to formulate a unified plan regarding assistance to smaller congregations that gives meaningful expression to the covenant underlying our denominational relationships.

Grounds:

- a. Home Missions does have a plan to assist congregations with respect to paying for insurance and pension benefits.
- b. The BOT's recommendation would create a second program for assisting smaller churches, and having dual programs is inefficient.

—Adopted

5. That Synod 2005 approve a supplementary ministry share amount of ten dollars (\$10) to provide needed additional funding for aid to smaller churches.

Grounds:

- a. Recommending an additional funding stream for aid to smaller churches is advanced in direct response to a decision of Synod 2003.
- b. A ministry share funding stream is the most secure way to implement the concern of synod for assisting the development of healthy congregations in need of temporary financial assistance.

c. It is appropriate that funding for this proposal be provided by the whole church as a meaningful expression of the covenant underlying our denominational relationships.

—*Adopted*

6. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list (BOT Supplement II, G):

- a. That synod approve the list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for the agencies and institutions of the CRC and recommend these to the churches for consideration.
- b. That synod approve the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have renewed their application and are recommended for 2006-2008 accreditation.
- c. That synod approve the request that IDEA Ministries be included on the list of nondenominational recommended causes in the United States.

Ground: IDEA Ministries provides an effective mission and cross-cultural learning experience for its participants.

- d. That synod approve the request of Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services to be included on the list of nondenominational recommended causes.

Ground: Pine Rest serves CRC members from a large geographic area.

- e. That synod approve the request of Partners Worldwide to be included on the list of denominationally affiliated recommended causes.

Ground: Partners Worldwide is CRWRC-related and denominationally affiliated.

- f. That synod recommend International Aid, Inc. to be listed as a denominationally approved agency, but that it be endorsed with respect to medical supplies only.

- g. That synod approve the request of the Work Research Foundation to be included on the list of nondenominational recommended causes.

Ground: The BOT has learned that this organization is financially sound.

- h. That synod not approve the following previously approved agencies for inclusion on the approved list of nondenominational agencies:

U.S. benevolent agencies

- 1) Christian Health Care Center

Ground: This institution used to serve the membership of the CRC from a large geographic area. However, with the changes in mental health care this organization has become almost exclusively regional in focus. Financial support may be appropriate from the classes in the region.

U.S. educational agencies

2) Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA

Ground: Originally, Westminster Theological Seminary offered advanced theological programs not available at Calvin Theological Seminary. That is no longer the case and, therefore, falls outside of synodically approved guidelines for remaining an accredited agency.

U.S. miscellaneous agencies

3) Gideons International – U.S.

Lord’s Day Alliance of The United States

Ground: Both of these organizations show financial assets and cash reserves substantially in excess of what synod permits for CRC agencies. The need for financial support appears to be minimal.

- i. That synod deny the following new request for inclusion on the list of accredited nondenominational agencies:

The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity

Ground: While this organization is engaged in a worthwhile undertaking, it is the BOT’s judgment that this activity falls outside of the guidelines of synodically approved guidelines for being included as an accredited agency.

—Adopted

II. Response to Overture 6

A. *Materials:* Overture 6: Change the Title for the New Chief Denominational Executive Position (pp. 573-74)

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 6.

Ground: The overture’s arguments are not compelling enough to overturn the results of the Board of Trustees’s deliberations on this matter.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 76

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 54.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services I, Rev. Jacob Kerkhof reporting, presents the following:

I. Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (Polity Section excluding section II, A, 10; including Appendix A; pp. 23-33, 44-46)
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (Sections I, A, C-G, and I-L)

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to Rev. W. Wayne Leys, chairman of the Board; 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).

—*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 approve the following recommendations regarding the office of ministry associate (II, A, 6):

- a. That synod declare that the office of ministry associate is not an appropriate office for national and international agency staff persons appointed to administrative duties.

Ground: The office is established to enhance the ministry of the local church and not intended for denominational positions with national and international responsibilities.

- b. That synod permit agency personnel who might legitimately be called upon to exhort in CRC churches to seek a denominational license to exhort through the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee (SMCC) (see Church Order Article 22 and its Supplement). All requests for licensure will need to be justified and supported by recommendations from the executive director of an agency, the executive director of the CRCNA, and the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA.

Ground: This exception addresses the major concern of the mission agencies and permits a mission employee to lead worship in CRC congregations when asked to do so.

- c. That synod instruct the SMCC to develop guidelines for granting licensure to agency persons requesting the privilege of exhorting even though their primary responsibilities are other than serving in a congregational setting.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod adopt the change proposed by Synod 2004 in Church Order Article 7, namely, that the phrase, “especially when the need is urgent” be deleted (II, A, 7, a).

6. That synod adopt the following change proposed by Synod 2004 in Church Order Article 36-a to include the word *ordinarily* so that it would read as follows (II, A, 7, b):

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.

—*Adopted*

7. That synod adopt the change proposed by Synod 2004 in Church Order Article 84 by adding the following sentence (II, A, 7, c):

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

—*Adopted*

8. That synod reappoint the eligible members of the Judicial Code Committee for a second three-year term (II, A, 9).

—*Adopted*

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

—*Adopted*

10. That synod by way of the printed ballot elect a member from Region 6 for the Board of Trustees from the slate of nominees presented (BOT Supplement, I, C, 2).

—*Adopted*

11. That synod receive as information the BOT conclusion concerning cross-border movement of personnel (BOT Supplement, I, G).

—*Adopted*

12. That synod designate Sherman Street CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan, as the convening church for Synod 2006 (BOT Supplement, I, I).

—*Adopted*

13. That synod designate Graafschap CRC (Holland, MI), Noordeloos CRC (Holland, MI), and First CRC (Grand Rapids, MI) as the convening churches for Synod 2007 (BOT Supplement, I, I).

—*Adopted*

14. That synod grant the synodical Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism a one-year extension (BOT Supplement, I, K).

Grounds:

- a. Third Wave Pentecostalism is a diverse phenomenon, and the initially allotted time did not allow for a fair and considered response to its various facets.
- b. A survey of the impact of Third Wave Pentecostalism has recently been sent out to the pastors of the denomination, and more time is needed to tabulate and assess the results.

—*Adopted*

15. That synod recommend that classes set aside time at a classis meeting to review and discuss the report of the Committee to Study War and Peace (BOT Supplement, I, L).

Grounds:

- a. In February 2003, the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church sent a letter to the congregations urging prayer, study, and reflection concerning issues of war and peace.
- b. In May 2003, the Board of Trustees received, reviewed, and forwarded to Synod 2003 a brief war and peace report prepared by an ad hoc committee that summarized the issues that required more in-depth study.
- c. In June 2003, synod adopted the recommendations of the Board of Trustees and appointed a committee to explore and reflect on the issues raised by the war and peace report and to recommend guidelines and advice for the church.
- d. Those guidelines and advice to the church form the basis of our report to Synod 2006. Synod's consideration of these guidelines and advice will be aided and enhanced if the churches first discuss this report in a classis meeting prior to the meeting of Synod 2006.
- e. A member(s) of the synodical Committee to Study War and Peace stands ready to facilitate classical discussions of this report in the coming year as time and distance and availability allow us to do this. Productive discussions can also be held without the presence of a member of our committee.

—*Adopted*

II. Ministerial retirements

A. Information

Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:

Minister	Classis	Effective Date
Richard J. Blauw	Illiana	April 17, 2005
Peter Borgdorff	Grand Rapids East	July 1, 2005
Stanley J. Bultman	Grand Rapids South	February 17, 2005
James Cooper	Thornapple Valley	July 31, 2005
Harold De Jong	Rocky Mountain	July 12, 2005
Ecko De Vries	Grand Rapids South	May 31, 2005
Robert C. DeVries	Thornapple Valley	July 1, 2005
Edward Den Haan	Huron	April 30, 2005
A. Dirk Evans	Toronto	January 31, 2005
Sidney Greidanus	Grand Rapids East	August 31, 2004
Marvin W. Heyboer	Georgetown	February 1, 2005
Roger D. Kramer	Lake Superior	June 1, 2005
Harry Kuperus	Alberta North	February 1, 2005
Don W. Lagerwey	California South	October 1, 2005
John S. Meyer	Northern Michigan	March 8, 2005
Melle Pool	Alberta North	September 30, 2005
Paul D. Stadt	Chatham	May 29, 2005
Gordon Van Enk	Greater Los Angeles	May 11, 2005
Harry Vriend	Alberta North	February 3, 2005
Robert L. Westenbroek	Rocky Mountain	January 13, 2005
Henry Wildeboer	Toronto	January 10, 2005
Norberto E. Wolf	Greater Los Angeles	December 31, 2004
David G. Zandstra	Central California	June 1, 2005

B. Recommendations

1. That synod acknowledge with the highest regard, those ministers of the Word who have retired. Their collective years of service and love for their work in ministry has been a significant contribution to the advancement of God’s kingdom.

—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: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!

—Adopted

First clerk Rev. Gordon H. Pols leads in prayer of thanksgiving for the service of the retiring pastors.

III. 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
Adam M.H. Barton	Holland (8-26-04)	H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo) B.F.Tol (Zeeland) D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown)
Richard A. Bodini	Alberta South/ Saskatchewan (10-29-04)	J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East) J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West) J. Weeda (Yellowstone)
Joyce Borger	Grand Rapids East (1-20-05)	E.J. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South) D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley)
Ardean B. Brock	Grand Rapids East (9-16-04)	G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland) E.J. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North) D.S. Struyk (Grand Rapids South)
Craig E. Broek	Hudson (10-13-04)	R. Engle (Lake Erie) C. Vander Neut (Hackensack) J. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast)
Peter Choi	Lake Erie (11-5-04)	J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East) D.M. Stravers (Holland) H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo)
Folkert (Frank) De Boer	Chatham (5/10/05)	J. De Jong (Niagara) J. Kerssies (Huron) G.H. Pols (Hamilton)
Douglas E. Fakkema	Pacific Northwest (10-14-04)	J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East) J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West) K. Van Schelven (Columbia)
Jeffrey A. Fisher	Lake Superior (9-28-04)	R. Engle (Lake Erie) L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin) R.W. Sparks (Iakota)
Gregory A. Fluit	Niagara (11-24-04)	J. Kerssies (Huron) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto) (No third deputy)
Harry J. Frielink	Huron (9-15-04)	J. Zantingh (Hamilton) P.D. Stadt (Chatham) H.D. Praamsma (Toronto)

Edward H. Gerber	Atlantic Northeast (10-7-04)	R. Engle (Lake Erie) C. Vander Neut (Hackensack) K.J. Verhulst (Hudson)
David S. Gifford	Georgetown (2-17-05)	T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) D. Kamstra (Grandville) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South)
Kevin S. Heeres	Kalamazoo (11-4-04)	J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) D.A. Kamstra (Grandville)
Daniel Hoogland	B.C. North-West (9-21-04)	J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East) K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest) K. Van Schelven (Columbia)
Joseph M. Kamphuis	Columbia (9-25-04)	J. Weeda (Yellowstone) K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest) B. Persenaire (Central California)
David G. Kroon	Northern Michigan (9-28-04)	T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South) D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley)
Bret D. Lamsma	Grandville (9-16-04)	H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo) G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley) E.A. Van Baak (Grand Rapids East)
Bradley A. Meinders	Minnkota (9-16-04)	D. Tinklenberg (Heartland) C.J. De Ridder (Iakota) D.A. Zylstra (Lake Superior)
Leonard H. Meinema	Northern Illinois (11-11-04)	L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin) J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South) G. Veenstra (Illiana)
Stephen D. Moerman	Iakota (5-10-05)	D.A. Zylstra (Lake Superior) L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota) D. Tinklenberg (Heartland)
Randall C. Raak	Grand Rapids South (9-16-04)	D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown) T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North) G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley)
Lucas A. Rodenhouse	Grand Rapids North (1-18-05)	J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East) W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South) G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley)
Chad M. Steenwyk	Holland (8-26-04)	H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo) B.F. Tol (Zeeland) D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown)
Gregory P. Timmer	Heartland (3-5-05)	C.J. De Ridder (Iakota) G.M. McGuire (Northcentral Iowa) D.A. Zylstra (Lake Superior)
Naji Umran	Grand Rapids East (9-16-04)	D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South) E.J. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North) G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland)
Michael Van Boom	Alberta South/ Saskatchewan (10-29-04)	J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East) J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West) J. Weeda (Yellowstone)
Scott Allen Vander Ploeg	Southeast U.S. (9-17-04)	M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois) R. Engle (Lake Erie) J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South)
Paul William-Tigchelaar Verhoef	Alberta South/ Saskatchewan (3-11-05)	H. Vriend (Alberta North) J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West) H. Jonker (B. C. South-East)
John D. Witvliet	Grand Rapids East (9-16-04)	E.J. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North) D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South) G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland)

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

—Adopted

B. Classical examinations via Church Order Article 7

1. Synodical deputies R.W. Sparks (Iakota), D. Visser (Lake Superior), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Edgerton, Minnesota, 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 Minnkota, in session on March, 3, 2005, to not grant **Mr. Ken Alons** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches.
2. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Kley (Atlantic Northeast), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), 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 Hackensack, in session on September 21, 2004, to declare **Mr. Joshua Amaezechi** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), J. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), and R. Engle (Lake Erie), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 8, 2005, to admit **Mr. Joshua Amaezechi** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 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 Thornapple Valley, in session on October 19, 2004, to grant **Mr. Russell Boersma** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until February 1, 2005.
5. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and E.A. Van Baak (Grand Rapids 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 Thornapple Valley, in session on January 18, 2005, to declare **Mr. Russell Boersma** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), J. Rop (Arizona), and J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Red Mesa, in session on September 30, 2004, to admit **Mr. Bobby Boyd** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland), and A. Petroelje (Muskegon), having examined the written credentials

submitted by the council of Vida Nueva Christian Reformed Church 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 Holland, in session on May 19, 2005, to grant **Mr. Pablo Canche** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until September 2005.

8. Synodical deputies D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Aetna Christian Reformed Church of Aetna, Michigan, 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 September 28, 2004, to grant **Mr. Brad Center** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until March 1, 2005.
9. Synodical deputies D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and E.A. Van Baak (Grand Rapids 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 Northern Michigan, in session on May 10, 2005, to declare **Mr. Brad Center** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and C. Van Niejenhuis (Alberta North), 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 B.C. South-East, in session on March 1, 2005, to declare **Mr. William Delleman** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), B. Persenaire (Central California), and M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Conrad Christian Reformed Church of Conrad, Montana, 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 Yellowstone, in session on September 17, 2004, to grant **Mr. Tim Gallant** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until March 30, 2005.
12. Synodical deputies R. Walhof (Arizona), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Trinity Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of San Diego, California, and having heard the examination for licensure to exhort in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7 and its Supplement, **do not concur** in the decision of Classis California South, in session on May 12, 2005, to grant **Mr. Scott Geurink** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches as a preliminary step toward ordination by way of Article 7.

Note: Since the synodical deputies and Classis California South did not agree on the matter of Scott Geurink's request for an Article 7 ordination track, the matter is automatically referred to synod for adjudication. Classis California South did send in a communication responding to the synodical deputies' grounds. The advisory committee, upon due consideration of the issues involved, recommended that synod approve the work of the synodical deputies. Synod adopted the recommendation of the advisory committee.

13. Synodical deputies J.J. Koster (B.C. North-West), H. Vriend (Alberta North), and M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Hillside Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia, 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 B.C. South-East, in session on September 21, 2004, to grant **Mr. David Horner** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches.
14. Synodical deputies J.J. Koster (B.C. North-West), H. Vriend (Alberta North), and M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), 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 B.C. South-East, in session on September 21, 2004, to declare **Mr. David A. Horner** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on November 30, 2004, to admit **Mr. John P. Kostelyk**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), 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 Grand Rapids South, in session on May 19, 2005, to declare **Mr. Randy Ledebouer** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
17. Synodical deputies J. Zantingh (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 23, 2004, to declare **Mr. Paul Vanden Brink** eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
18. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), J.M. Vande Hoef (Huron), and J. De Jong (Niagara), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session on January 25, 2005, to admit **Mr.**

Paul Vanden Brink to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

19. Synodical deputies C.J. De Ridder (Iakota), W.D. Vis (Minnkota), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having examined the written credentials submitted by the council of Wilmar Christian Reformed Church of Wilmar, Minnesota, 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 Lake Superior, in session on March 8, 2005, to grant **Mr. Tom Van Engen** the right to exhort in Christian Reformed churches until his examination for eligibility for a call as determined by classis.
20. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), and R.W. Sparks (Iakota), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with the provisions of Church Order Article 7, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 28, 2004, to admit **Mr. Robert Visser**, to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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

—Adopted

C. *Ministers from other denominations, Church Order Article 8*

1. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.H. Park (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 September 21, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Carlos Samuel Flores Chavez**) from another denomination (Methodist Church of Mexico) to serve as Spanish language pastor in the Rosewood Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, California.

Statement of need: To reach the Hispanic people in the city of Bellflower.

2. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), P.S. Hyun (Pacific Hanmi), and G.L. Dykstra (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Carlos Samuel Flores Chavez**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on March 15, 2005, 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 C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Hudson, in session on September 21, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. In Chul Choeh**) from another denomination (Hapdong Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as pastor of the Livingston Calvary Presbyterian Church.

Statement of need: There is a need for indigenous leadership in the Korean setting.

4. Synodical deputies C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. In Chul Choeh**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Hudson, in session on March 8, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 8, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jonathan C. Choi**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church USA) to serve as senior pastor at Messiah Korean Christian Reformed Church.

Statement of need: There is a need for indigenous leadership in the Korean setting.

6. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), and B. Persenaire (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Columbia, in session on January 4, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Dr. Robert Cummings**) from another denomination (Conservative Baptist Conference) to serve as pastor of a local congregation.

Statement of need: (1) There are 130 vacancies in the CRC. (2) There is a shortage of candidates from Calvin Theological Seminary. (3) There is a high number of anticipated retirees. (4) Home Missions plans to start 30 new churches per year. (5) The minister to be called has such extraordinary gifts that the church recognizes that it would be important for the denomination to acquire his service.

7. Synodical deputies T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), and B. Persenaire (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Dr. Robert Cummings**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on February 15, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies B.B. Bakker (Quinte), G.H. Pols (Hamilton), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Toronto, in session on January 20, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Willem Jacobus du Plessis**) from another denomination (Dutch Reformed Church C.S.A.) to serve as minister of the Word.

Statement of need: There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

9. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Hamilton), J. Kerssies (Huron), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Willem Jacobus du Plessis**, in accordance with Church

Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on May 19, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

10. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), P.S. Hyun (Pacific Hanmi), and G.L. Dykstra (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 March 15, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Matthew Ford**) from another denomination (Conservative Congregational Christian Conference) to serve as pastor and church planter of Fountain of Life Fellowship Christian Reformed Church.

Statement of need: (1) The need of the congregation for a pastor is very urgent. (2) He is a new-church developer and is being called to "serve" this church.

11. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), P.D. Stadt (Chatham), and J. Zantingh (Hamilton), having heard the review and reconsideration of the May decision concerning **Rev. Gregory Girard**, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session on September 15, 2004, **not to** declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies F. Walhof (Arizona), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis California South, in session on May 12, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. John Gonzales**) from another congregation (High Power Ministry) to serve as minister of the Word.

Statement of need: Rev. Gonzales leads a Hispanic congregation that is entering the CRC.

13. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (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 September 14, 2004, that a need has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jahng Soo Jeong**) from another denomination (Christian and Missionary Alliance) to serve as associate pastor of Olympic Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles, California.

Statement of need: There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

14. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Jahng Soo Jeong**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 8, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

15. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), W.D. Vis (Minnkota), and R.W. Sparks (Iakota), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Myung-han Kang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pella, in session on March 5, 2005, to receive him into the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), and J. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Andrew Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 8, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
17. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 8, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Dong Il Kim**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in Korea) to serve as senior pastor at East Bay Korean Christian Reformed Church in the San Francisco Area.

Statement of need: This Korean congregation has a need for indigenous leadership.

18. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Dong Il Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on June 22, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
19. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Rop (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 14, 2004, that a need has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Joseph Kyung Kim**) from another denomination (Christian Presbyterian Church) to serve as senior pastor of Mission Community Church, Fullerton, California.
20. Synodical deputies F. Walhof (Arizona), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Joseph Kyung Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on May 12, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
21. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and J. Weeda (Yellowstone), 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,

2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Kyung Soo Kim**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church USA) to serve as pastor at Hebron Christian Reformed Church.

22. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (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 September 14, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Sung Kwan Kim**) from another denomination (Christian Presbyterian Church) to serve as pastor of Green Field Presbyterian Church.

Statement of need: There is a need for indigenous leaders in a multiethnic church.

23. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Sung Kwan Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 8, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
24. 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.
25. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Harold Michael Cavel Lapien**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on October 7, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
26. 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.
27. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), P.S. Hyun (Pacific Hanmi), and G.L. Dykstra (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 March 15, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jae Kun Lee**) from another denomination (General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in Korea) to serve as pastor of New Life Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, California.

Statement of need: There is a need for indigenous leadership in a Korean congregation.

28. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 8, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Kyung Ryul Lee**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church in Korea) to serve as senior pastor at San Jose New Hope Christian Reformed Church.

Statement of need: This Korean congregation has a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

29. 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 21, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Tae Hoo Lee**) from another denomination (Pure Presbyterian Church of New York) to serve as new church developer.

Statement of need: (1) There is a need for new church developers. (2) There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural setting.

30. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), and J. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Tae Hoo Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 8, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
31. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), H. Kranenburg (Hamilton), and N. Cornelisse (Eastern Canada), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Quinte, in session on May 10, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. James Liebenberg**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church of Canada) to serve as minister of the Word.

Statement of need: (1) There is a need within the CRC re a high number of vacancies, a high number of retirees, and a lower number of candidates. (2) Rev. Liebenberg is extraordinarily qualified re theological education and multicultural international experience.

32. Synodical deputies K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), and B. Persenaire (Central California), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Columbia, in session on February 15, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Dr. Dan Lioy**) from another denomination (Evangelical Church Alliance) to serve as either a pastor or a professor of theology.

Statement of need: (1) There are 130 vacancies in the CRC. (2) There is a shortage of candidates from Calvin Theological Seminary. (3) There is a high number of anticipated retirees. (4) Home Missions plans to start 30 new churches per year. (5) The minister to be called has such extraordinary gifts that the church recognizes that it would be important for the denomination to acquire his service.

33. Synodical deputies T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), J.W. Dykhuis (Red Mesa), and J. Rop (Arizona), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on September 21, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Don Orange**) from another denomination (Reformed Church in America) to serve as pastor of Greeley Christian Reformed Church.

Statement of need: There is an urgent need of a pastor for the Greeley Christian Reformed Church.

34. Synodical deputies J.W. Dykhuis (Red Mesa), T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Don Orange**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 1, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
35. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.H. Park (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 September 21, 2004, that a need has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Roy Palaricini**) from another denomination (Comunidad P.A.S. [Community of the Forgiven to Love and Serve]) to serve as Hispanic pastor in All Nations Church of Lake View Terrace, California.

Statement of need: Develop a Hispanic ministry to 1st through 2nd generation Hispanics.

36. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), P.S. Hyun (Pacific Hanmi), and G.L. Dykstra (Central California), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Roy Palaricini**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on March 15, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
37. 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.
38. Synodical deputies J. Vande Lune (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 March 8, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Jae Park**) from another denomination (Korean Presbyterian Church) to serve as church planter in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Statement of need: There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

39. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (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 September 14, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. O Seog Seo**) from another denomination (Presbyterian Church of Korea) to serve as pastor at Peace of Los Angeles Christian Reformed Church, Mission Hills, California.

Statement of need: There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church.

40. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. O Seog Seo**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 8, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

41. Synodical deputies J.W. Dykhuis (Red Mesa), T. Vander Ziel (Yellowstone), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Henry Serrano**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 1, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

42. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and B.F. Tol (Zeeland), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Muskegon, in session on September 16, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. David Sieplinga**) from another denomination (Reformed Church of America) to serve as pastor.

Statement of need: The statement of need is on file with the stated clerk.

43. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. David J. Sieplinga**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session on October 21, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

44. Synodical deputies E.J. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), and G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Laura Smit**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 16, 2004, to declare her eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

45. Synodical deputies J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), 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 Kalamazoo, in session on January 25, 2005, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Ray Steigenga**) from another denomination (Reformed Church in America) to serve as pastor of Northern Heights Christian Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan.
46. Synodical deputies J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and D.M. Stravers (Holland), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Ray Steigenga**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Kalamazoo, in session on February 22, 2005, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
47. Synodical deputies D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown), G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Robert Stevenson**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on September 16, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
48. Synodical deputies D.W. Lagerwey (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.J. Kang (Pacific Hanmi), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. David Suh**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on June 22, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
49. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and B.F. Tol (Zeeland), having reviewed the documents specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Muskegon, in session on September 16, 2004, that a need has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Brian A. Turnbull**) from another denomination (Reformed Church of America) to serve as pastor.

Statement of need: The statement of need is on file with the stated clerk.

50. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Brian A. Turnbull**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session on October 21, 2004, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
51. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and B.F. Tol (Zeeland), having reviewed the documents

specified in accordance with Church Order Supplement, Article 8, concur in the declaration of Classis Muskegon, in session on September 16, 2004, that a **need** has been demonstrated to call a minister (**Rev. Elizabeth K. Turnbull**) from another denomination (Reformed Church of America) to serve as pastor.

Statement of need: The statement of need is on file with the stated clerk.

52. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and J. A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Rev. Elizabeth K. Turnbull**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session on October 21, 2004, to declare her eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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

—*Adopted*

D. Ministers in specialized services, Church Order Article 12-c

1. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), H. de Bolster (Hamilton), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Huron), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church of Niagara Falls, Ontario, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Niagara, in session on July 21, 2004, to approve the position of Brock University chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Dr. André Basson**.
2. Synodical deputies D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland), and E.J. Blankespoor (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Calvin 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 September 16, 2004, to approve the shared positions of associate worship and music editor at Faith Alive Resources and program manager for resource projects at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Joyce Borger**.
3. Synodical deputies H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland), and A. Petroelje (Muskegon), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Faith 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 in the decision of Classis Holland, in session on May 19, 2005, to approve the position of pastor for discernment initiatives as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Ms. Heidi De Jong** after synod declares her a candidate.
4. Synodical deputies D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), and B. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having reviewed the

evidence supplied by the council of Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church of Kentwood, 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 South, in session on January 20, 2005, to approve the position of executive director of Sports Persons Ministry as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Maury De Young**.

5. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Traverse City, 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 Northern Michigan, in session on September 28, 2004, to approve the position of Bible teacher/administrator as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Joseph Fox**.
6. Synodical deputies J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), G. Veenstra (Illiana), and L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Lombard Christian Reformed Church of Lombard, 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 Northern Illinois, in session on November 11, 2004, to approve the position of chaplain at Rainbow Hospice as consistent with the ministry of the Word. The position is to be filled by **Rev. Gerald W. Frens**.
7. Synodical deputies J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), B. Persenaire (Central California), and M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Salt Lake City, Utah, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Yellowstone, in session on September 17, 2004, to approve the position of associate professor of theology and ministry, and director of field education at Salt Lake Theological Seminary as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. A. William Heersink**.
8. Synodical deputies D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Calvin 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 19, 2005, to approve the position of director of the Center for Excellence in Preaching at Calvin Theological Seminary as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Scott Hoezee**.
9. Synodical deputies D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), and D.A. Struyk (Grand Rapids South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Crosspoint Christian Reformed

Church of Cincinnati, Ohio, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on March 5, 2005, to approve the position of classis coach/classis renewal ministry team as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Thea Leunk**.

10. Synodical deputies R.W. Sparks (Iakota), F.E. Pott (North Central Iowa), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Faith 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 in the decision of Classis Pella, in session on September 17, 2004, to approve the position of hospice chaplain at Hospice of the Valley, Phoenix, Arizona, as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Ken Schepel**.
11. Synodical deputies H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Bethel Christian Reformed Church of DeMotte, Indiana, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 14, 2004, to approve the position of pastor's trainer and Bible teacher with Pacific Island Ministries (PIM) as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Eric Schering**.
12. Synodical deputies D.A. Zylstra (Lake Superior), L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Faith 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 May 10, 2005, to approve the position of teacher of theology as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Dr. Jay Shim**.
13. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids, East), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Discovery 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 South, in session on May 19, 2005, to approve the position of advocate for renewal to Reformed churches for Presbyterian and Reformed Ministries International as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Tom Swieringa**.
14. Synodical deputies L.J. Kuiper (Wisconsin), G. Veenstra (Illiana), and J. Schuurman (Northern Illinois), 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 in the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 16, 2004, to approve the

position of staff chaplain at Advocate Medical Center as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Betty Vander Laan**.

15. Synodical deputies B.B. Bakker (Quinte), G.H. Pols (Hamilton), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Barrie, Ontario, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on January 20, 2005, to approve the position of chaplaincy as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Rev. Siebert Van Houten**.

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

—Adopted

E. Loaning a minister to another denomination under Article 13-c

1. Synodical deputies J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), D.M. Stavers (Holland), and H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on November 5, 2004, to approve loaning **Rev. Peter Choi** to serve Covenant Community Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan.
2. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and B.F. Tol (Zeeland), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Muskegon, in session on September 16, 2004, to approve loaning **Rev. Rich Loerop** to serve Ludington Community Church of Ludington, Michigan, for an extension of two years.
3. Synodical deputies D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and D.J. Steenhoek (Grandville), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session on September 15, 2004, to approve loaning **Rev. Paul Yu** to serve Seventh Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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

—Adopted

F. Release from the ministry under Article 14-b

1. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Rop (Arizona), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Joe Almarez**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 14, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Almarez** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), B.F. Tol (Zeeland), and D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Randall Brouwer**, in accordance with Church Order

Article 14-b, concur in the decision of classis Holland, in session on August 26, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Brouwer** is dismissed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

3. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. David Chong**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on February 8, 2005, to declare that **Rev. Chong** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies J. Weeda (Yellowstone), B. Persenaire (Central California), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Chanjoo Jung**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Columbia, in session on September 25, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Jung** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. James Lester**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 14, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Lester** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies L.G. Christoffels (Minkota), D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), and D.A. Zylstra (Lake Superior), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Charlie Louvau**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session on June 28, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Louvau** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Byoung Eun Park** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on May 18, 2005, to declare that **Rev. Park** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and P. Van Dyken (Arizona), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Kinfun Wong**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on September 21, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Wong** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having heard the discussions

relating to the resignation of **Rev. Andrew Yi**, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 14, 2004, to declare that **Rev. Yi** 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

G. Release from office of one whose vocation is judged to be nonministerial, Article 14-d

Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), R. Engle (Lake Erie), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having reviewed the agenda, supporting documents, and being advised of the discussion and decision of Classis Southeast U.S. to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Charles Jeon**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, 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

H. Return to office of a person who was released under Article 14-e

1. Synodical deputies G.G. Heyboer (Zeeland), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and A. Petroelje (Muskegon), having heard the examination of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Holland, in session on January 20, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Rev. William Brander** is granted the honor and title of Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies H. De Vries (Kalamazoo), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on March 1, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Rev. John Holwerda** is eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), K. Van Schelven (Columbia), and K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), having heard the discussion of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on March 2, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Rev. Vinh Le** is eligible for call to the ministry 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 ministry in a congregation under Article 17-a

1. Synodical deputies B.B. Bakker (Quinte), G.H. Pols (Hamilton), and J. Kerssies (Huron), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on January 20, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article

- 17-a, that **Rev. Philip Apoll** is released from ministerial service in Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Barrie, Ontario.
2. Synodical deputies J. Kerssies (Huron), G.H. Pols (Hamilton), and B.B. Bakker (Quinte), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on January 20, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Timothy Chan** is released from ministerial service in Toronto Chinese Christian Reformed Church of Toronto, Ontario.
 3. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Hanmi, in session on September 14, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. David Chong** is released from ministerial service in San Jose New Home Christian Reformed Church of San Jose, California.
 4. Synodical deputies D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Muskegon, in session on March 3, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Andy De Jong** is released from ministerial service in Covenant Life Christian Reformed Church of Grand Haven, Michigan.
 5. Synodical deputies R.W. Sparks (Iakota), R.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and L.G. Christoffels (Minkota), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Heartland, in session on September 25, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Richard De Vries** is released from ministerial service in Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church of Omaha, Nebraska.
 6. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 14, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Stan Kruis** is released from ministerial service as a missionary to the Philippines (CRWM) called by First Christian Reformed Church of Everett, Washington.
 7. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 14, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Woo Chun Lee** is released from ministerial service in Hebron Christian Reformed Church of Fife, Washington.
 8. Synodical deputies J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), and G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids

- North, in session on January 18, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. J. Augusto Liza** is honorably released from ministerial service in Peace and Hope Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
9. Synodical deputies D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown), D. Van Schelven (Columbia), and D. J. Steenhoek (Grandville), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Zeeland, in session on September 15, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Lawrence Lobdell** is released from ministerial service in Coopersville Christian Reformed Church of Coopersville, Michigan, effective December 1, 2004.
 10. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Hamilton), B.B. Bakker (Quinte), and H.A. Vander Windt (Niagara), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Chatham, in session on September 11, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Derek Miedema** is released from ministerial service in Dresden Christian Reformed Church of Dresden, Ontario.
 11. Synodical deputies R.D. Engle (Lake Erie), S.J. Vander Klay (Atlantic Northeast), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on January 25, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Peter Padro** is released from ministerial service in Richfield Christian Reformed Church of Clifton, New Jersey.
 12. Synodical deputies G. Bouma (Thornapple Valley), J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session on May 17, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Gary Roest** is released from ministerial service in Gold Avenue/Westend Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
 13. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Rop (Arizona), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis California South, in session on October 14, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Leonard Siregar** is released from ministerial service in Calvary (now Crosspoint) Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California.
 14. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Georgetown, in session on February 17, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Steven Sytsma** is released from ministerial service in First Christian Reformed Church of Hudsonville, Michigan.
 15. Synodical deputies H.G. Arnold (Kalamazoo), M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), and J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), having heard the weighty

reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on September 14, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. E. Robert Tighchelaar** is released from ministerial service in First Christian Reformed Church of De Motte, Indiana.

16. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), B.F. Tol (Zeeland), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Georgetown, in session on July 1, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Robert Vance** is released from ministerial service in Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church of Hudsonville, Michigan.
17. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), C. Vander Neut (Hackensack), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on October 7, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Verlan Van Ee** is released from ministerial service in Webster Christian Reformed Church of Webster, New York.

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

—Adopted

J. Extension of eligibility for call under Article 17-c

1. Synodical deputies D.W. Vander Veen (Georgetown), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and D.J. Steenhoek (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Zeeland, in session on September 15, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Jerry Alferink's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
2. Synodical deputies G. Veenstra (Illiana), J.T. Medenblik (Chicago South), and M. Den Bleyker (Northern Illinois), having heard the discussion of Classis Wisconsin, in session on September 28, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Timothy Hull's** eligibility of call is extended for one year.
3. Synodical deputies N. Cornelisse (Eastern Canada), H. Kranenburg (Hamilton), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the discussion of Classis Quinte, in session on May 10, 2005, **do not concur** in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Arlan Koppendrayer's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
4. Synodical deputies H. Kranenburg (Hamilton), N. Cornelisse (Eastern Canada), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the discussion of Classis Quinte, in session on May 10, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Arlan Koppendrayer's** eligibility for call is extended until the September meeting of Classis Quinte.
5. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. South-East), H. Numan (B.C. North-West), and J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the

discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 8-9, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Tony Maan's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

6. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having heard the discussion of Classis Georgetown, in session on February 17, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Viet Hoang Tran's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

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

—Adopted

K. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Article 17-c

1. Synodical deputies D.A. Kamstra (Grandville), D.M. Stravers (Holland), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the discussion of Classis Zeeland, in session on May 18, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Eric Grey** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on May 19, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Mark Hewitt** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), and J. Rop (Arizona), having heard the discussion of Classis California South, in session on October 14, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Dan Hoekstra** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), D.M. Stravers (Holland), and B.F. Tol (Zeeland), having heard the discussion of Classis Muskegon, in session on September 16, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Michael McDonald** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
5. Synodical deputies D.A. Zylstra (Lake Superior), L.G. Christoffels (Minnkota), and D. Tinklenberg (Heartland), having heard the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on March 1, 2005, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Duane Smith** 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

L. Declaration that an evangelist's (ministry associate's) position fits the guidelines adopted by Synod 2001 under Article 23

1. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and J. Weeda (Yellowstone), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New Hope Christian Reformed Church of Calgary, Alberta, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on October 29, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Robin Bailey** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
2. Synodical deputies W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), J.A. Molenbeek (Grand Rapids East), and D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), 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 September 21, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Vern Bareman** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
3. Synodical deputies A. Vander Leek (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), and J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Faith Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Fairview, 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 October 19, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Maurice Boonstra** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
4. 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 Iglesia Cristiana de Camarillo Christian Reformed Church of Camarillo, 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 22, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Hector Martin Chavez** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
5. Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), J.P. Boonstra (Rocky Mountain), and R. Rop (Arizona), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Church Rock Christian Reformed Church of Church Rock, New Mexico, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Red Mesa, in session on September, 30, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Norman Chee** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
6. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), G.H. Pols (Hamilton), and J.M. Van de Hoef (Huron), having examined the written materials submit-

ted by the council of Mountainview Christian Reformed Church of Grimsby, 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 May 18, 2005, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Michael Collins** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

7. Synodical deputies J.J. Koster (B.C. North-West), H. Vriend (Alberta North), and M.J. Kooy (Pacific North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Ladner Christian Reformed Church of Ladner, British Columbia, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on September 21, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Ernst DeVries** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
8. Synodical deputies D.A. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), F. Walhof (Arizona), and S.H. Park (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Crosspoint 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 10, 2005, that the ministry associate position (Minister of Congregational Life) to be filled by **Mr. Russ Fuller** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
9. Synodical deputies J. De Jong (Niagara), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and D.R. Tigchelaar (Chatham), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Faith Christian Reformed Church of Burlington, Ontario, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session on January 18, 2005, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Leo Getatos** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
10. Synodical deputies R. Engle (Lake Erie), J. Vande Lune (Atlantic Northeast), and K.J. Verhulst (Hudson), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Paterson, New Jersey, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 8, 2005, that the ministry associate position (Evangelist) to be filled by **Mr. Guillermo Godoy** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
11. Synodical deputies J. Corvers (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), K.D. Koeman (Pacific Northwest), and C. Van Niejenhuis (Alberta North), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Salmon Arm Christian Reformed Church of Salmon Arm, British Columbia, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis British Columbia South-East, in session on March 1, 2005, that the ministry associate position (Pastor of Children and Youth) to be filled by **Mr. Howard Johnson** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

12. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.H. Park (Pacific Hanmi) having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Rosewood Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, 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 September 21, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Bonny Mulder-Behnia** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
13. Synodical deputies D.R. Koll (Greater Los Angeles), F. Walhof (Arizona), and S.H. Park (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Trinity Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of San Diego, 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 10, 2005, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Jose Muñoz** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
14. Synodical deputies G.H. Pols (Hamilton), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and N. Cornelisse (Eastern Canada), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church of Bowmanville, Ontario, 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 25, 2005, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Martin Spoelstra** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
15. Synodical deputies D.D. Poolman (Thornapple Valley), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and W.R. Witte (Grand Rapids South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First 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 East, in session on May 19, 2005, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Mark Van Drunen** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
16. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), G.L. Dykstra (Central California), and S.H. Park (Pacific Hanmi), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New City Christian Reformed Church of Long Beach, 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 September 21, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Ryan Ver Wys** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
17. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), P.S. Hyun (Pacific Hanmi), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Rosewood Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower, 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 March 15, 2005,

that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Ms. Mirtha Villafaña** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

18. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), P.S. Hyun (Pacific Hanmi), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sol del Valle 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 March 15, 2005, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Fernando Villanueva** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
19. Synodical deputies J. Boonstra (B.C. South-East), J.S. Hielema (B.C. North-West), and K. Van Schelven (Columbia), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Mount Vernon, Washington, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 14, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Brad Vos** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
20. Synodical deputies J.J. Koster (B.C. North-West), H. Vriend (Alberta North), and M.J. Kooy (Pacific Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New Life Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia, and having compared them with the guidelines re office and ordination adopted by Synod 2001, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on September 21, 2004, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Orlando Wall** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.
21. Synodical deputies G.L. Dykstra (Central California), P.S. Hyun (Pacific Hanmi), and W. Verhoef (California South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Community Church of Los Angeles Christian Reformed Church of Los Angeles, California, in session on March 15, 2005, that the ministry associate position to be filled by **Mr. Joseph Wright** is in keeping with the guidelines established by Synod 2001.

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

—*Adopted*

M. Deposition of a minister of the Word under Articles 82-83

Synodical deputies R.D. Goudzwaard (Greater Los Angeles), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and P. Van Dyken (Arizona), having heard the grounds submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Ripon, California, and the discussion of Classis Central California, in session on September 21, 2004, concur in the decision of classis to approve, in accordance with Church Order Articles 82 and 83, the deposition of **Rev. Eliot Vander Lugt** 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 77

Appointments, officers, and functionaries are presented for review. This listing reflects the results of the synodical elections and appointments and includes study committees that are synodically approved.

I. Officers, functionaries, and convening church for Synod 2006

A. Officers

1. Executive director: Dr. Calvin L. Bremer
2. Director of denominational ministries: Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra
3. Director of finance and administration: Mr. John H. Bolt
4. Director of Canadian ministries: vacant

B. Functionaries

Arrangements for Synod 2006: Mr. Jeff Stob, Director of Conference and Campus Events at Calvin College

C. Convening church

Convening church for Synod 2006: Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

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	Rev. Andrew Joosse	2007(1)
Arizona	Rev. Frederick J. Walhof	2008(1)	
Atlantic Northeast	Rev. Stanley J. Vander Klay	Rev. James Vande Lune	2006(2)
B.C. North-West	Rev. Henry Numan	Rev. John J. Koster	2007(1)
B.C. South-East	Rev. Henry Jonker	Rev. Alvin Beukema	2007(1)
California South	Rev. William Verhoef	Rev. Neville Koch	2007(1)
Central California	Rev. Bruce Persenaire	Rev. Al Helder	2007(1)
Chatham			2008(1)
Chicago South	Rev. Julius T. Medenblik	Rev. John M. Ouwinga.	2008(2)
Columbia	Rev. Kenneth Van Schelven	Rev. Jelmer P. Groenewold	2006(1)
Eastern Canada	Rev. Nicolaas Cornelisse	Rev. Kenneth M. Gehrels	2006(1)
Georgetown	Rev. Matthew A. Palsrok	Rev. Gerald Koning	2007(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. Gordon H. Pols	Rev. Henry Kranenburg	2007(1)
Heartland	Rev. Duane Tinklenberg	Rev. David L. Heilman	2007(2)
Holland	Rev. Dick M. Stravers	Rev. Michael De Vries	2006(1)
Hudson	Rev. Kenneth J. Verhulst	Rev. Mark Lucas	2007(1)
Huron	Rev. John Kerssies	Rev. Jacob M. Van de Hoef	2007(1)
Iakota	Rev. Roger W. Sparks		2005(1)
Illiana	Rev. Gerrit Veenstra	Rev. Stephan R. Van Eck	2007(1)
Kalamazoo	Rev. Hendrik De Vries	Rev. Kenneth A. Baker	2008(1)
Lake Erie	Rev. Randall Engle	Rev. Robert Arbogast	2005(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. Dale Visser	Rev. Jack Van Marion	2008(1)
Minnkota	Rev. Lee G. Christoffels	Rev. William D. Vis	2007(1)
Muskegon	Rev. Allen Petroelje	Rev. Gerald D. Postema	2007(1)

Niagara	Rev. Harry A. Vander Windt	Rev. John De Jong	2008(1)
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. Soo Hyun Park	Rev. Seung J. Kang	2007(1)
Pacific Northwest	Rev. Kenneth D. Koeman	Rev. Michael J. Kooy	2007(2)
Pella	Rev. Jack Gray	Rev. Jeffrey L. Sadjak	2007(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	2007(2)
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. Gerry G. Heyboer	Rev. Ronald De Young	2008(1)

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, Calvin Theological Seminary, CRC Publications, Christian Reformed Home Missions, and Christian Reformed World Missions) 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	2008(2)
Eastern Canada	Rev. Paul R. Vanderkooy	Rev. Gerald van Leeuwen	2007(1)
Hamilton	Rev. Arie G. Van Eek		2007(2)
Huron	Mr. Gary VanArragon	Mr. Jack Tacoma	2008(1)
Lake Superior	Rev. William C. Tuininga	Rev. Evert Busink	2008(2)
Niagara	Rev. Andrew E. Beunk		2006(1)
Quinte	Rev. Jake Kuipers	Dr. William T. Koopmans	2008(2)
Toronto	Mr. Enno Meijers		2007(2)
At-large members	Mrs. Gayle Monsma	Ms. Hilda Roukema	2008(1)
	Mr. Keith Oosthoek	Mr. Bert Schouten	2006(1)
	Mrs. Patricia Storteboom	Mrs. Cindy Bruin	2007(1)
<i>U.S. members</i>			
Region 5	Rev. Al Machiela	Rev. Rod Vander Ley	2007(2)
Region 6	Rev. Bruce T. Ballast	Rev. Mark D. Vermaire	2008(1)
Region 7	Mrs. N. Theresa Rottschafer	Mr. Walter F. Ackerman	2008(2)
Region 8	Rev. Robert Timmer	Rev. LeRoy G. Christoffels	2007(2)
	Mr. Marion D. Van Soelen	Mr. Lane Bonnema	2008(2)
Region 9	Rev. W. Wayne Leys	Dr. James La Grand	2006(2)
Region 10	Rev. Leonard J. Vander Zee	Rev. Marvin J. Hofman	2006(1)
	Mr. Kenneth Kuipers	Mr. Delvin Huisingh	2006(2)
Region 11	Mrs. Beverly A. Weeks	Mrs. Kathy Steenwyk	2008(2)
	Rev. Daniel B. Mouw	Rev. Kenneth E. Van Wyk	2007(1)
	Ms. Jane Vander Haagen	Ms. Judy Bredeweg	2007(2)
Region 12	Mr. Dan Cooke	Mr. Cornelius J. Bushoven	2008(2)
At-large members	Mr. Paul Dozeman	Mr. James Clousing	2007(2)
	Mrs. Gail Jansen	Mrs. Kathryn A. DeBoer	2006(2)
	Ms. Sari Mills	Mrs. Cindy Vander Kodde	2007(1)
Ex officio	Dr. Calvin L. Bremer, executive 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	2008(2)
Region 3	Mr. Sybren VanderZwaag	2006(1)
Region 4	Rev. Jerry Hoytema	2007(2)
Region 5	Rev. Mark Van Haitsma	2008(2)
Region 6	Mrs. Charlotte Holland	2006(2)
Region 7	Mr. Henry W. Rottschafer	2008(2)
Region 8	Mr. Doug Kallemeyn	2007(2)
Region 9	Ms. Ellen Hamilton	2007(1)
Region 10	Mrs. Marilyn Greenway	2008(1)
	Rev. Marvin J. Hofman	2008(1)
Region 11	Dr. Robert Heerspink	2006(2)
	Mr. Arnold Morren	2008(1)
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	Dr. Alyce Oosterhuis	Rev. Christopher Fluit	2008(1)
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	Dr. Mary Poel Druis	Dr. Philip Kamps	2008(1)
Region 8	Rev. David A. Zylstra	Mrs. K. Brinks-Starkenbug	2007(1)
Region 9	Mr. Craig Friesema	Dr. William F. De Rose	2008(2)
	Rev. Gerald L. Hoek	Mr. Perry Recker	2006(1)
Region 10	Rev. Joseph Brinks	Mr. Chris Grier	2006(1)
	Dr. Robert De Bruin	Mrs. Lois Miller	2006(2)
	Mr. Bill Rykbost	Mrs. Nancy Van Antwerpen-Mulder	2007(1)
Region 11	Mr. William J. Alphenaar	Mr. Ralph Katerberg	2008(2)
	Mr. James Haagsma	Ms. Evonne Plantinga	2006(1)
	Mr. Max Van Wyk	Mr. Craig Klamer	2007(1)
Region 12	Rev. Douglas H. Bratt	Mr. Donald Sporn	2008(2)
Alumni	Mrs. Marjorie Youngsma		2007(2)
	Mr. Ronald E. Baylor		2008(1)
	Ms. Ruth J. Vis		2006(1)
At-large	Mr. Stephen C.L. Chong		2008(3)
	Dr. Jack Harkema		2007(3)
	Ms. Michell Van Dyke		2008(1)
	Mr. Bastian A. Knoppers		2006(1)
	Mr. Kenneth Olthoff		2006(3)
	Mrs. Elsa Prince Broekhuizen		2007(2)
	Ms. Jacquelyn S. Vander Brug		2007(3)
	Mr. David Vander Ploeg		2008(2)
	Mrs. Janice Van Dyke-Zeilstra		2008(2)
	Ms. Cynthia Rozendal Veenstra		2008(3)
	Rev. Harry W. Lew		2006(1)
	Rev. Norberto Wolf		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	Dr. Henk Van Andel	Mr. Henry Bekkering	2008(1)
Region 3	Dr. William T. Koopmans	Rev. Joan De Vries	2007(1)
Region 4	Rev. Jack De Vries	Rev. Frederick Heslinga	2006(1)
	Rev. James Poelman	Rev. Shawn Brix	2008(1)
Region 5	Ms. Leslie C. Ruiters	Ms. Sue Imig	2006(1)
Region 6	Rev. Kevin J. Adams	Rev. George G. Vink	2007(1)
Region 7	Rev. Al Lindemulder	Rev. Daniel Brink	2006(2)
Region 8	Rev. Roger D. Kramer		2006(2)
	Mr. Loren J. Veldhuizen	Mrs. Carol Kramer	2006(2)
Region 9	Rev. Julius T. Medenblik	Rev. Joel J. Sheeres	2007(1)
Region 10	Rev. Richard Hamstra	Rev. Christopher De Vos	2008(1)
	Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis		2007(2)
Region 11	Rev. Ruth Hofman	Rev. Rozanne Bruins	2008(2)
	Rev. Ron Kool	Dr. Byron Bossenbroek	2006(2)
Region 12		Rev. Xavier L. Suarez	2008(2)

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)
<i>E. CRC Publications</i>			
Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Region 1	Rev. Sidney Couperus	Mr. Stan Potma	2007(2)
Region 2	Ms. Anita Veeneman	Rev. William Nieuwenhuis	2008(1)
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	Mr. 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	Ms. Mae Cooper	Ms. Veronique Le Blanc	2008(1)
Region 10	Rev. Kenneth Baker	Rev. Hendrik de Vries	2008(1)
Region 11	Rev. Ecko De Vries		2008(2)
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) 2008(2)
At-large – Reformed Church in America	Rev. George Brown Rev. Phyllis Palsma Rev. Jim O'Connell		2008(1) 2008(1) 2008(1)
<i>F. Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions</i>			
Region	Member	Alternate	Term Expires
Region 1	Mr. Victor Chen	Rev. Henry De Vries	2006(1)
Region 2	Rev. Phil F. Reinders	Rev. Ronald E. Klok	2006(1)
Region 3	Rev. Samuel Cooper	Mr. Peter Runia	2008(2)
Region 4	Rev. Gary J. Bomhof	Mrs. Ellen Van Til	2006(2)
Region 5	Mr. Clair Abee	Rev. Eleanor Rietkerk	2006(2)
Region 6	Rev. Paul H. Vander Klay	Rev. Cornelius Pool	2007(1)
Region 7	Mr. Rodney Hugen	Mr. Ernie Benally	2008(1)
Region 8	Rev. Mark Brouwer	Ms. Marcia Allspach	2007(1)
Region 9	Rev. D.A. Crushshon	Mr. Harley Ver Beek	2006(2)
Region 10	Rev. Peter R. Byrna	Rev. Paul Bakker	2008(2)
Region 11	Dr. Mary Buteyn	Rev. Jerome Burton	2007(1)
Region 12	Rev. Sheila Holmes	Mrs. Beth Fylstra	2007(2)
At-large	Mr. Charles Brown Mr. Mark Feldkamp Ms. Emma Kee Dr. Allan Kramer		2007(2) 2007(2) 2008(1) 2008(2)
<i>G. Christian Reformed World Missions Board</i>			
Region	Member		Term Expires
Regions 1 and 2	Mr. Norman Brouwer Mrs. Ruth Krabbe		2006(2) 2007(2)
Regions 3 and 4	Rev. John Tenyenhuis Ms. Harmene Sytsma		2008(2) 2007(2)

At-Large	Rev. Robert Loerts	2008(2)
Region 5	Rev. Loren Swier	2006(1)
Region 6	Mr. Ray Hayes	2008(2)
Region 7	Mrs. Joy Engelsman	2006(2)
Region 8	Rev. Clifford Hoekstra	2006(2)
Region 9	Rev. Gary Schipper	2007(1)
Region 10	Mr. Tom Visser	2006(2)
Region 11	Rev. Archie Vander Hart	2007(2)
Region 12	Rev. Kenneth Vander Wall	2008(2)
At-large	Rev. Jeffrey Dykema	2007(2)
	Ms. Evelyn Huttinga	2007(1)
	Rev. Manny Bersach	2007(1)

H. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

Classis	Term Member	Expires
Alberta North	Mr. Quentin Nanninga	2008(1)
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Mr. George Lubbers*	2006(1)
Arizona	Mr. Wes Rozema*	2006(2)
Atlantic Northeast	Ms. Gloria Ranney*	2007(2)
B.C. North-West	Ms. Sheryl deBoer	2006(1)
B.C. South-East	Mr. John Richey*	2007(2)
California South	Mrs. Pat Ballast	2007(2)
Central California	Mr. Albert Veldstra	2008(1)
Chatham	Mrs. Yetty Joosse	2006(2)
Chicago South	Ms. Debbie Turrisi	2007(1)
Columbia	Ms. Linda Ackerman	2006(2)
Eastern Canada	Mrs. Renee Gray	2005(1)
Georgetown	Mr. Bernard Potgeter	2007(1)
Grand Rapids East	Ms. Mary Dengerink*	2007(2)
Grand Rapids North	Vacant	
Grand Rapids South	Mr. Randy Ledebor	2008(1)
Grandville	Mr. Lawrence Hoogerhyde, Sr.	2007(1)
Greater Los Angeles	Ms. Joyce Vander Vis	2006(1)
Hackensack	Mr. Richard Dykema	2007(1)
Hamilton	Mr. Dirk Veeneman*	2006(1)
Heartland	Mr. Harvey Verbrugge	2008(1)
Holland	Mr. Warren Stuk	2006(2)
Hudson	Ms. Linda Van Lenten	2007(2)
Huron	Mr. Jim Romahn	2005(1)
lakota	Mr. Fred Haan	2005(1)
Illiana	Mr. Daniel J. Zandstra	2007(1)
Kalamazoo	Mr. Willard Haak	2007(2)
Lake Erie	Mr. Jerry Van Wyke	2006(2)
Lake Superior (Canada)	Mr. Henry Bakker	2008(1)
Lake Superior (U.S.)	Mr. Randy Hedman*	2007(2)
Minnkota	Mr. Henry Van Dyke	2006(1)
Muskegon	Ms. Many Ann Mellema	2007(1)
Niagara	Ms. Shirley Vandenberg*	2007(2)
Northcentral Iowa	Mr. Wes Bonnema	2007(1)
Northern Illinois	Mr. George Andringa	2005(1)
Northern Michigan	Vacant	2006(1)
Pacific Hanmi	Rev. Pil Hwan Hwang	2005(1)
Pacific Northwest	Mr. Pieter Kroon	2006(1)
Pella	Mr. Gary Van Engelenhoven	2006(2)
Quinte	Mr. Frank Westerhof	2007(2)
Red Mesa	Mr. Norman Chee	2007(1)

Rocky Mountain	Mr. Richard Pasterkamp		2006(2)
Southeast U.S.	Ms. Mercedes Fonseca-Velez		2006(1)
Thornapple Valley	Mr. Chris Van Spronsen*		2007(1)
Toronto	Vacant		
Wisconsin	Mr. Duane DuMez		2007(1)
Yellowstone	Ms. Dawn Menning*		2007(1)
Zeeland	Mr. Joel Ploegstra		2007(2)
Pastoral adviser (U.S.)	Dr. Mariano Avila*		2008(1)
At-large Canada	Ms. Gerda Kits		2008(1)
	Ms. Ellen Vandergrift		2008(1)
At-large U.S.	Mr. Vincent Bivens	Ms. Kelli Schutte	2008(2)

* Also a member of the Board of Directors

IV. Service committees

A. *Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Committee*

Mr. Ronald Baylor (2006), Mr. Arie Leegwater (2006), Ms. Diane Apol (2007), Rev. Julius T. Medenblik (2007), Mr. Ronald Haan (2008), Mr. Scott Lee (2008); Mr. Carl A. Gronsman (ex officio).

B. *First Toronto CRC In Loco Committee*

Rev. B. Bernard Bakker, Dr. Elaine Botha, Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer (convener), Rev. Hector Garcia, Dr. William T. Koopmans (reporter), Mr. Donald Oosterhouse, Rev. Gordon H. Pols, Rev. Laura Smit, Dr. Peter Borgdorff (ex officio).

C. *Historical Committee*

Rev. Michael De Vries (2006), Mrs. Janet Sheeres (2007), Dr. Robert Swierenga (2007), Rev. Lugene Schemper (2008).

D. *Interchurch Relations Committee*

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. Carel Geleynse (2008), Rev. Marvin J. Hofman (2008), Dr. Bertha Mook (2008), Mr. Abe Vreeke (2008), Rev. Ralph Wigboldus (2008), ex officio members; Dr. Calvin L. Bremer and the director of Canadian ministries.

E. *Judicial Code Committee*

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), Mr. Robert Jonker (2008), Dr. Ralph Smeda (2008), Rev. John J. Steigenga (2008).

F. *Ministers' Pension Funds committees*

Canadian Pension Trustees

Rev. Jake Kuipers (2006), Mr. Ary de Jong (2007), Mr. Dan Van Leeuwen (2007), Mr. Harry Schep (2008), Ms. Claire Veenstra (2008).

U.S. Board of Pensions and Insurance

Mr. Lloyd Bierma (2006), Mr. Ray Vander Weele (2006), Mr. William Terpstra (2007), Mr. James Clousing (2008), Rev. Robert Heerspink (2008).

G. Sermons for Reading Services Committee

Mr. Ray Vander Ploeg (2007), secretary / treasurer; Rev. Hendrik P. Bruinsma (2007), chairman; Rev. Jack Westerhof (2006), Rev. John Kerssies (2008), Rev. Gordon Pols (2008), Rev. Paul Stadt (2008).

H. Sesquicentennial Committee

Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Rev. Moses Chung, Rev. Michael De Vries, Dr. David H. Engelhard, Dr. Richard Harms, Ms. Miriam Ippel, Rev. Stanley Jim, Rev. Esteban Lugo, Mrs. Darlene Meyering (chair), Mrs. Cindy Vander Kodde, Mr. Nate Vander Stelt, Rev. Jack B. Vos.

I. Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee

Rev. Roy Berkenbosch, Dr. Peter Borgdorff (staff), Dr. Paul L. Bremer, Mr. Norman De Graaf, Mr. Rudy Gonzalez, Rev. Emmett A. Harrison, Rev. Henry Jonker, Dr. Duane Kelderman, Rev. Thea Leunk (chair), Dr. Jay J. Shim, Dr. Annalee Ward.

V. Study committees

A. 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.

B. Committee to Study Third Wave Pentecostalism (scheduled to report in 2007)

Dr. Mariano Avila, Rev. Amanda J. Benckhuysen, Dr. David Holwerda, Mr. Paul Taming, Rev. Ray Vander Kooi.

Recommendation: That synod approve the list of the boards and committees.

—Adopted

ARTICLE 78

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 57.)

The following motion is presented regarding the First CRC, Toronto, Ontario, action:

That synod approve the following members for the synodical First Toronto CRC In Loco Committee:

Rev. B. Bernard Bakker
Dr. Elaine Botha
Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer, convener
Rev. Hector Garcia
Dr. William T. Koopmans, reporter
Mr. Donald Oosterhouse
Rev. Gordon H. Pols
Rev. Laura Smit
Dr. Peter Borgdorff (ex officio)

—Adopted

A delegate presents the following motion:

That a member of ethnic minority be added to the committee.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 79

A delegate moves that synod reconsider its decision re the fight against HIV / AIDS (see Article 25).

The previous decision is revised by the following recommendation:

That synod instruct the BOT to request CRWRC and the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action to develop a concrete and strategic plan of action that will serve to unite and mobilize our churches in the struggle against the HIV / AIDS epidemic including:

- Embracing an aggressive response to HIV / AIDS.
- Endorsing and expanding on the CRWRC’s efforts to initiate a vigorous education program, especially to make people aware of innocent victims, such as women, children, the poor, and the powerless.
- Undertaking an energetic advocacy program—speaking to institutions, governments, and individuals regarding the need to ensure that resources are made available to the world’s poor and powerless victims.

Grounds:

1. The number of people impacted cries out for a response:
 - a. 42 million people are currently infected with HIV; 14,000 become infected every day.
 - b. 28 million people have died from AIDS; 8,000 die every day.
 - c. 15 million children have been orphaned; 6,000 are orphaned every day.
 - d. Women and children are disproportionately affected.
2. Both churches and faith-based organizations play a crucial role in prevention and in their response to people living with AIDS, their families, and communities. Our faith calls us to act in partnership with them.
3. We must respond to the impassioned pleas of our African fraternal delegates (James 2:14-17).

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 80

The EDM extends greetings to synod on behalf of the following churches and organizations: The Canadian Council of Churches, the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, the Dutch Reformed Church, the Dutch Reformed Church in Sri Lanka, the Netherlands Reformed Churches, and the Reformed Church in Africa.

ARTICLE 81

The president of synod, Dr. Wayne A. Brouwer, expresses thanks to the faculty advisers, ethnic advisers, and women advisers. He thanks the synod office, news office staff, and the denominational leadership, and gives special recognition to Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of ministries, for his

contribution to synod. He expresses thanks to his fellow officers—Dr. Stanley P. Mast, vice president; Rev. Gordon H. Pols, first clerk; and Mr. Donald Dykstra, second clerk—for all the hard work and support they have given. The president thanks the Trinity Christian College staff for doing a wonderful job of hosting synod.

The vice president, Dr. Stanley P. Mast, expresses thanks on behalf of synod to the president for his leadership during Synod 2005.

The EDM expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

ARTICLE 82

The president announces *Psalter Hymnal* 430, “We Sing the Mighty Power of God” and addresses synod from Acts 20:18. Delegates read responsively from Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 1. The president leads in closing prayer, remembering especially elder delegate Mr. Jan R. Huussen who has become ill and has been taken to the hospital. He leads in the benediction and announces *Psalter Hymnal* 560, “Like a River Glorious.” Synod is adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2006

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2006

I. Denominational ministry shares

Agency	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8
Back to God Hour (includes CRC-TV)	46.58	46.58	46.58	46.58	46.58	46.58	46.58	46.58
Calvin College*	63.50	42.60	28.50	7.20	36.20	22.00	12.00	4.50
Calvin Theological Seminary	29.20	29.20	29.20	29.20	29.20	29.20	29.20	29.20
Canadian Ministries	6.66	6.66	6.66	6.66	6.66	6.66	6.66	6.66
CRC Publications	9.64	9.64	9.64	9.64	9.64	9.64	9.64	9.64
CRC Home Missions	54.11	54.11	54.11	54.11	54.11	54.11	54.11	54.11
Fund for Smaller Churches	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66
CRC World Missions	52.94	52.94	52.94	52.94	52.94	52.94	52.94	52.94
Denominational Services:								
Synodical & General	25.21	25.21	25.21	25.21	25.21	25.21	25.21	25.21
Ministry Programs:**	13.89	13.89	13.89	13.89	13.89	13.89	13.89	13.89
Special Assistance Fund	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28
Total base ministry-share per member	305.67	284.77	270.67	249.37	278.37	264.17	254.17	246.67
Supplemental small church assistance	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Total ministry-share per member	315.67	294.77	280.67	259.37	288.37	274.17	264.17	256.67

*Areas that benefit from a ministry-share reduction should employ the following monies saved to finance their area colleges:

Per professing member	-	7.84	21.94	43.24	14.24	28.44	38.44	45.94
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**Ministry Programs include: Abuse Prevention; Chaplaincy Ministries; Disability Concerns; Pastor-Church Relations; Race Relations; Social Justice and Hunger Action.

Classis Area Table for Calvin College amount:

Area 1	Grand Rapids East; Grand Rapids North; Grand Rapids South; Grandville; Thornapple Valley
Area 2	Georgetown; Holland; Kalamazoo; Lake Erie; Muskegon; Northern Michigan; Zeeland
Area 3	Chicago South; Illiana; Northern Illinois; Southeast United States; Wisconsin
Area 4	Heartland; Iakota; Lake Superior; Minnkota; Northcentral Iowa; Pella
Area 5	Atlantic Northeast; Hackensack; Hudson
Area 6	Arizona; Columbia; California South; Central California; Greater Los Angeles; Pacific Hanmi; Pacific Northwest; Red Mesa; Rocky Mountain; Yellowstone
Area 7	Chatham; Eastern Canada; Hamilton; Huron; Niagara; Quinte; Toronto
Area 8	Alberta North; Alberta South/Saskatchewan; B.C. North-West; B.C. South-East

Stated Supply

Effective January 1, 2006, the weekly stated supply shall not be less than \$465 for churches located in the United States and not less than \$480 for churches in Canada.

II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 2006

A. Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings

- Canadian Business Number
1. Abuse Prevention—above-ministry-share needs12981 5882 RR0001
 2. The Back to God Hour—above-ministry-share needs13240 2090 RR0001
 3. Calvin College—above-ministry-share needs(per Schedule VIII)
 4. Calvin Theological Seminary(per Schedule VIII)
 - a. Ministry Incentive program
 - b. Facing Your Future program
 5. Canadian Ministries Board ministries—above-ministry-share needs
 6. Chaplaincy Ministries—above-ministry-share needs12981 5882 RR0001
 7. CRC Foundation.....12981 5882 RR0001
 8. CRC Publications
 - World Literature Ministries—above-ministry-share needs.....12981 5882 RR0001
 9. CR Home Missions—above-ministry-share needs10691 9640 RR0001
 10. CR World Missions—above-ministry-share needs.....11881 2643 RR0001
 11. CR World Relief—one offering per quarter because CRWRC11885 7388 RR0001
receives no ministry-share support
 12. Disability Concerns—above-ministry-share needs.....12981 5882 RR0001
 13. Pastor-Church Relations—above-ministry-share needs12981 5882 RR0001
 14. Race Relations12981 5882 RR0001
 - a. Above-ministry-share needs
 - b. Multiracial Student Scholarship Fund
 15. Social Justice and Hunger Action12981 5882 RR0001

B. Denominationally related or affiliated agencies recommended for one or more offerings

1. Dynamic Youth Ministries
 - a. GEMS88992 0799 RR0001
 - b. Calvinist Cadet Corps88992 0799 RR0001
 - c. Youth Unlimited88992 0799 RR0001
2. Partners WorldwideNA

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. Elim Christian Services
5. Hope Haven
6. International Aid, Inc. (medical supplies only)
7. The Luke Society
8. Mississippi Christian Family Services (MCFS)
9. 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. Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
9. Reformed Bible College
10. Rehoboth Christian School
11. Roseland Christian School
12. Trinity Christian College
13. Worldwide Christian Schools

C. Miscellaneous agencies

1. Audio Scripture Ministries
2. The Bible League
3. Crossroad Bible Institute
4. Friendship Ministries
5. IDEA Ministries
6. IN Network
7. International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE)
8. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (for specified staff support only)
9. Mission India
10. Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC)
11. The Tract League
12. Wycliffe Bible Translators

Canadian agencies

A. Benevolent agency Canadian Business Number
 Beginnings Counseling & Adoption Services of Ontario, Inc.11880 2388 RR0001

B. Educational agencies

1. Canadian Christian Education Foundation, Inc.11883 0207 RR0001
2. Dordt College.....(per Schedule VIII)
3. Institute for Christian Studies10750 8434 RR0001
4. The King’s University College10808 5911 RR0001
5. Redeemer University College12331 3660 RR0001
6. Reformed Bible College.....(per Schedule VIII)
7. Trinity Christian College(per Schedule VIII)
8. Worldwide Christian Schools - Canada.....88945 9970 RR0001

C. Miscellaneous agencies

1. The Bible League - Canada10822 2084 RR0001
2. Evangelical Fellowship of Canada10735 3922 RR0001
3. Friendship Groups - Canada11893 2375 RR0001
4. Gideons International - Canada.....10808 2991 RR0001
5. IN Network12994 3072 RR0001
6. Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada10751 3160 RR0001
7. Work Research Foundation11892 9207 RR0001
8. Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.10822 3371 RR0001

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(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 2005*

ACRE	Association of Christian Reformed Educators
APCE	Association of Presbyterian Church Educators
ARPC	Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
ART	Abuse Response Team
ARYP	Association of Reformed Youth Pastors
<i>BB</i>	<i>Breaking Barriers</i>
BOT	Board of Trustees
BTGH	Back to God Hour
CAJ	Christian Academy in Japan
CANAAC	Caribbean and North American Area Council
CCC	Canadian Council of Churches
CCCN	Covenant Christian Church of Nigeria
CCT-USA	Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.
CEP	Center for Excellence in Preaching
CERCA	Christian Educators, Reformed Church in America
CFGB	Canadian Foodgrains Bank
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COCREF	Christian Reformed Schools of the Dominican Republic
CPJ	Center for Public Justice
CRCN	Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria
CRCP	Christian Reformed Church of the Philippines
CRECH	Consortium de la Renforcement del'Education Chrétienne en Haiti
CRHM	Christian Reformed Home Missions
CRWM	Christian Reformed World Missions
CRWRC	Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
CSI	Christian Schools International
CTS	Calvin Theological Seminary
CYMC	Children and Youth Ministry Council
DDM	Director of Denominational Ministries
DMP	Denominational Ministries Plan
DMPS	Denominational Ministries Plan Scorecard
DRS	Disaster Response Services
DYM	Dynamic Youth Ministries
ED	Executive Director
EDM	Executive Director of Ministries
EFC	Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
EHB	Every-household <i>Banner</i>

ELIC	English Language Institute - China
EML	Educational Mission Leader
EPC	Evangelical Presbyterian Church
EPMC	Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy
ERISA	Employee Retirement Income Security Act
ERRC	Educational Resources and Referrals - China
FAJ	Fédération des Associations de Jeunesses del L'UEBH
FRB	Foods Resource Bank
FSCO	Financial Services Commission of Ontario
HCRC	Haitian Christian Reformed Church
HECA	Higher Education Cooperation Act
HPCD	Haitian Partners for Christian Development
ICS	Institute for Christian Studies
ICYM	Integrated Children and Youth Ministry Team
IRC	Interchurch Relations Committee
ITEM	International Theological Education Ministries
IVP	InterVarsity Press
JMCC	Joint-Ministries Management Committee
LDN	Leadership Development Networks
MC	Ministry Council
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEPP	Multi-Employer Pension Plan
MERF	Middle East Reformed Fellowship
MPF	Ministers' Pension Fund
MUC	Christian University Student Movement
NAE	National Association of Evangelicals
NAPARC	North American Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches
NCA	North Central Association
NHK	Nederlandse Hervormde Kerk
NKST	The Church of Christ among the Tiv
NOVA	National Organization for Victim Assistance
OJJDP	Office of Juvenile Justice and delinquency Prevention
OSJHA	Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action
PBA	Pension Benefits Act
PBGC	Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
PCC	Presbyterian Church in Canada
PCN	Protestant Church in the Netherlands
PCR	Pastor Church Relations
PCUSA	Presbyterian Church in the USA
RCA	Reformed Church in America
RCC	Roman Catholic Church
RCCN	Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria
RCJ	Reformed Church of Japan
RCN/GKN	Reformed Churches in the Netherlands
RCVs	Regional Coordinators of Volunteers
REC	Reformed Ecumenical Council
RES	Reformed Ecumenical Synod
RRIT	Race Relations Integrating Team
SCORR	Synodical Committee on Race Relations
SEW	Spiritual Emphasis Week
SMCC	Synodical Ministry Candidacy Committee

SMP	Summer Mission Program
SPE	Sustaining Pastoral Excellence
SRC	Social Research Center
TST	Toronto School of Theology
UBS	United Bible Societies
UNELA	Evangelical University of Latin America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VOM	Victim-Offender Mediation
WARC	World Alliance of Reformed Churches
YU	Youth Unlimited

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