

ACTS OF SYNOD



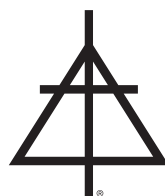
Responding to God's
gracious call.



Christian
Reformed
Church

**ACTS
OF SYNOD**

2017



**Christian
Reformed
Church**

June 9-15, 2017
DeVos Gymnasium
Trinity Christian College
Palos Heights, Illinois

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Synod 2017 was held at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, June 9-15, 2017. Delegates gathered from across North America to serve the Christian Reformed Church, committing their time to worship and prayer, to discussion and deliberation, trusting the Holy Spirit was at work in and through their service. As a record of their work, the *Acts of Synod 2017* provides another chapter in the Christian Reformed Church's journey of faithfulness over 160 years.

The *Acts of Synod 2017* 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.
- Two overtures.
- Financial reports.
- The minutes of Synod 2017.
- An index for both the *Acts of Synod 2017* and the *Agenda for Synod 2017*.

It is necessary for the user of the *Acts of Synod 2017* to keep the *Agenda for Synod 2017* readily available as a reference. The *Agenda* is not reprinted in the *Acts*. The minutes of synod often make reference to reports and overtures in the *Agenda for Synod*. Take note that the pagination continues from the *Agenda* to the *Acts*. Supplementary materials begin on page 453, following preliminary unnumbered pages. Financial reports begin on page 591. The minutes of synod follow, beginning on page 607. The index references both the *Agenda for Synod* and the *Acts of Synod*; the numbers in **boldface type** refer to pages in the minutes of Synod 2017.

As you review these pages, I trust you'll see both the Lord's blessings in and through the work of the Christian Reformed Church and the challenges he has laid before us. While the *Acts of Synod* are a record of official actions taken, they represent the church of Christ in action, demonstrating our response to God's call in North America and around the world.

It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

(Phil. 2:13)

Steven R. Timmermans, executive director
Christian Reformed Church in North America

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPLEMENT

I. Polity matters

A. *Board of Trustees membership* (Committee 1)

1. Trustees and a young adult representative completing six years of service as of June 30, 2017 (indicated with an *), or who have not been nominated to the Council of Delegates:

Region/Classis	Member
Region 7	David R. DeRidder
Region 8	Socorro Woodbury
Region 9	Elizabeth Rudenga
Region 10	Kenneth A. Baker
Region 11	*Chris Van Spronsen
Region 12	José Tagle
U.S. at-large	*Kyu Paek
Classis Alberta North	Walter Mulder
Classis Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Peter DeBoer
Classis B.C. South-East	*Gavielle (Gavy) Tran
Classis Chatham	Norman J. Visser
Classis Quinte	Shawn R. Brix
Canada at-large	Ralph Luimes
Young adult representative	Youri Lee

All of the other current Board of Trustees members and a young adult representative are being presented to synod for consideration as nominees for appointment to the Council of Delegates.

2. Words of special thanks

The services provided by members of the Board of Trustees deserve the recognition and appreciation of synod. The quality of CRC members who are willing to serve the church in governing functions is one of our strengths as a church and community. The Board has acknowledged the conclusion of service of the Board members named above who will not be transitioning as delegates to the Council of Delegates. We thank God for each of these dedicated servants and for their contributions to the Board and the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

A number of Board of Trustees members have served the denomination between one and five years in a governance role and have been nominated by their classes (classical representatives) or the Board of Trustees itself (at-large members) to continue service to the denomination on the new Council of Delegates. We are grateful for their willingness to continue in this special leadership role and to provide governance to the ministries of the CRCNA.

3. Council of Delegates nominees

a. Classis nominations

Each of the forty-eight classes was asked to submit nominees to the Council of Delegates for appointment by Synod 2018 in anticipation of implementation of the new governance model on July 1, 2017. To help facilitate the process, the Board of Trustees did not require the classes to submit a slate of names. Forty-two of the classes submitted a single nominee; the remaining six classes have presented slates of nominees for election of one member from each by synod.

The BOT recommends that synod appoint the following single nominees for classical representation to the Council of Delegates as presented by the classes. *Note:* Biographical information for those not currently serving on a denominational board is included in section I, A, 3, c.

Classis	First	Middle	Last	Current Board	Term Expires
Alberta North	Michelle		Kool	None	NA
Alberta South/ Saskatchewan	Cora		Rempel	NMA	2019
Arizona	Jose	Antonio	Lara	None	NA
Atlantic Northeast	Samuel	D.	Sutter	None	NA
B.C. North-West	Andy		De Ruyter	BOT	2021
B.C. South-East	Bev		Bandstra	None	NA
Central California	Fernando		del Rosario	CC	2021
Chatham	Beth		Fellinger	NMA	2018
Chicago South	Jei		Wilson	None	NA
Columbia	Gary		Bos	BOT	2022
Eastern Canada	Bernard		Bakker	BOT	2022
Grand Rapids East	Emmett		Harrison	BOT	2021
Grand Rapids North	Daudi		Mutisya Mbuta	None	NA
Grand Rapids South	David	A.	Struyk	None	NA
Grandville	Timothy		Bosscher	NMA	2020
Greater Los Angeles	Melvin		Jackson	NMA	2022
Hackensack	Sheila		Holmes	None	NA
Hamilton	Garry		Sytsma	BOT	2019
Hanmi	Tong	K.	Park	None	NA
Heartland	Mark		Volkers	BTGMI	2020
Holland	Scott		DeVries	None	NA
Hudson	Joel		Vande Werken	BTGMI	2018
Huron	Darrell		Bierman	BOT	2021
lakota	Cal		Hoogendoorn	BOT	2019
Illiana	Sally		Haywood	BTGMI	2022
Kalamazoo	Kevin		Ten Brink	BOT	2022
Ko-Am	Theodore		Lim	None	NA
Lake Superior	Donald	G.	Draayer	BOT	2020
Minnkota	Leland		Vanderaa	BTGMI	2019
Muskegon	Susan	B.	Hoekema	BOT	2021
Niagara	Chris		deWinter	BOT	2022
Northcentral Iowa	Wendell		Davelaar	None	NA
Northern Illinois	Arnie		Stolte	None	NA
Northern Michigan	Bruce		DeKam	None	NA
Pacific Northwest	Bomsu		Kim	NMA	2018
Quinte	Cori		Christiaanse	None	NA
Rocky Mountain	John		Eigege	NMA	2019
Southeast U.S.	Stan		Workman	NMA	2020
Thornapple Valley	Paul		De Vries	BOT	2022
Toronto	Sam		Cooper	BOT	2022
Wisconsin	Bruce		McMurry	NMA	2018
Zeeland	Ron		Meyer	NMA	2018

The BOT recommends that synod elect members as classical representation to the Council of Delegates from the following slates of nominees as presented by the classes. *Note:* Biographical information for those not currently serving on a denominational board is included in section I, A, 3, c.

Classis	First	Middle	Last	Current Board	Term Expires
California South	John	H.	Caicedo	None	NA
Central Plains	Robert		Moore	None	NA
	Brian		Ochsner	None	NA
Georgetown	Tom		Wolthuis	None	NA
	David		Den Haan	None	NA
Lake Erie	David		VanRandwyk	None	NA
	Laurie		Harkema	None	NA
Red Mesa	Susan	Berends	Medendorp	None	NA
	Randy		Freeland	BOT	2021
Yellowstone	Stanley		Jim	None	NA
	Peter		DeVries	None	NA
	Mike		Santarosa	None	NA

Note: Because of a desire for strong continuity on the COD from year to year, board terms will be determined following elections by synod (e.g., some may serve a total of four or five years so that no given year has more than an average of eight to nine members retiring from the COD) upon recommendation by the COD Nominating Committee to the Council of Delegates.

b. At-large nominations

The membership of the COD includes three at-large members from Canada and one at-large member from the United States. The Board of Trustees recommends that synod appoint the following single nominees as at-large members on the Council of Delegates. *Note:* Biographical information for those not currently serving on a denominational board is included in section I, A, 3, c.

Country	First	Middle	Last	Current Board	Term Expires
Canada at-large	Ashley		Bootsma	BOT young adult rep.	2020
	Verney		Kho	BOT	2019
United States at-large	Aaltje		Van Grootheest	BOT	2022
	Elsa		Fennema	NA	2023

c. Biographical information for COD nominees

The following biographical information is provided for nominees to the COD who are not currently serving on one of the following denominational boards: Back to God Ministries International, Board of Trustees of the CRCNA, Calvin College, or the new mission agency.

Classis Alberta North

Rev. Michelle Kool serves as an interim pastor at Covenant CRC in Edmonton, Alberta. She has served on the Classis Alberta interim committee, prayer ministry committee, and elders ministry committee and is an alternate for the stated clerk.

Classis Arizona

Rev. Jose Antonio Lara is a pastor at River's Edge CRC in El Paso, Texas. Before attending seminary, Tony was a public school teacher. He has also served on various synodical and classical committees.

Classis Atlantic Northeast

Rev. Samuel D. Sutter serves as a pastor at Goshen (N.Y.) CRC. He was a delegate to Synod 2015. He is also serving on the Classis Atlantic Northeast church renewal team.

Classis B.C. South-East

Mrs. Bev Bandstra is a member of Ladner CRC, Delta, British Columbia. She is involved in leading worship and teaching adult education. Along with her husband, John, Bev coordinates the church's refugee program. After graduating from Dordt College, Bev and her husband taught in Nigeria for two years, joining CRC World Missions as associate missionaries. She has served on Christian school boards in Victoria and Smithers, B.C., and at Fraser Valley Christian High School in Surrey, B.C., as well as on the board of directors of the Society of Christian Schools in B.C. From 2003 to 2009 she also served as part of the executive board of the Christian Schools International board of trustees. Her professional experience includes working for the Society of Christian Schools in B.C. (5 years), for North American Indigenous Ministries (4 years), and, most recently, as assistant to the president of Regent College, Vancouver, B.C. (14 years).

Classis California South

Rev. John H. Caicedo is the senior pastor of Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrador CRC in Fontana, California. John has a master of divinity degree and a doctoral degree in ministry and is pursuing a master of sociology degree. He serves on the classical executive team and has been a delegate to three synods.

Mr. Robert Moore serves as a commissioned pastor for Oasis Community CRC in Moreno Valley, California. He has provided noteworthy leadership to a church that is currently searching for a minister. He is also currently serving on the church development team.

Classis Central Plains

Rev. Brian Ochsner is the senior pastor of Sully (Iowa) CRC. He has been actively involved in Classis Central Plains as chair of the classical interim committee and as part of the executive, vision, youth education/teaching, and worship leading committees. He has also been influential in helping Classis Central Plains refocus on promoting healthy churches.

Rev. Tom Wolthuis attends Peace CRC in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Tom has served as a church planter, pastor, and theology professor and as president of the Institute for Christian Studies. He is currently a campus pastor at Geneva Campus Ministry through Christian Reformed Home Missions.

Classis Chicago South

Mr. Jei Wilson is the director of development at Roseland Christian Ministries in Chicago. He attends Roseland CRC, where he is an elder, and he is licensed to exhort in Classis Chicago South. Jei has an associate's degree in data processing from Robert Morris, has technical and leadership training from Community College of the Air Force, and has attended Kingdom Community Leaders Institute. Jei has served on the Roseland Christian Ministries board, the Roseland CRC council, and the Fifth District Pastoral Subcommittee. He was an elder delegate to Synod 2016 and will be an ethnic adviser to Synod 2017.

Classis Georgetown

Rev. David Den Haan is the lead pastor for Fairway CRC in Jenison, Michigan. His previous experience includes participation in denominational candidacy interview panels, classis interim/executive committee, classis renewal team, classis vision team, student fund committee, church visiting team, and classis meeting planning. He has also served as a delegate to synod. David's involvement at Fairway CRC includes serving on the council, the administrative team, the pastoral elder board, the worship ministry committee, and the discipleship ministry team.

Mr. David VanRandwyk is a retired CEO of Bursma Electronics. He is currently an IT consultant. David attends Trinity CRC in Grandville, Michigan. His previous experience includes serving on the corporate board of Bursma Electronics, the Jenison Christian School board, the Calvin College board of trustees, and the Back to God Ministries International advancement board (as chair). David is currently on the Visser YMCA board, serving as council clerk, and participating in the CTS Renewal Lab. His church council experience includes five terms as elder, including service as president and clerk of council.

Classis Grand Rapids North

Mr. Daudi Mutisya Mbuta has a degree in health services and is currently an administrator for MOKA, a nonprofit organization serving to enhance the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into our communities. He attends African Community Fellowship CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and serves as its council president. Daudi served as the council secretary from 2002 through 2011 and has been a delegate to classis meetings for Classis Grand Rapids North.

Classis Grand Rapids South

Rev. David Struyk is a pastor at Community CRC in Wyoming, Michigan. He has 30 years of classis involvement, has served on the classical renewal ministry team, and has been a delegate to synod five times. Currently he is serving on the classical ministries committee and new church development committee for Classis Grand Rapids South.

Classis Hackensack

Rev. Sheila Holmes is a pastor at Northside Community CRC, Paterson, New Jersey. She holds a bachelor of science degree in urban ministry and is in the process of earning a master's degree and a doctoral degree. She was a telecommunications representative for 29 years and is a trained instructor in trauma awareness. Sheila has also

been involved as a trainer in youth mentoring and youth ministries. Sheila's previous experience includes two terms on the CRCNA Board of Trustees (executive committee and chair), two terms on the Christian Reformed Home Missions board, service on several synodical committees and as classical stated clerk, service on the Eastern Home Mission Board ministry leadership team, and membership on community boards (Ceasefire, Dawn Treader School, public school councils, Paterson Community Initiative). Currently she is serving on the Synod Review Task Force scheduled to report to Synod 2019. Her local involvement also includes service as a Bergen County chaplain, as a Paterson community chaplain, and as a codirector of a summer day camp.

Classis Hanmi

Rev. Tong K. Park is the executive director for CRM Korea. He is a member of Springing Fountain CRC in Anaheim, California. Tong has a bachelor of business administration degree from Seoul National University in Korea and a master of business administration degree from Anderson Business School, UCLA. Tong was the founder and general manager for the audiovisual division of Sony Corporation of America. He served as the Korean ministry director for Christian Reformed Home Missions for five years. Currently he serves Classis Hanmi as a member of the interim committee and as synodical deputy.

Classis Holland

Rev. Scott DeVries is the classis ministries coordinator for Classis Holland and a builder. He attends Bethany CRC in Holland, Michigan, where he served as pastor for four years. Scott has served on the advisory board for the denomination's Connections Project since 2015. He attended Synod 2015. Scott has shown significant leadership ability and knowledge of the broader church and brings a willingness to serve.

Classis Ko-Am

Rev. Theodore Lim has been the senior pastor of L.A. Global Mission Church in Los Angeles, California, for the past thirteen years. He completed the master of divinity program at Fuller Theological Seminary, received a doctor of missiology degree from Grace Theological Seminary in Indiana, and has published several books and articles. As an evangelist and mission advocate, Dr. Lim serves as a provost of international affairs for Tahan Theological College and Seminary in Myanmar, where he has taught mission classes as a visiting professor since October 2015. He also serves as stated clerk for Classis Ko-Am.

Classis Lake Erie

Mrs. Laurie Harkema serves as adult choir director, as an organist/pianist, and as a worship planner at River Terrace CRC in East Lansing, Michigan. She and her husband have been members at River Terrace since 1994. Laurie served previously as a Classis Red Mesa representative to the CRC Board of Publications while attending Fellowship CRC in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was also active in the worship planning at Fellowship CRC and taught music in two private schools in Albuquerque. In addition, she taught music for eighteen years in the Okemos, Michigan, public school system.

Mrs. Susan Berends Medendorp is a graduate of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. For ten years (1991-2001) she served as a missionary in the Dominican Republic. She has been a special education teacher in both the Christian and public school systems. Susan has also served as an elder and as a catechism teacher, newsletter editor, Christian school supervisor, ministry director of discipleship, chair of GROW team, teacher of adult education, and leader of GriefShare ministry at River Terrace CRC in Lansing, Michigan. She has been a spiritual retreat leader for Dominican Sojourners and for Face2Face Michigan/Indiana. She has also authored several Bible studies.

Classis Northcentral Iowa

Rev. Wendell Davelaar is a pastor at Hollandale (Minn.) CRC. He has served on the Rural Electric Co-op board, the local Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and the Three Rivers Cadet Council board. Wendell also serves as a member of the Hollandale Volunteer Fire Department and as a Cadet counselor.

Classis Northern Illinois

Mr. Arnie Stolte is the president of an environmental consulting service to large- and medium-sized manufacturing companies. He is a member of Lombard (Ill.) CRC. He has served Classis Northern Illinois as an elder for Lombard CRC. He has also served the Chicago Christian Counseling Center, the steering committee for Fox Valley CRC in Crystal Lake, Illinois, and the local homeowners association. Locally he has led high school ministry, taught eighth grade, and served as a mentor with the Bridge Community homeless ministry.

Classis Northern Michigan

Mr. Bruce DeKam is the owner of Great Lakes Dairy Supply, Inc. He attends Prosper CRC in Falmouth, Michigan. Bruce has served several terms as elder and deacon at Prosper CRC and is currently a member of the classical interim committee. He has also served on the county fair board. At Prosper CRC, Bruce has also served as a youth leader, high school catechism teacher, Sunday school superintendent, and chair of the strategic planning committee.

Classis Quinte

Mrs. Cori Christiaanse is semiretired with a background in banking, and she works part-time as a tax professional. She previously served for eight years as coordinator of the local Coffee Break Ministries program and has hosted a weekly Bible study in her home for neighbors. She was also involved in M2/W2 prison ministries and is currently involved as a Bible study reviewer and correspondent with Crossroads Prison Ministries. Cori served on the board at Trenton (Ont.) Christian School, on the community relations committee, and on the finance committee at Quinte Christian High School, Belleville, Ontario. At her church, Cori is part of the pastoral care committee and the prayer team.

Classis Red Mesa

Rev. Stanley Jim is a member of Window Rock (Ariz.) CRC. He has been serving Christian Reformed Home Missions as director for

Indigenous/Native American outreach and as a representative for Classis Red Mesa. He has served various churches in Classis Red Mesa and knows the denominational structure well. He can contribute a helpful understanding of Native American culture and worship in the larger context of the CRCNA.

Classis Yellowstone

Rev. Peter DeVries is the pastor of Mountain Springs Community Church, Salt Lake City, Utah. He previously served on the CRCNA Board of Trustees, and he served Christian Reformed Home Missions as a board member and as a smaller church specialist. He serves on the classical interim committee and in his local church as a youth group leader.

Mr. Michael Santarosa is a registrar at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah, and attends Life in Christ CRC, Salt Lake City. He has served on his church's council, at classis, and at synod. Formerly, as a Presbyterian, Michael served the local church session (elders) in three congregations and on the committee for local arrangements for the general assembly. He also served on the board of a classical Christian elementary school and with local Young Life and InterVarsity ministries. In addition, he has served on a number of college and university committees and through professional associations.

Canada at-large

Ms. Ashley Bootsma is a member of Community CRC in Kitchener, Ontario. She graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in May 2017 and plans to pursue a M.Div. degree beginning in fall 2017. She previously served as a young adult representative to synod two times and served as a young adult representative on the BOT for the past two years. Ashley met her future husband at Synod 2016—he was a delegate and she was a young adult representative!

United States at-large

Mrs. Elsa Fennema is a member of Hope CRC in Oak Forest, Illinois. She has served on several school and agency boards, has taught for over 35 years, and has served in a number of leadership roles in her church and classis and in various nonprofit organizations. For example, she has served as chair of the Safe Church Team for Classis Chicago South and as a board member at Daystar School and at Roseland Christian School, both in Chicago, and at Bethany Christian Services in Palos Heights, Illinois. She was also an administrator at Chicago Westside Christian School. In addition, she has served as a local church elder and as a delegate to synod three times—including being elected as second clerk at Synod 2016.

B. Interim executive committee of the Council of Delegates (Committee 1)

At its recent meeting the Board of Trustees and the boards of Back to God Ministries International and the new mission agency, from their respective corporations elected the following to serve as the *interim* executive committee of the Council of Delegates until the Council of Delegates is able to elect its executive committee and officers at its first meeting:

Mr. Andy de Ruyter
Rev. Paul R. De Vries
Rev. Donald G. Draayer
Ms. Beth Fellingner
Rev. Emmett A. Harrison
Mr. Garry Sytsma
Mr. Mark Volkers
Rev. Stanley J. Workman

From the slate of eight interim executive committee members, the members of the Board of Trustees and the boards of Back to God Ministries International and the new mission agency elected an interim president of the Council of Delegates until such time that the Council of Delegates convenes in October 2017 and holds elections for officers. Rev. Paul R. De Vries was elected to fill that role in the interim.

C. *Council of Delegates bylaws and other legal matters* (Committee 1)

In preparation for the transition from the current governance and corporate structures, the boards and respective national corporations of Back to God Ministries International and the new mission agency took appropriate actions prior to review and action by the Board of Trustees, noted in the following:

1. That synod take note that the BOT, as directors of the Michigan Corporation, (1) received as information the resolutions of the CRHM U.S. Board for merger approval (Appendix B) and of the CRWM U.S. Board for merger approval (Appendix C) and (2) adopted the Resolution for Merger and the Restated Bylaws as provided in Appendices D-1 through D-3 (including Appendices A and E).
2. The Board recommends that Synod 2017 approve the resolution adopted by the CRHM U.S. Board (Appendix B) and the resolution adopted by the CRWM U.S. Board (Appendix C).
3. The Board of Trustees, as directors of the Michigan Corporation, recommend that Synod 2017 approve the Resolution for Merger and the Restated Bylaws as provided in Appendix D-1 through D-3 (including Appendices A and E).
4. The Board recommends that Synod 2017 approve the U.S. Restated Bylaws as the Bylaws for the BTGMI Corporation (Appendix F) as presented in the BTGMI Corporation Resolution of April 27, 2017 (Appendix G).
5. That synod (1) receive as information the resolutions of the CRHM Canada Corporation Directors and Members (Appendix I) and the CRWM Canada Corporation Directors and Members (Appendix J) and (2) take note that the Board of Trustees endorsed the CRCNA Canada Corporation's resolution of Directors and Members (Appendices K and L) repealing the current bylaws (enacted September 26, 2014) and approving the new CRCNA Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix H), including the amalgamation of the CR World Missions Corporation and CR Home Missions Corporation into the CRCNA Canada Corporation to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.

6. That synod endorse the CRCNA Canada Corporation's resolution of Directors and Members (Appendices K and L) repealing the current bylaws (enacted September 26, 2014) and approving the new CRCNA Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix H), including the amalgamation of the CR World Missions Canada Corporation and CR Home Missions Canada Corporation into the CRCNA Canada Corporation to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.
7. That synod endorse the BTGMI Canada Corporation's repeal of the current bylaws (enacted April 24, 2014) and approval of the new BTGMI Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix M) as presented in the BTGMI Canada Corporation Resolutions of April 27, 2017 (Appendices N and O), to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.
8. That synod take note that the BOT noted the following action of the BTGMI U.S. Corporation Board of Directors: during the transition time from July 1, 2017, until the first meeting of the Council of Delegates, the four U.S. members of the BTGMI board who are transitioning onto the COD also serve as the interim officers of the BTGMI U.S. Corporation.
9. That synod take note that the BOT noted the following action of the BTGMI Canada Corporation Board of Directors: during the transition time from July 1, 2017, until the first meeting of the Council of Delegates, that the four Canadian delegates elected to serve on the COD Interim Executive Committee also serve as the interim officers of the BTGMI Canada Corporation.
10. That synod, upon adoption of the COD Governance Handbook and election of COD delegates—thereby establishing the Council of Delegates—disband the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and the boards of Back to God Ministries International and the new mission agency (i.e., the joint board of Christian Reformed World Missions and Christian Reformed Home Missions), effective June 30, 2017.

II. Program and finance matters

A. Program matters

1. Expressions of gratitude (Committees 4 and 5)

The Board paid special tribute to the following three denominational staff during its annual spring banquet, expressing gratitude for their years of humble service: Rev. Ronald A. Klimp, recently retired from service as director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry; Ms. Carol Sybenga, retiring from service as program manager of ServiceLink; and Mr. Peter Vander Meulen, retiring from service as coordinator of the Office of Social Justice.

2. Transition of new mission agency (Committee 6)

a. Special recognition

The Board recommends that synod express its appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Gary J. Bekker for his years of faithful service to the denomination in his role as director of Christian Reformed World Missions, and to Dr. Moses Chung for his years of faithful service to

the denomination in his role as director of Christian Reformed Home Missions.

b. Proposed new name

Upon recommendation of the new mission agency board, the Board of Trustees received and endorsed the new name and brand Resonate Global Mission (see Appendix P) and recommends that synod approve the name Resonate Global Mission for the new mission agency.

The Board also recommends that synod adopt the following authorizing statements, should such authorization be needed:

Authorizing statements from the boards of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions in the USA and Canada

- 1) CANADA: That synod approve *Resonate Global Mission* as the name for the new mission agency (NMA) and instruct the executive director of the CRCNA and the NMA director to accomplish needed revisions in the Articles of Incorporation and charitable registrations for Christian Reformed Home Missions of Canada and Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada, both of which are Canadian incorporated charities. That the president or other elected officer of the corporations be authorized to sign any documents as are required to implement the name change, including an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.
- 2) MICHIGAN: That synod approve *Resonate Global Mission* as the name for the new mission agency (NMA) and instruct the executive director of the CRCNA and the NMA director to accomplish needed revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and not-for-profit registrations for Christian Reformed Home Missions of the United States of America and Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America, both of which are incorporated not-for-profit organizations in the State of Michigan. That the president or other elected officer of the corporations be authorized to sign any documents as are required to implement the name change, including an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.
3. Remembering, Reaffirming, and Reinvigorating Our Response to Global Humanitarian Challenges (Committee 4)

The Board of Trustees received a report and recommendations, "Remembering, Reaffirming, and Reinvigorating Our Response to Global Humanitarian Challenges," as a partial response to the action of Synod 2016 to "instruct the executive director to encourage the Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) collaboration group to continue to prioritize goals and assign resources for all of our justice and mercy denominational issues" (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829). The Board presents the full report (found in Appendix Q) and recommendations to Synod 2017 for its consideration in response to the directive given to the ED.

4. Mandate for CRC Worship Ministries (Committee 5)

The Board adopted a mission and vision statement for CRC Worship Ministries and recommends that synod receive the new mandate presented in Appendix R as information.

5. Churches for Middle East Peace (Committee 4)

The Board reviewed a report from the organization Churches for Middle East Peace (see Appendix S) and commended the efforts to identify the stated priorities and develop accompanying interagency/ministry strategies in fulfillment of the goals of *Our Journey 2020* (Ministry Plan). It is recommended that Synod 2017 take note of the efforts of our ministries toward peacemaking in the Middle East.

B. *Finance matters* (Committee 7)

1. The Board approved the unified budget for the denominational entities, inclusive of the individual budgets of the agencies, the educational institutions, the denominational offices, the Loan Fund, and the Special Assistance Funds of the CRC as presented to the BOT in the report of the BOT Finance Committee.

2. The Board recommends that synod approve a ministry share of \$339.48 per adult member (age 18 and over) for calendar year 2018—the same level approved for calendar years 2016 and 2017.

3. The Board recommends that synod approve the list of above-ministry share offerings as follows:

a. Denominational agencies recommended for one or more offerings

Back to God Ministries International

Calvin College

Calvin Theological Seminary

Christian Reformed Church Foundation

CR Home Missions

CR World Missions

Congregational Services

1) Aboriginal Ministries (Canada)

2) *The Banner*

3) Centre for Public Dialogue

4) Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

5) Disability Concerns

6) Faith Formation Ministries

7) Pastor Church Resources

8) Race Relations

9) Safe Church Ministry

10) ServiceLink

11) Social Justice and Hunger Action

12) Worship Ministries

Timothy Leadership Training Institute

World Renew—one offering per quarter because the agency receives no ministry-share support

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

Communities First Association

Diaconal Ministries Canada

Dynamic Youth Ministries

1) GEMS

2) Calvinist Cadet Corps

3) Youth Unlimited

Friendship Ministries (Friendship Ministries—Canada)

Partners Worldwide

4. The Board informs synod that it has approved the renewal of the following accredited agencies for offerings in the churches for 2018—year one in a three-year cycle of support (2018-2020). Guidelines adopted by Synod 2002 require an application by nondenominational agencies and synodical approval every three years. Synod indicated that, in the intervening years, agencies are to submit updated financial information and information regarding any significant programmatic changes. Each nondenominational agency requesting approval submitted the required materials for consideration.

The BOT Finance Committee reviewed the process and recommended updates to the policy for review and approval of agencies for support.

The nondenominational agencies recommended for financial support but not necessarily for one or more offerings are

- a. United States

- 1) Benevolent agencies

Bethany Christian Services

Hope Haven

The Luke Society

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Quiet Waters Ministries

- 2) Educational agencies

Ascending Leaders

Christian Learning Center (CLC)

Christian Schools International

Christian Schools International Foundation

Dordt College

Elim Christian Services

Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies)

Kids Hope USA

The King's University (through the U.S. Foundation)

Kuyper College

Langham Partnership

Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)

Rehoboth Christian School

Tent Schools International (formerly Worldwide Christian Schools)

Trinity Christian College

Zuni Christian Mission School

3) Miscellaneous agencies

Association for a More Just Society
Audio Scripture Ministries
Bible League International
Care of Creation
Center for Public Justice
Crossroads Prison Ministries (formerly Crossroad Bible Institute)
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Mission India
Mississippi Christian Family Services
Talking Bibles
The Tract League
World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

b. Canada

1) Benevolent agencies

Beginnings Family Services
Indwell (formerly Homestead Christian Care)

2) Educational agencies

Dordt College
EduDeo
Institute for Christian Studies
The King's University
Kuyper College
Redeemer University College
Trinity Christian College

3) Miscellaneous agencies

A Rocha Canada
Bible League – Canada
Canadian Council of Churches
Cardus (Work Research o/a Cardus)
Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation)
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
Gideons International – Canada
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada
OneBook
Shalem Mental Health
World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.

5. New requests for inclusion on the list of nondenominational agencies approved for offerings

The Board of Trustees recommends that synod approve the following organizations for inclusion on the accredited agency list:

United States and Canada

Samaritan’s Purse/Operation Christmas Child endorsed the opportunity for congregations to pack shoebox gifts through the Operation Christmas Child Project. Though churches may certainly give financially, the organization’s focus is much more on a practical, hands-on global missions opportunity. In addition to providing children with shoeboxes full of gifts, Samaritan’s Purse is engaging those children in a 12-week discipleship program, “The Greatest Journey,” with Bible teaching, and providing a Bible upon graduation.

Canada

Dunamis Fellowship Canada helps equip people to experience and live in the reality of Jesus’ promise by providing biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit and practical applications of the teaching. It also provides a community of Spirit-empowered believers who support each other in their spiritual development. Although the fellowship’s historic roots are in the Presbyterian and Reformed stream of the Christian faith, it serves people from many denominations.

6. The denominational salary grid

The BOT recommends that Synod 2017 adopt the salary grid included below for use in fiscal year 2017-2018. The grid reflects no increase from the 2016-2017, 2015-2016, or 2014-2015 salary amounts.

Level	2017-2018 Salary Grade and Range Structure		Canadian Range	
	U.S. Range Minimum	Target	Minimum	Target
20	\$153,763	\$180,898		
19	\$138,976	\$163,501		
18	\$122,431	\$144,037	\$114,256	\$134,418
17	\$108,478	\$127,621	\$99,706	\$117,301
16	\$93,392	\$109,873	\$87,097	\$102,467
15	\$81,357	\$95,714	\$77,518	\$91,198
14	\$72,640	\$85,459	\$70,566	\$83,019
13	\$64,857	\$76,302	\$64,361	\$75,718

7. Ministers’ pension assessment

The Board recommends that synod take note of the following action of the Pension Trustees endorsed by the Board of Trustees at its May meeting:

That the 2018 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$42.96 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$9,840. Similarly, that the 2018 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.

8. 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 T.

III. Recommendations

A. That synod express appreciation for members of the Board of Trustees who have served the denomination with dedication and have contributed toward the governance of the CRCNA (BOT Supplement section I, A, 2).

B. That synod by way of the ballot appoint the classical representation to the Council of Delegates from the list of single nominees and slates of nominees as presented by the classes (BOT Supplement section I, A, 3, a and c).

C. That synod by way of the ballot appoint four at-large members to the Council of Delegates from the list of single nominees presented (BOT Supplement section I, A, 3, b and c).

D. That synod, in order to fulfill the legal obligations for the transition to the new Council of Delegates model of governance (BOT Supplement section I, C):

1. Take note that the BOT, as directors of the Michigan Corporation, (1) received as information the resolutions of the CRHM U.S. Board for merger approval (Appendix B) and of the CRWM U.S. Board for merger approval (Appendix C) and (2) adopted the Resolution for Merger and the Restated Bylaws as provided in Appendices D-1 through D-3 (including Appendices A and E).
2. Approve the resolution adopted by the CRHM U.S. Board (Appendix B) and the resolution adopted by the CRWM U.S. Board (Appendix C).
3. Approve the Resolution for Merger and the Restated Bylaws as provided in Appendix D-1 through D-3 (including Appendices A and E).
4. Approve the U.S. Restated Bylaws as the Bylaws for the BTGMI Corporation (Appendix F) as presented in the BTGMI Corporation Resolution of April 27, 2017 (Appendix G).
5. (a) Receive as information the resolutions of the CRHM Canada Corporation Directors and Members (Appendix I) and the CRWM Canada Corporation Directors and Members (Appendix J) and (b) take note that the Board of Trustees endorsed the CRCNA Canada Corporation's resolution of Directors and Members (Appendices K and L) repealing the current bylaws (enacted September 26, 2014) and approving the new CRCNA Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix H), including the amalgamation of the CR World Missions Corporation and CR Home Missions Corporation into the CRCNA Canada Corporation to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.
6. Endorse the CRCNA Canada Corporation's resolution of Directors and Members (Appendices K and L) repealing the current bylaws (enacted September 26, 2014) and approving the new CRCNA Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix H), including the amalgamation of the CR World Missions Canada Corporation and CR Home Missions Canada Corporation into the CRCNA Canada Corporation to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.

7. Endorse the BTGMI Canada Corporation's repeal of the current bylaws (enacted April 24, 2014) and approval of the new BTGMI Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix M) as presented in the BTGMI Canada Corporation Resolutions of April 27, 2017 (Appendices N and O), to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.
 8. Take note that the BOT noted the following action of the BTGMI U.S. Corporation Board of Directors: during the transition time from July 1, 2017, until the first meeting of the Council of Delegates, the four U.S. members of the BTGMI board who are transitioning onto the COD also serve as the interim officers of the BTGMI U.S. Corporation.
 9. Take note that the BOT noted the following action of the BTGMI Canada Corporation Board of Directors: during the transition time from July 1, 2017, until the first meeting of the Council of Delegates, that the four Canadian delegates elected to serve on the COD Interim Executive Committee also serve as the interim officers of the BTGMI Canada Corporation.
 10. Upon adoption of the COD Governance Handbook and election of COD delegates—thereby establishing the Council of Delegates—disband the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and the boards of Back to God Ministries International and the new mission agency (i.e., the joint board of Christian Reformed World Missions and Christian Reformed Home Missions), effective June 30, 2017.
- E. That synod express its appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Gary J. Bekker for his years of faithful service to the denomination in his role as director of Christian Reformed World Missions, and to Dr. Moses Chung for his years of faithful service to the denomination in his role as director of Christian Reformed Home Missions (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2, a).
- F. That synod approve the name *Resonate Global Mission* for the new mission agency (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2, b).
- G. That synod adopt the following authorizing statements, should such authorization be needed (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2, b):

Authorizing statements from the boards of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions in the USA and Canada

1) CANADA: That synod approve *Resonate Global Mission* as the name for the new mission agency (NMA) and instruct the executive director of the CRCNA and the NMA director to accomplish needed revisions in the Articles of Incorporation and charitable registrations for Christian Reformed Home Missions of Canada and Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada, both of which are Canadian incorporated charities. That the president or other elected officer of the corporations be authorized to sign any documents as are required to implement the name change, including an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

2) MICHIGAN: That synod approve *Resonate Global Mission* as the name for the new mission agency (NMA) and instruct the executive director of the CRCNA and the NMA director to accomplish needed revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and not-for-profit registrations for Christian Reformed Home Missions of the United States of America and Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America, both of which are incorporated not-for-profit organizations in the State of Michigan. That the president or other elected officer of the corporations be authorized to sign any documents as are required to implement the name change, including an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

H. That synod adopt the following recommendations from the “Remembering, Reaffirming, and Reinvigorating Our Response to Global Humanitarian Challenges” document found in Appendix Q (BOT Supplement section II, A, 3):

1. That Synod 2017

- a. Urge CRC members, congregations, and agencies to remember and renew our passion to serve God by serving the poor and oppressed in ministries of relief, development, proclamation, and advocacy for justice.
- b. Reaffirm and recommend to members, churches, denominational agencies, and educational institutions the conclusions and recommendations contained in our 1978 and 1979 reports on hunger, as well as in the 1993 report “Freedom to Serve: Meeting the Needs of the World.”
- c. Reaffirm and recommend to members, churches, denominational agencies, and educational institutions the conclusions and recommendations pertaining to root causes of suffering and oppression contained in the 2006 War and Peace report, the 2010 Migration of Workers report, and the 2012 report of the Task Force on Creation Stewardship.
- d. Endorse and support a renewed and revised multiple agency, collaborative program that would build on our existing ministry capacities to exercise the following within a healthy biblical Reformed worldview:
 - 1) Increase our efforts to educate CRC members, congregations, agencies, and educational institutions on how best to serve people who are poor and hungry.
 - 2) Continue and increase our effective relief, development, and justice ministries with people who are suffering from drought, famine, war, climate change, trafficking, and persecution.
 - 3) Increase our understanding of the root and systemic causes of hunger, poverty, oppression, and injustice.
 - 4) Improve and broaden our ability to be active and engaged Christian citizens, standing with and advocating for the rights and welfare of those whom the world would disdain and discard.
 - 5) Increase the financial support for World Renew’s yearly World Hunger Sunday as well as collaborative peace, justice, and reconciliation education and mobilization efforts of the Office of Social

Justice, Canadian Ministries, Worship Ministries, Faith Formation, and other Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) ministries.

2. That synod (1) take note that the above proposal arises in response to a decision of Synod 2016 (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829) instructing “the executive director to encourage the Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) collaboration group to continue to prioritize goals and assign resources for all of our justice and mercy denominational issues,” and (2) instruct the executive director to pursue other possible priorities as well as to plan and implement the program described in recommendation 1, d above and report the results to synod annually through 2020.

Grounds:

- a. This proposal offers a timely and urgent response to the increase in suffering we see in a world where the recent progress made in alleviating poverty, hunger, and oppression at home and abroad is threatened by expanding violence, changing climate, and mass migrations.
- b. This proposal recognizes the effective poverty response, educational, and advocacy resources our denomination has already developed and encourages CRC members to utilize those ministries and resources (e.g., World Hunger Campaign, *Live Justly*, Good Soil, Churches Between Borders, Dance of Racial Reconciliation, Journey with Me, Blanket Exercise, Social Justice Mobilizers in Canada and the United States).
- c. This proposal strongly reaffirms the findings of previous study committees and ministries that demonstrate that an effective anti-hunger and antipoverty response must be holistic. To be effective, we must weave together direct ministry action, education on root causes, and advocacy. (This could include, for example, development and agricultural programs; immigration reform; combating racism and discrimination; responding to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; creation care, including adaptation and mitigation of climate change; and refugee resettlement.)
- d. This proposal reaffirms that an effective response to poverty and hunger must include holding our governments and international bodies accountable so that they devote sufficient resources to ending violence, preventing famine, trading fairly, reducing the causes of climate change, improving refugee and immigration policy, and paying attention to racism and discrimination endemic to our societies.
- e. This proposal has strong continuity with previous synodical actions on hunger, poverty, and their root causes, including the World Hunger recommendations passed by synod in 1978 and 1979, the Freedom to Serve recommendations of 1993, endorsement of the Micah Challenge in 2004, the Migration of Workers report of 2010, and the Creation Stewardship climate recommendations in 2012.
- f. This proposal responds to synod’s instruction (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829) by providing significant and integrative prioritization, relying on synodical decisions of the past to chart a direction for current

challenges, and to do so in a collaborative, multiple agency/ministry approach utilizing existing resources as much as possible.

- g. This proposal is in sync with a recent request from Christian Churches Together (CCT) to call our churches to prayer for the U.S. Congress as it considers budget cuts to major antipoverty programs. In addition, it supports ongoing advocacy by coalitions of which we are a part: Bread for the World, Circle of Protection, Micah Challenge/Network, Alliance to End Hunger, and others.
- h. This proposal implements and significantly prioritizes several ministry plan goals from *Our Journey 2020*, particularly in the area of Mercy and Justice:

Step 4.4.1 Congregations identify and set goals to address local/national/global justice issues—discerning unique steps they can take to make an impact from their own communities.

4.4.4 Congregations engage in active citizenship and advocacy that encourages them and their leaders to be accountable for developing and implementing just policies.

- I. That synod receive as information the newly adopted mission and vision statement and new mandate for CRC Worship Ministries (Appendix R and BOT Supplement section II, A, 4).
- J. That synod take note of the efforts of CRCNA ministries toward peacemaking in the Middle East (Appendix S and BOT Supplement section II, A, 5).
- K. That synod receive the agencies and institutional unified budget as information and approve a ministry share of \$339.48 for calendar year 2018 (BOT Supplement sections II, B, 1-2).
- L. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:
 - 1. That synod approve the list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for the agencies and institutions of the CRC and denominationally related ministries, and recommend these to the churches for consideration (BOT Supplement section II, B, 3).
 - 2. That synod receive as information the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2018 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 4).
 - 3. That synod approve the following organizations for inclusion on the accredited agency list (BOT Supplement section II, B, 5):

United States and Canada

Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child endorsed the opportunity for congregations to pack shoebox gifts through the Operation Christmas Child Project. Though churches may certainly give financially, the organization's focus is much more on a practical, hands-on global missions opportunity. In addition to providing children with shoeboxes full of gifts, Samaritan's Purse is engaging those children in a 12-week discipleship program, "The Greatest Journey," with Bible teaching, and providing a Bible upon graduation.

Canada

Dunamis Fellowship Canada helps equip people to experience and live in the reality of Jesus’ promise by providing biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit and practical applications of the teaching. It also provides a community of Spirit-empowered believers who support each other in their spiritual development. Although the fellowship’s historic roots are in the Presbyterian and Reformed stream of the Christian faith, it serves people from many denominations.

M. That synod adopt the 2017-2018 denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (BOT Supplement section II, B, 6).

N. That synod take note of the BOT’s endorsement of the following action of the Pension Trustees (BOT Supplement section II, B, 7):

That the 2018 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$42.96 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$9,840. Similarly, that the 2018 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.

Board of Trustees of the
Christian Reformed Church in North America
Steven R. Timmermans, executive director

Appendix A
Restated Bylaws Of The Christian Reformed Church In North America (USA)

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**ARTICLE 1
NAME AND PURPOSES**

Section 1.1 Name. This corporation is known as The Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Section 1.2 Purposes. The corporation is a nonprofit, ecclesiastical corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law)(the “Code”). The purposes of the corporation are the following:

(a) To be the legal identity in the United States of the religious denomination, the Christian Reformed Church in North America (the “Denomination”).

(b) Through the members of its Board of Directors participating in the COD (as defined under Article II), to:

(i) Transact all matters assigned to it by the Synod of the Denomination (“Synod”).

(ii) Lead the ministries that support congregations of the Denomination in light of the mission, vision, and callings that Synod establishes,

providing recommendations to Synod when the mission, vision, and or callings need to be reconsidered.

(iii) Provide the criteria (goals) and evaluation of progress toward such goals under a ministry plan for the unified ministry of the Denomination, with particular focus for the United States, while establishing the contours within which personnel pursue such goals.

(iv) Cooperate with the Denomination's educational institutions (Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary), and with World Renew toward integrating the respective missions of those institutions into the Denomination's ministry program.

(v) Lead (and coordinate with the separately incorporated agencies) agencies of the Denomination that Synod has established or will establish and whose domestic and international ministries of evangelism, faith formation, and church planting and strengthening extend the Denomination's witness around the world.

(vi) Ensure the financial integrity of the Denomination's agencies and ministries, providing appropriate financial management and advancement policies, with particular focus on the United States, within which personnel function.

(vii) Identify when necessary, evaluate regularly, and support constructively the administrative leaders of the Denomination, with a particular focus on leaders and activities of the Denomination.

(vii) Perform an intermediary role with three functions: (a) convey inputs for effective ministry from congregations and their members; (b) report back to classes and churches regarding work done by denominational ministries to achieve shared ministry goals; and (c) assist churches to discern changing context and other factors that affect effective ministry—all to achieve shared goals for ministry expressed in the vision and ministry plan for the whole Denomination.

(ix) Attend to the organizational structure and health of the Denomination by developing policies of assessment (e.g., Ministry Plan counts and measures; personnel surveys, etc.), reviewing outcomes, and addressing goals and policies as needed.

(c) To do all other lawful acts and things necessary to fulfill the mandate and mission of the corporation.

This corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

The corporation has not been formed for pecuniary profit or gain. No part of the assets, income, or profit of the corporation are for the benefit of its Members, Directors, or officers. However, the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Article I, Section 1.2 of these Bylaws.

No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE II ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT

The Denomination's Church Order ("Church Order"), its Rules for Synodical Procedure ("Rules for Synodical Procedure"), and the mandates of Synod shall regulate the ecclesiastical organization and operation of this corporation. Collectively, Church Order, the Rules for Synodical Procedure, and the mandates of Synod shall be referred to as the "Ecclesiastical Requirements." Consistent with Church Order, the Denomination is comprised of member churches which are grouped into regional Classes (each a "Classis," and collectively the "Classes").

The Denomination is a binational ecclesiastical body, with Classes in the United States and in Canada. This corporation has a Canadian counterpart, which is formed as a nonprofit corporation under Canadian law (the "Canadian Corporation"). The Canadian Corporation and this corporation have entered into a Joint Ministries Agreement (the "JMA") under which the Canadian Corporation and this corporation have outlined structural and procedural requirements for the Denomination to act binationally. Synod has approved the creation of a Council of Delegates (the "COD"), which governs the joint ministries and operations of the Canadian Corporation and this corporation.

ARTICLE III MEMBERS

Section 3.1 Membership Corporation. The corporation is organized as a membership corporation under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act (the "Act"). The members of this corporation ("Members") are the delegates to Synod from Classes located in the United States who are elected annually consistent with Church Order Article 45, as Synod may amend from time to time.

Section 3.2 Meetings of Members. The Members shall meet annually at the time and place as determined consistent with Church Order.

Section 3.3 Voting. The Members shall vote consistent with the Rules for Synodical Procedure.

Section 3.4 Financial Statements. The corporation may provide notice to its Members indicating that any Member may obtain a copy of the corporation's annual financial statements upon the written request of the Member.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4.1 Generally. The directors of this corporation (“Directors”) shall be those individuals who are elected by the Members to serve on the COD from each Classis located in the United States (the “Classical Delegates”) and any at-large members of the COD who are from the United States (the “At-Large Delegates”). The Denomination has binational Classes, such as Classis Lake Superior. In the event that the individual selected to serve on the COD from a binational Classis is a member of a congregation in the United States, then that individual also shall be a voting Director of this corporation. In the event that the individual selected to serve on the COD from a binational Classis is a member of a congregation in Canada, then the congregations from the United States in that Classis may appoint a non-voting liaison to the COD. In that event, the liaison will be a non-voting Director of this corporation. As a result, the number of voting Directors shall be equal to the sum of the number of Classes in the United States that Synod determines from time to time plus any individual selected to serve on the COD from a binational Classis who is a member of a congregation in the United States (if any) plus the number of any at-large members of the COD who are from the United States. The individuals who occupy the following positions for the Denomination shall be *ex officio* without vote: Executive Director or a designee, Director of Ministries and Administration, Director of Finance and Operations, Resonate Global Mission Director and/or the United States Director for Resonate Global Mission. The Board of Directors of this Corporation shall be the governing body of the corporation and shall deliberate and determine issues that are in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation, other than issues that are reserved to the Members, either at law or under the Ecclesiastical Requirements.

Section 4.2 Directors shall serve for a term of three years. Directors may serve successive terms. However, a Director’s term is not to exceed the maximum of six consecutive years.

Section 4.3 Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy on the Board due to resignation or removal of a Director, the COD may select an interim successor (in consultation with the Classis when filling a Classis Director vacancy) who will serve until the Members can elect a Director at the next meeting of Synod to fill the unexpired term. If the vacancy is due to the resignation of a Classical Director, then the interim successor must be from that Classis.

Section 4.4 Termination of Directorship. A Directorship shall be terminated upon the occurrence of any of the following:

(a) Resignation given in writing to the President of the Board and the Executive Director of the Denomination;

(b) Upon the unanimous vote of all Directors, other than the Director who may be terminated, and at a special general meeting of Directors called for that purpose;

(c) Upon the Director ceasing to be a member of a church in the applicable Classis if the Director is a Classical Director; or

(d) Upon failure to attend two consecutive Board meetings without prior notice to the Secretary.

Section 4.5 Meetings of Board of Directors. The Directors will conduct an annual meeting of the Board following the annual meeting of Synod. In addition, the Board will hold at least one other regular meeting each year. The President of the Board of Directors shall call additional special meetings of the Board if requested in writing by at least one-third (1/3) of the Directors. Normally, an executive session is held at each regular meeting.

Section 4.6 Notice of Meetings. All Directors of the corporation are entitled to not less than fifteen (15) days' notice of all special Board of Director meetings. Notice shall be in writing and may be by electronic transmission. The notice shall contain sufficient information to allow a Director to determine what matters are to be deliberated.

Section 4.7 Meetings by Electronic Conference. If all persons who are members of the Board or a committee (as the case requires) consent and each has adequate access, then they may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by means of a conference telephone, video conference, or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other; and a person participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

Provided that at the outset of each such meeting, and whenever votes are required, the chair of the meeting shall call roll to establish quorum, and shall, whenever not satisfied that such meeting may proceed with adequate security and confidentiality, unless a majority of the persons present at such meeting otherwise require, adjourn the meeting to a predetermined date, time, and place.

Section 4.8 Quorum and Voting. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of business at a Board of Directors meeting. Each Director present at a meeting shall have the right to exercise one (1) vote, but the Director serving as chair at a meeting votes only in the event of a tie vote. At all meetings of Directors of the corporation every question shall be determined by a majority of votes present, unless otherwise specifically provided by the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

Section 4.9 Location of Meetings. The meetings of the Board of Directors of the corporation shall be held at the home office of the corporation or elsewhere in Canada or the United States, as the Board of Directors may by resolution determine or as the President may determine.

Section 4.10 Borrowing. The Directors of the corporation may enter into a banking relationship, without authorization of the Members, to:

- (a) borrow money on the credit of the corporation;
- (b) issue, reissue, sell, pledge, or hypothecate debt obligations of the corporation;
- (c) give a guarantee on behalf of the corporation; and

(d) mortgage, hypothecate, pledge, or otherwise create a security interest in all or any property of the corporation, owned or subsequently acquired, to secure any debt obligation of the corporation.

Section 4.11 Remuneration. Directors shall not receive any remuneration for their services but may be reimbursed for expenses for their attendance at regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 5.1 Officers Generally. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers that the Board may elect or appoint. Except as otherwise provided under any Ecclesiastical Requirements, the Board of Directors shall appoint the Officers. All officers must be Directors and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualify or until their resignation or removal. The Board of Directors may remove an officer by vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5.2 President. The President shall have the authority and responsibilities as are prescribed from time to time by Synod, any relevant Ecclesiastical Requirements, and/or the Board of Directors. The duties of the President shall include the following:

- (a) Preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (b) Perform other duties as the Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

The President also shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the President's duties.

Section 5.3 Vice-President. The Vice-President shall have the authority and responsibilities of the President when the President is absent. The duties of the Vice-President shall include the following:

- (a) In the absence of the President, to serve in place of the President and perform those responsibilities of the President outlined under Section 5.2 of this Article V.
- (b) Perform other duties as the Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the President's duties. The Vice-President shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of any other duties that the Board of Directors assigns to the Vice-President.

Section 5.4 Secretary. The Secretary shall call meetings of the Board of Directors consistent with the Ecclesiastical Requirements and the requirements of the Act. The Board may assign other duties to the Secretary from time to time. The Secretary shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the

corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the Secretary's duties. The Secretary may delegate all or some portion of the duties of Secretary to a staff member.

Section 5.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the authority, duties, and responsibilities as are prescribed from time to time under the Ecclesiastical Requirements and/or by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep the books, records, and accounts of the corporation and shall render appropriate accountings to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the Treasurer's duties. The Treasurer may delegate all or some portion of the duties of Treasurer to a staff member.

Section 5.6 Corporate Officers. The corporation shall have corporate officers performing such duties as Synod and the Board determine from time to time. Synod previously has approved the position of Executive Director of the Denomination to be filled by an individual (a) approved by Synod to be accountable to the Board of Directors and (b) responsible for the general operations of the corporation between meetings of the Board of Directors and the Members. The Executive Director is an authorized signatory for the corporation.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 6.1 Generally. The Board of Directors may form standing and ad hoc committees as are necessary for the corporation to carry out the purposes outlined under Article I, Section 1.2 of these Bylaws. The committees shall perform those duties which are delegated by the Board of Directors. In addition, the COD will determine from time to time the membership of various joint committees comprised of individuals from Classes located in the United States and in Canada (the "Joint Committees"). This corporation will have committees that correspond to the same Joint Committees as the COD determines from time to time (the "U.S. Committees"). The individuals from Classes located in the United States appointed to serve on the Joint Committees will be deemed to be acting on the U.S. Committees for purposes of applying the benefits and protections available to committee members under the Act.

Section 6.2 Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be a standing committee of this corporation and shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The individuals who occupy the following positions for the Denomination shall be *ex officio* without vote: Executive Director or a designee, Director of Ministries and Administration, and Director of Finance and Operations. The Executive Committee shall fulfill such tasks as are assigned to it by the Board of Directors and act on behalf of the Board between meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee will not act on matters that are significant and that can be deferred until the next meeting of the Board as a whole. Any action taken in the interim by the Executive Committee must be ratified by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII LIABILITY PROTECTION; INDEMNIFICATION

Section 7.1 Protection from Corporate Obligations. No Director, officer, employee, or agent is personally liable for obligations of the corporation, except as applicable law requires otherwise.

Section 7.2 Volunteer Protection from Personal Actions. To the extent the articles describe, volunteer Directors, officers, and other volunteers are protected against personal liability for actions taken on the corporation's behalf.

Section 7.3 Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the corporation will indemnify all Directors and officers and may indemnify employees and other agents. The board may purchase insurance, advance expenses, and take all other appropriate actions to exercise these powers.

ARTICLE VIII NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Section 8.1 Permitted Methods. Notice may be given only in one or more of the following methods:

- (a) hand delivery
- (b) U.S. first-class, registered, or certified mail
- (c) electronic transmission if the recipient consents as described below.

Section 8.2 Addresses and Expense. Unless otherwise provided by law, any notice or other communication required or permitted under these By-laws must

- (a) be in writing,
- (b) have its delivery expenses prepaid by the sender,
- (c) for notices given by the Secretary on the corporation's behalf, be addressed to the address most recently received by the Secretary from the recipient,
- (d) for notices given to the corporation, be addressed to the Secretary's attention unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. If the sender holds the office of Secretary, that sender must give the notice to the President. If that sender also holds the office of the President, that sender must give the notice to each Director, and
- (e) for notices of meetings, describe the means of communication by which the recipient may participate.

For purposes of these Bylaws, "address" has the meaning given under Section 450.2143 of the Act.

Section 8.3 Option for Electronic Methods. By written notice containing the recipient's electronic mail or facsimile address, a recipient may authorize the sender to give notices and other communications to that recipient by electronic mail or facsimile.

Section 8.4 Effective Date of Notice. Notice given on the corporation's behalf (i) that is mailed by first-class, registered, or certified mail is deemed given when deposited in the U.S. Postal Service, postage prepaid, and (ii) that is sent by electronic transmission is deemed given when electronically transmitted to the person entitled to the notice in a manner that person authorized, and (iii) that is hand delivered is deemed given when handed to the recipient by the sender or left at the recipient's address in either a mailbox or with a person the sender reasonably believes will deliver the notice to the recipient.

ARTICLE IX FISCAL YEAR

The Board of Directors may fix the fiscal year for the corporation from time to time.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

The Board of Directors may amend these Bylaws by a majority vote of all of the Board of Directors.

CERTIFICATE

I, Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, certify that these Restated Bylaws were adopted as the Bylaws of this corporation on _____, 2017.

Dated: _____, 2017 _____
Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director

Appendix B Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions Resolutions for Merger

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of this corporation (a) approves the merger of this corporation and Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America ("CRWM") into the Christian Reformed Church in North America ("CRCNA") consistent with the terms of the Plan and Agreement of Merger in the form attached to these minutes as Attachment #1 (the "Plan and Agreement of Merger"), (b) recommends to the Synod ("Synod") of the Christian Reformed Church in North America that it approve the merger of this corporation and CRWM into the CRCNA consistent with the Plan and Agreement of Merger, and, (c) contingent upon Synod's approval of the Plan and Agreement of Merger, instructs legal counsel to file the Certificate of Merger in the form attached to these minutes as Attachment #2 with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs—Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing Bureau (the "Certificate of Merger").

Grounds: The following grounds support the resolution:

1. At its 2016 annual meeting, Synod approved the merger of this corporation with CRWM. The Board of Trustees (the “BOT”) of the CRCNA now is recommending to Synod that this corporation and CRWM be merged into the CRCNA.
2. The grounds that supported Synod’s decision to merge this corporation and CRWM are advanced to an even greater degree if this corporation and CRWM are merged into the CRCNA.
3. The Plan and Agreement of Merger and the Certificate of Merger are the means by which this corporation and CRWM are merged into the CRCNA.

Appendix C

Christian Reformed World Missions in the United States of America Resolutions for Merger

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of this corporation (a) approves the merger of this corporation and the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions (“CRHM”) into the Christian Reformed Church in North America (“CRCNA”) consistent with the terms of the Plan and Agreement of Merger in the form attached to these minutes as Attachment #1 (the “Plan and Agreement of Merger”), (b) recommends to the Synod (“Synod”) of the Christian Reformed Church in North America that it approve the merger of this corporation and CRHM into the CRCNA consistent with the Plan and Agreement of Merger, and, (c) contingent upon Synod’s approval of the Plan and Agreement of Merger, instructs legal counsel to file the Certificate of Merger in the form attached to these minutes as Attachment #2 with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs—Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing Bureau (the “Certificate of Merger”).

Grounds: The following grounds support the resolution:

1. At its 2016 annual meeting, Synod approved the merger of this corporation with CRHM. The Board of Trustees (the “BOT”) of the CRCNA now is recommending to Synod that this corporation and CRHM be merged into the CRCNA.
2. The grounds that supported Synod’s decision to merge this corporation and CRHM are advanced to an even greater degree if this corporation and CRHM are merged into the CRCNA.
3. The Plan and Agreement of Merger and the Certificate of Merger are the means by which this corporation and CRHM are merged into the CRCNA.

Appendix D-1

Christian Reformed Church in North America Resolutions for Merger And to Adopt Restated Bylaws

RESOLVED, that Board of Trustees of this corporation (“BOT”) (a) approves the merger of the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions

("CRHM") and Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America ("CRWM") into this corporation consistent with the terms of the Plan and Agreement of Merger in the form attached to these minutes as Appendix E (the "Plan and Agreement of Merger"), (b) recommends to the Synod ("Synod") of the Christian Reformed Church in North America that it approve the merger of CRHM and CRWM into this corporation consistent with the Plan and Agreement of Merger, and, (c) contingent upon Synod's approval of the Plan and Agreement of Merger, instructs legal counsel to file the Certificate of Merger in the form attached to these minutes as Appendix D-2 with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs—Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing Bureau (the "Certificate of Merger").

Grounds: The following grounds support the resolution:

1. At its 2016 annual meeting, Synod approved the merger of CRHM and CRWM. The BOT is recommending to Synod that CRHM and CRWM be merged into this corporation.
2. The grounds that supported Synod's decision to merge CRHM and CRWM are advanced to an even greater degree if CRHM and CRWM are merged into this corporation.
3. The Plan and Agreement of Merger and the Certificate of Merger are the means by which CRHM and CRWM are merged into this corporation.

RESOLVED, that the corporation (a) adopts the Restated Bylaws in the form attached to these minutes as Appendix A (the "Restated Bylaws") as the Bylaws of this corporation and (b) recommends to Synod that it approve the Restated Bylaws as the Bylaws for this corporation.

Grounds: The following grounds support the resolution:

1. The BOT is recommending to Synod that it adopt a revised form of ecclesiastical government under which a Council of Delegates (the "COD") will be the governing board for this corporation and Back to God Ministries International.
2. The Restated Bylaws are the means by which the COD delegates from the United States will become the governing body for this corporation.

Appendix D-2 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES & COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU																			
Date Received	(FOR BUREAU USE ONLY)																		
	This document is effective on the date filed, unless a subsequent effective date within 90 days after received																		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding: 2px;">Name</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding: 2px;">Kenneth G. Hofman; MILLER JOHNSON</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding: 2px;">Address</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding: 2px;">250 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Suite 800</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">City</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">State</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">ZIP Code</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Grand Rapids</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">MI</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">49503</td> </tr> </table>		Name			Kenneth G. Hofman; MILLER JOHNSON			Address			250 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Suite 800			City	State	ZIP Code	Grand Rapids	MI	49503
Name																			
Kenneth G. Hofman; MILLER JOHNSON																			
Address																			
250 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Suite 800																			
City	State	ZIP Code																	
Grand Rapids	MI	49503																	
<p style="text-align: center;">Document will be returned to the name and address you enter above. If left blank, document will be returned to the registered office.</p>																			
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">EFFECTIVE DATE:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Expiration date for new assumed names: December 31,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Expiration date for transferred assumed names appears in Item 6.</td> </tr> </table>		EFFECTIVE DATE:	Expiration date for new assumed names: December 31,	Expiration date for transferred assumed names appears in Item 6.															
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Expiration date for transferred assumed names appears in Item 6.																			

CERTIFICATE OF MERGER

For use by Domestic Profit and Nonprofit Corporations

(Please read information and instructions on the last page)

Pursuant to the provisions of Act 284, Public Acts of 1972, (profit corporations), or Act 162, Public Acts of 1982 (nonprofit corporations), the undersigned corporation(s) executes the following Certificate:

1. The Plan of Merger is as follows:			
a. The name of each constituent corporation and its identification number is:			
Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America		838261	
The Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions		791015	
<u>The Christian Reformed Church in North America</u>		<u>792015</u>	
b. The name of the constituent corporation that will be the surviving corporation and its identification number is:			
<u>The Christian Reformed Church in North America</u>		<u>792015</u>	
c. For each constituent stock corporation, state:			
	Designation and number of outstanding shares of each class and series	Indicate classes and series of shares that are entitled to vote	Indicate each class and series that is entitled to vote as a class, if any
Name of corporation			

If the number of shares is subject to change prior to the effective date of the merger, the manner in which the change may occur is as follows:			

2. Complete for Nonprofit Corporations Only

- a) For each corporation organized on a membership basis, state (a) the name of the corporation, (b) a description of its members, and (c) the number, classification and voting rights of its members.
- a. Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America, The Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions and The Christian Reformed Church in North America
 - b. The members are delegates to the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, a Michigan ecclesiastical corporation.
 - c. Each corporation has one class of members, each with one equal vote.
- b) For each corporation organized on a directorship basis, state (a) the name of the corporation, (b) a description of the organization of its board, and (c) the number, classification and voting rights of its directors.

- c) State the terms and conditions of the proposed merger.

The surviving corporation shall continue to be organized on a membership basis. The separate corporate existence of Christian Reformed World Missions in the United States of America and the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions' shall cease, and any future transactions and operations shall be made through the surviving corporation. All assets and obligations belonging to or due either of Christian Reformed World Missions in the United States of America and the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions shall be vested in and become the obligations of the surviving corporation.

- d) Other provisions with respect to the merger are as follows:

3. a) State the manner and basis of converting the shares of or membership or other interest in, each constituent corporation into shares, obligations, or other securities of or membership or other interest in the surviving corporation, or into cash or other consideration.
- The members will remain the same.

- b) The amendments to the Articles or a restatement of the Articles of the surviving corporation to be effected by the merger are as follows:
- Article V shall be amended consistent with Attachment 1.

4. The corporation has complied with the applicable provision of the law of the jurisdiction where it is organized.

5. (Complete only if a later effective date is desired other than the date of filing. The date must be no more than 90 days after receipt of this document in this office.) The merger shall be effective as of July 1, 2017.

The Plan of Merger was adopted by the board of each constituent under section 701.

The Plan of Merger will be furnished by the surviving corporation, on request and without cost, to any shareholder or member of any constituent corporation.

6. The assumed names being transferred to continue for the remaining effective period of the Certificate of Assumed Name on file prior to the merger are:

Assumed Name	Corporation Transferred from	Expiration Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Nonsurvivor name to be used as assumed name of survivor:

Christian Reformed World Missions in the United States of America

The Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions

7. (Complete only section (a), (b), or (c) for each corporation).

a) The Plan of Merger was approved by unanimous consent of the incorporators of _____, a Michigan corporation which has not commenced business, has not issued shares or memberships, and has not elected a Board of Directors.

(Signature of Incorporator) (Type or Print Name) (Signature of Incorporator) (Type or Print Name)

(Signature of Incorporator) (Type or Print Name) (Signature of Incorporator) (Type or Print Name)

b) The Plan of Merger was approved by the shareholders or members of the following Michigan corporation(s) in accordance with section 703a of the Act.
Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America
The Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions and the Christian Reformed Church in North America

By _____ By _____
(Signature of Authorized Officer or Agent) (Signature of Authorized Officer or Agent)

(Type or Print Name) (Type or Print Name)

Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America The Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions
(Name of Corporation) (Name of Corporation)

By _____ By _____
(Signature of Authorized Officer or Agent) (Signature of Authorized Officer or Agent)

(Type or Print Name) (Type or Print Name)

The Christian Reformed Church in North America _____
(Name of Corporation) (Name of Corporation)

Preparer's Name Kenneth G. Hofman

Business telephone number (616) 831-1721

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. The merger cannot be filed until this form, or a comparable document, is submitted.
2. Submit one original of this document. Upon filing, the document will be added to the records of the Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau. The original will be returned to the surviving corporation's registered office address unless you enter a different address in the box on the front of this document.

Since this document will be maintained on electronic format, it is important that the filing be legible. Documents with poor black and white contrast, or otherwise illegible, will be rejected.

3. The Certificate is to be used pursuant to sections 701 through 707 of 1982 PA 162, section 735 of 1982 PA 162, and section 701 through 707 of 1972 PA 284 for the purpose of merging a domestic nonprofit corporation with one or more domestic nonprofit corporations, foreign nonprofit corporations, domestic profit corporations, or foreign profit corporations.
4. If more than two corporations are merging, the Certificate may be adjusted as necessary, or the format may be used as a guide in drafting your own certificate. If additional space is required for any section, continue the section on an attachment.
5. All nonprofit corporations, unless organized for religious purposes, must obtain consent to the merger or a written statement that consent is not required from the Attorney General's Office and submit it with this certificate. Contact the Charitable Trust Section, Consumer Protection Division, Department of Attorney General, P.O. Box 30214, Lansing, MI 48909 or phone (517) 373-1152. Application for the consent should be made at least 120 days before the desired effective date of the merger. This certificate cannot be filed unless it is accompanied by either the written consent of the Attorney General or an affidavit attesting to the submission of a written request to the Attorney General for consent to the filing and the failure of the Attorney General to respond within 120 days.

6. Signatures:

Profit Corporations: Complete either Item 7(a) or 7(b)

- 1) Item 7(a): must be signed by at least a majority of the incorporators listed in the Articles of Incorporation.
- 2) Item 7(b): must be signed by an authorized officer or agent.

Nonprofit Corporations: Complete either Item 7(a), (b), OR (c)

- 1) Item 7(a): must be signed by at least a majority of the incorporators listed in the Articles of Incorporation.
- 2) Item 7(b) or (c): must be signed by an authorized officer or agent.

7. **FEES:** Make remittance payable to the State of Michigan. Include corporation name and identification number on check or money order.

NONREFUNDABLE FEE: This fee must be remitted for each domestic corporation involved in the merger.....\$50.00

Each new assumed name.....\$10.00

ADDITIONAL FEES DUE FOR INCREASED AUTHORIZED SHARES OF PROFIT CORPORATIONS ARE:

<u>Amount of Increase</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1-60,000	\$50.00
60,001-1,000,000	\$100.00
1,000,001-5,000,000	\$300.00
5,000,001-10,000,000	\$500.00
More than 10,000,000	\$500.00 for first 10,000,000 plus \$1000.00 for each additional 10,000,000, or portion thereof

Submit with check or money order by mail:
 Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
 Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau
 Corporations Division
 P.O. Box 30054
 Lansing, MI 48909

To submit in person:
 2501 Woodlake Circle
 Okemos, MI
 Telephone: (517) 241-6470
 Fees may be paid by check, money order, VISA, Mastercard or Discover when delivered in person to our office.

MICH-ELF (Michigan Electronic Filing System):
 First Time Users: Call (517) 241-6470, or visit our website at <http://www.michigan.gov/corporations>
 Customer with MICH-ELF Filer Account: Send document to (517) 636-6437

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.
 Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Optional expedited service.

Expedited review and filing, if fileable, is available for all documents for profit corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships and nonprofit corporations.

The nonrefundable expedited service fee is in addition to the regular fees applicable to the specific document.

Please complete a separate CSCL/CD-272 form for expedited service for each document submitted in person, by mail or MICH-ELF.

24-hour service - \$50 for formation documents and applications for certificate of authority.

24-hour service - \$100 for any document concerning an existing entity.

Same day service

- **Same day - \$100 for formation documents and applications for certificate of authority.**
- **Same day - \$200 for any document concerning an existing entity.**

Review completed on day of receipt. Document and request for same day expedited service must be received by 1 p.m. EST OR EDT.

- **Two hour - \$500**

Review completed within two hours on day of receipt. Document and request for two hour expedited service must be received by 3 p.m. EST OR EDT.

- **One hour - \$1000**

Review completed within one hour on day of receipt. Document and request for 1 hour expedited service must be received by 4 p.m. EST OR EDT.

First time MICH-ELF user requesting expedited service must obtain a MICH-ELF filer number prior to submitting a document for expedited service. CSCL/CD-901.

Changes to information on MICH-ELF user's account must be submitted before requesting expedited service. CSCL/CD-901.

Documents submitted by mail are delivered to a remote location for receipts processing and are then forwarded to the Corporation Division for review. Day of receipt for mailed expedited service requests is the day the Corporation Division receives the request.

Rev. 8/15

Appendix D-3

ARTICLE V CORPORATE PURPOSES

This corporation is a nonprofit, ecclesiastical corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law) (the "Code"). The purposes of the corporation are the following:

1. To be the legal identity in the United States of the religious denomination, the Christian Reformed Church in North America (the "Denomination").
2. Through the members of its Board of Directors participating in the Denomination's Council of Delegates, to:

- a. Transact all matters assigned to it by the Synod of the Denomination (“Synod”).
 - b. Lead the ministries that support congregations of the Denomination in light of the mission, vision, and callings that Synod establishes, providing recommendations to Synod when the mission, vision, and or callings need to be reconsidered.
 - c. Provide the criteria (goals) and evaluation of progress toward such goals under a ministry plan for the unified ministry of the Denomination, with particular focus for the United States, while establishing the contours within which personnel pursue such goals.
 - d. Cooperate with the Denomination’s educational institutions (Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary), and with World Renew toward integrating the respective missions of those institutions into the Denomination’s ministry program.
 - e. Lead (and coordinate with the separately-incorporated agencies) agencies of the Denomination that Synod has established or will establish and whose domestic and international ministries of evangelism, faith formation and church planting and strengthening extend the Denomination’s witness around the world.
 - f. Ensure the financial integrity of the Denomination’s agencies and ministries, providing appropriate financial management and advancement policies, with particular focus on the United States, within which personnel function.
 - g. Identify when necessary, evaluate regularly, and support constructively the administrative leaders of the Denomination, with a particular focus on leaders and activities of the Denomination.
 - h. Perform an intermediary role with three functions: (a) convey inputs for effective ministry from congregations and their members; (b) report back to classes and churches regarding work done by denominational ministries to achieve shared ministry goals; and (c) assist churches to discern changing context and other factors that affect effective ministry; all to achieve shared goals for ministry expressed in the vision and ministry plan for the whole Denomination.
 - i. Attend to the organizational structure and health of the Denomination by developing policies of assessment (e.g., Ministry Plan counts and measures, personnel surveys, etc.), reviewing outcomes, and addressing goals and policies as needed.
3. To do all other lawful acts and things necessary to fulfill the mandate and mission of the corporation.

This corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

The corporation has not been formed for pecuniary profit or gain. No part of the assets, income, or profit of the corporation are for the benefit of its

members, directors, or officers. However, the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of these purposes set forth in this Article V.

No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Appendix E Plan and Agreement of Merger

THIS PLAN AND AGREEMENT OF MERGER (“Agreement”) is made on _____, 2017, to be effective as of July 1, 2017 (the “Effective Date”), between **THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS**, a Michigan nonprofit corporation (“CRHM”) and **CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD MISSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, a Michigan nonprofit corporation (“CRWM”) and **THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA** (“CRCNA”) (each a “Constituent Corporation,” and collectively the “Constituent Corporations”).

Recitals

A. CRHM, CRWM, and CRCNA are each Michigan membership-based nonprofit corporations and public charities that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The members of each Constituent Corporation are the delegates to the Synod (“Synod”) of the Protestant religious denomination known as the Christian Reformed Church in North America (the “Denomination”).

B. CRHM and CRWM presently are each agencies of the Denomination. The CRCNA is the legal embodiment of the Denomination in the United States.

C. Subject to the affirmative vote of each Board of Directors of the Constituent Corporations and the affirmative vote of Synod, CRHM, CRWM, and CRCNA are entering into this Agreement to outline the terms under which CRHM and CRWM will merge into CRCNA as of the Effective Date.

Agreement

In consideration of these facts and the mutual covenants contained in this Agreement, the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 THE MERGER

1.1 CRHM and CRWM will be merged into CRCNA consistent with the requirements of Michigan law.

1.2 CRCNA shall be the Surviving Corporation (the “Surviving Corporation”).

1.3 After the merger, the Surviving Corporation shall continue to be named the Christian Reformed Church in North America, a Michigan non-profit corporation that shall continue to be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE II CORPORATE STRUCTURE OF PARTIES/APPROVAL OF MERGER

2.1 The Constituent Corporations are organized under Michigan law as follows:

2.1.1 CRWM: One class of members, each with one equal vote. Members are delegates to Synod.

2.1.2 CRHM: One class of members, each with one equal vote. Members are delegates to Synod.

2.1.3 CRCNA: One class of members, each with one equal vote. Members are delegates to Synod.

After the merger, the Surviving Corporation shall be organized on a membership basis.

2.2 The merger is subject to each of the following:

2.2.1 A majority of the directors of each Board of Directors of the Constituent Corporations adopting resolutions to approve the merger at properly called Board of Director meetings.

2.2.2 A majority of the members of each of the Constituent Corporations adopting resolutions to approve the merger at a properly called membership meeting.

ARTICLE III ARTICLES AND BYLAWS

The Articles of Incorporation of the Surviving Corporation will not be amended. The attached Restated Bylaws shall be the governing Bylaws of the Surviving Corporation after the merger.

ARTICLE IV DIRECTORS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors of the Surviving Corporation shall be comprised of the individuals whom Synod selects to be on the Council of Delegates described under the Restated Bylaws (the "COD"). The Surviving Corporation shall have an Executive Committee that is able to carry out the objectives of the Board of Directors between meetings. The initial Executive Committee following the Effective Date will be comprised of eight individuals whom Synod selects.

**ARTICLE V
EFFECT OF THE MERGER**

5.1 The effect of the merger shall be as provided by the applicable provisions of the laws of Michigan. As of the Effective Date, without any further act or deed:

5.1.1. The separate existence of each of CRHM and CRWM shall cease, and any future transactions and operations shall be made with the Surviving Corporation.

5.1.2. CRCNA shall be the Surviving Corporation but shall operate consistent with the Restated Bylaws attached to this Agreement.

5.1.3. All assets and obligations belonging to or due of CRHM and CRWM shall be vested in and become the obligations of the Surviving Corporation.

5.1.4. The Surviving Corporation shall receive all assets and funds from CRHM and CRWM, subject to any and all restrictions already in place, and the Surviving Corporation shall assume any obligations associated with administering and accounting for those assets and funds.

5.2 If, after the Merger's Effective Date, the Surviving Corporation shall determine that further conveyances, agreements, documents, instruments, or any other actions are necessary or desirable to vest, perfect, confirm, or record in the Surviving Corporation the title to any property, rights, privileges, and powers of CRHM and CRWM, or to otherwise carry out the provisions of this Agreement, the appropriate directors and officers last in office for CRHM and CRWM shall (a) execute and deliver any and all proper conveyances, agreements, documents, instruments, and assurances of law and (b) do all things necessary or proper to vest, perfect, or confirm title to the Surviving Corporation's property, rights, privileges, and powers and otherwise to carry out the provisions of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE VI
MERGER'S EFFECTIVE DATE**

As used in this Agreement, the "Effective Date" means July 1, 2017.

**ARTICLE V
MISCELLANEOUS**

7.1 Third Party Beneficiaries. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, nothing expressed or implied in this Agreement is intended or shall be construed to confer on or give any person, firm, or corporation, other than the specific Constituent Corporations listed above, any rights or remedies under or by reason of this Agreement.

7.2 Successors and Assigns. All the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon, shall inure to the benefit of, and shall be enforceable by the respective heirs, beneficiaries, personal representatives, successors, and assigns of the parties to this Agreement.

7.3 Entire Agreement. This Agreement contains all the terms of the agreement between the parties with respect to its subject matter and may be amended only by a writing signed by all of the parties to this Agreement.

7.4 Counterpart Executions; Facsimiles and Electronic Mail. The parties may execute this Agreement in any number of counterparts with the same effect as if both parties had signed the same physical document. Each party may transmit the executed copies in an imaged format to the other party by facsimile or electronic mail, and the imaged copies shall have the same effect as if both parties had signed the same physical document. All executed counterparts, whether originals or copies sent by facsimile, electronic mail, or a combination, shall be construed together and shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD
MISSIONS OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA
By _____
Its _____

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED
BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
By _____
Its _____

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA
By _____
Its _____

Appendix F
Draft Restated Bylaws (3.18.2017) of Back To God Ministries International: U.S.A.

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RESTATED BYLAWS

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSES

Section 1.1 Name. This corporation is known as Back to God Ministries International.

Section 1.2 Purposes. The corporation is a nonprofit corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law) (the "Code"). The purpose of this corporation is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world through the strategic use of media on behalf of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (the "Denomination") under the direction of the Synod of the Denomination ("Synod").

This corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

The corporation has not been formed for pecuniary profit or gain. No part of the assets, income, or profit of the corporation are for the benefit of its members, directors, or officers. However, the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Article I, Section 1.2 of these Bylaws.

No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE II GOVERNANCE

This corporation is an agency of the Denomination and is subject to the authority of Synod and its appointed governing body, the Council of Delegates (the "COD"). The Denomination's Church Order ("Church Order"), its Rules for Synodical Procedure ("Rules for Synodical Procedure"), and the mandates of Synod shall regulate the ecclesiastical organization and operation of this corporation. Collectively, Church Order, the Rules for Synodical Procedure, and the mandates of Synod shall be referred to as the "Ecclesiastical Requirements." Consistent with Church Order, the Denomination is comprised of member churches which are grouped into regional Classes (each a "Classis," and collectively the "Classes").

The Denomination is a binational ecclesiastical body, with Classes in the United States and in Canada. This corporation has a Canadian counterpart which is formed as a nonprofit corporation under Canadian law (the "Canadian Corporation"). The Canadian Corporation and this corporation have entered into a Joint Ministries Agreement (the "JMA") under which the Canadian Corporation and this corporation have outlined structural and procedural requirements for the Denomination to act binationally.

ARTICLE III MEMBERS

Section 3.1 Membership Corporation. The corporation is organized as a membership corporation under the Illinois General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, as amended (the "Act"). The Members of this corporation are the delegates to Synod from Classes located in the United States who are elected annually consistent with Church Order Article 45, as Synod may amend from time to time.

Section 3.2 Meetings of Members. The Members shall meet annually at the time and place as determined consistent with Church Order.

Section 3.3 Action by Consent. Any action required by the Act to be taken at any annual or special meeting of the Members, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of the Members, may be taken by ballot without a meeting in writing by mail, e-mail, or any other electronic means through which the Members are given the opportunity to vote for or against the proposed action, and the action receives approval by a majority of the Members

casting votes, or such larger number as may be required by the Act, provided that the number of Members casting votes would constitute a quorum if such action had been taken at a meeting of the Members.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4.1 Generally. The Directors of this corporation shall be those individuals who are selected to serve on the COD from each Classis located in the United States (the “Classical Delegates”) and any at-large members of the COD who are from the United States (the “At-Large Delegates”). The Denomination has binational Classes, such as Classis Lake Superior. In the event that the individual selected to serve on the COD from a binational Classis is a member of a congregation in the United States, then that individual also shall be a voting Director of this corporation. In the event that the individual selected to serve on the COD from a binational Classis is a member of a congregation in Canada, then the congregations from the United States in that Classis may appoint a nonvoting liaison to the COD. In that event, the liaison will be a nonvoting Director of this corporation. As a result, the number of voting Directors shall be equal to the sum of the number of Classes in the United States that Synod determines from time to time plus any individual selected to serve on the COD from a binational Classis who is a member of a congregation in the United States (if any) plus the number of any at-large members of the COD who are from the United States. The Executive Director of the Denomination, the Director of Finance and Operations of the Denomination or a designee, and the Agency Director of this corporation shall be *ex officio* without vote. The Board of Directors of this Corporation shall be the governing body of the corporation and shall deliberate and determine issues that are in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation, other than issues that are reserved to the Members, either at law or under the Ecclesiastical Requirements.

Section 4.2 Term of Directorship. Directors shall serve for a term of three years. Directors may serve successive terms. However, a Director’s term is not to exceed the maximum of six consecutive years.

Section 4.3 Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy on the Board due to resignation or removal of a Director, the COD may select an interim successor (in consultation with the Classis when filling a Classis Director vacancy) who will serve until the Members can elect a Director at the next meeting of Synod to fill the unexpired term. If the vacancy is due to the resignation of a Classical Director, then the interim successor must be from that Classis.

Section 4.4 Termination of Directorship. A Directorship shall be terminated upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- (a) Resignation given in writing to the President of the Board and the Executive Director of the Denomination;
- (b) Through the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of Directors at a special general meeting of Directors called for that purpose;

(c) Upon the Director ceasing to be a member of a church in the applicable Classis if the Director is a Classical Director; or

(d) Upon failure to attend two consecutive Board meetings without prior notice to the Secretary.

Section 4.5 Meetings of Board of Directors. The Directors will conduct an annual meeting of the Board following the annual meeting of Synod. In addition, the Board will hold at least one other regular meeting each year. The President of the Board of Directors shall call additional special meetings of the Board if requested in writing by at least one-third (1/3) of the Directors. Normally an executive session is held at each regular meeting.

Section 4.6 Notice of Meetings. All Directors of the corporation are entitled to not less than fifteen (15) days' notice of all special Board of Director meetings. Notice shall be in writing and may be by electronic transmission. The notice shall contain sufficient information to allow a Director to determine what matters are to be deliberated.

Section 4.7 Meetings by Electronic Conference. If all persons who are members of the Board or a committee (as the case requires) consent and each has adequate access, then they may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by means of a conference telephone, video conference, or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other; and a person participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

Provided that at the outset of each such meeting, and whenever votes are required, the chair of the meeting shall call roll to establish quorum, and shall, whenever not satisfied that meeting may proceed with adequate security and confidentiality, unless a majority of the persons present at such meeting otherwise require, adjourn the meeting to a predetermined date, time, and place.

Section 4.8 Quorum and Voting. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of business at a Board of Directors meeting. Each Director present at a meeting shall have the right to exercise one (1) vote, but the Director serving as chair at a meeting votes only in the event of a tie. At all meetings of Directors of the corporation every question shall be determined by a majority of votes present, unless otherwise specifically provided by the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

Section 4.9 Location of Meetings. The meetings of the Board of Directors of the corporation shall be held at the home office of the corporation or elsewhere in Canada or the United States, as the Board of Directors may by resolution determine or as the President may determine.

Section 4.10 Borrowing. The Directors of the corporation may enter into a banking relationship, without authorization of the Members, to

(a) borrow money on the credit of the corporation;

(b) issue, reissue, sell, pledge, or hypothecate debt obligations of the corporation;

(c) give a guarantee on behalf of the corporation; and

(d) mortgage, hypothecate, pledge, or otherwise create a security interest in all or any property of the corporation, owned or subsequently acquired, to secure any debt obligation of the corporation.

Section 4.10 Remuneration. Directors shall not receive any remuneration for their services but may be reimbursed for expenses for their attendance at regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 5.1 Officers Generally. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers that the Board may elect or appoint. Except as otherwise provided under any Ecclesiastical Requirements, the Board of Directors shall appoint the Officers. All officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualify or until their resignation or removal. The Board of Directors may remove an officer by vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5.2 President. The President shall have the authority and responsibilities as are prescribed from time to time by Synod, any relevant Ecclesiastical Requirements, and/or the Board of Directors. The duties of the President shall include the following:

- (a) Preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (b) Perform other duties as the Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

The President also shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the President's duties.

Section 5.3 Vice-President. The Vice-President shall have the authority and responsibilities of the President when the President is absent. The duties of the Vice-President shall include the following:

- (a) In the absence of the President, to serve in place of the President and perform those responsibilities of the President outlined under Section 5.2 of this Article V.
- (b) Perform other duties as the Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the President's duties. The Vice-President shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of any other duties that the Board of Directors assigns to the Vice-President.

Section 5.4 Secretary. The Secretary shall call meetings of the Board of Directors consistent with the Ecclesiastical Requirements and the requirements of the Act. The Board may assign other duties to the Secretary from time to time. The Secretary shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the

corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the Secretary's duties. The Secretary may delegate all or some portion of the duties of Secretary to a staff member.

Section 5.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the authority, duties, and responsibilities as are prescribed from time to time under the Ecclesiastical Requirements and/or by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep the books, records, and accounts of the corporation and shall render appropriate accountings to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the Treasurer's duties. The Treasurer may delegate all or some portion of the duties of Treasurer to a staff member.

Section 5.6 Corporate Officers. The corporation shall have corporate officers performing such duties as Synod and the Board determine from time to time. Synod previously has approved the position of Executive Director of the Denomination to be filled by an individual (a) approved by Synod to be accountable to the Board of Directors and (b) responsible for the general operations of the corporation between meetings of the Board of Directors and the Members. The Executive Director is an authorized signatory for the corporation.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors may form standing and ad hoc committees as are necessary for the corporation to carry out the purposes outlined under Article I, Section 1.2 of these Bylaws. The committees shall perform those duties which are delegated by the Board of Directors. In addition, the COD will determine from time to time the membership of various joint committees comprised of individuals from Classes located in the United States and in Canada (the "Joint Committees"). This corporation will have committees that correspond to the same Joint Committees as the COD determines from time to time (the "U.S. Committees"). The individuals from Classes located in the United States appointed to serve on the Joint Committees will be deemed to be acting on the U.S. Committees for purposes of applying the benefits and protections available to committee members under the Act.

Section 6.1 Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be a standing committee of this corporation and shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The individuals who occupy the following positions for the Denomination shall be *ex officio* without vote: Executive Director or a designee, the Back to God Ministries International Director or a designee, and the Director of Finance and Operations or a designee. The Executive Committee shall fulfill such tasks as are assigned to it by the Board of Directors and act on behalf of the Board between meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee will not act on matters that are significant and that can be deferred until the next meeting of the Board as a whole. Any action taken in the interim by the Executive Committee must be ratified by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII LIABILITY PROTECTION; INDEMNIFICATION

Section 7.1 Protection from Corporate Obligations. No director, officer, employee, or agent is personally liable for obligations of the corporation, except as applicable law requires otherwise.

Section 7.2 Volunteer Protection from Personal Actions. To the extent the articles describe, volunteer directors, officers, and other volunteers are protected against personal liability for actions taken on the corporation's behalf.

Section 7.3 Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the corporation will indemnify all directors and officers and may indemnify employees and other agents. The board may purchase insurance, advance expenses, and take all other appropriate actions to exercise these powers.

ARTICLE VIII NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Section 8.1 Permitted Methods. Notice may be given only in one or more of the following methods:

- (a) hand delivery
- (b) U.S. first-class, registered, or certified mail
- (c) electronic transmission if the recipient consents as described below.

Section 8.2 Addresses and Expense. Unless otherwise provided by law, any notice or other communication required or permitted under these by-laws must

- (a) be in writing,
- (b) have its delivery expenses prepaid by the sender,
- (c) for notices given by the Secretary on the corporation's behalf, be addressed to the address most recently received by the Secretary from the recipient,
- (d) for notices given to the corporation, be addressed to the Secretary's attention unless otherwise provided in these bylaws. If the sender holds the office of Secretary, that sender must give the notice to the President. If that sender also holds the office of the President, that sender must give the notice to each director, and
- (e) for notices of meetings, describe the means of communication by which the recipient may participate.

For purposes of these Bylaws, "address" has the meaning given under Section 450.2143 of the Act.

Section 8.3 Option for Electronic Methods. By written notice containing the recipient's electronic mail or facsimile address, a recipient may authorize the sender to give notices and other communications to that recipient by electronic mail or facsimile.

Section 8.4 Effective Date of Notice. Notice given on the corporation's behalf (i) that is mailed by first-class, registered, or certified mail is deemed given when deposited in the U.S. Postal Service, postage prepaid, and (ii) that is sent by electronic transmission is deemed given when electronically transmitted to the person entitled to the notice in a manner that person authorized, and (iii) that is hand delivered is deemed given when handed to the recipient by the sender or left at the recipient's address in either a mailbox or with a person the sender reasonably believes will deliver the notice to the recipient.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

The Board of Directors may amend these Bylaws by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the corporation, Synod shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, distribute all the assets of the corporation consistent with one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the country in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

CERTIFICATE

I, Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, certify that these Restated Bylaws were adopted as the Bylaws of this corporation on _____, 2017.

Dated: _____, 2017 _____
Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director

Appendix G Back to God Ministries International Resolutions to Adopt Restated Bylaws

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of this corporation (a) adopts the Restated Bylaws in the form attached to these minutes as Attachment #1 (the "Restated Bylaws") as the Bylaws of this corporation and (b) recommends that the Synod ("Synod") of the Christian Reformed Church in North America ("CRCNA") approve the Restated Bylaws as the Bylaws for this corporation.

Grounds: The following grounds support the resolution:

1. The Board of Trustees (the “BOT”) of the CRCNA is recommending to Synod that it adopt a revised form of ecclesiastical government under which a Council of Delegates (the “COD”) will be the governing board for both the CRCNA and this corporation.
2. The Board of this corporation endorses the BOT’s recommendation.
3. The Restated Bylaws are the means by which the COD delegates from the United States will become the governing body for this corporation.

Appendix H

A Bylaw relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of

The Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation
(the “Corporation”)

BE IT ENACTED as a Bylaw of the Corporation as follows:

1. Definition

In this Bylaw and all other Bylaws of the Corporation, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Act**” means the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* S.C. 2009, c. 23, including the Regulations made pursuant to the Act, and any statute or regulations that may be substituted, as amended from time to time;

“**articles**” means the original or restated articles of incorporation or articles of amendment, amalgamation, continuance, reorganization, arrangement, or revival of the Corporation;

“**Board**” means the board of directors of the Corporation, and “**Director**” means a member of the board;

“**Bylaw**” means this Bylaw and any other Bylaw of the Corporation as amended and which are, from time to time, in force and effect;

“**Chief Executive Officer**” is the Canadian Ministries Director of the Denomination who directly serves the Corporation;

“**meeting of members**” includes an annual meeting of members or a special meeting of members;

“**special meeting of members**” includes a meeting of any class or classes of members and a special meeting of all members entitled to vote at an annual meeting of members;

“**ordinary resolution**” means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than 50 percent plus 1 of the votes cast on that resolution;

“**proposal**” means a proposal submitted by a member of the Corporation that meets the requirements of section 163 (Member Proposals) of the Act;

“**Regulations**” means the regulations made under the Act, as amended, restated, or in effect from time to time; and

“**special resolution**” means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on that resolution.

2. Purposes

The corporation is a nonprofit, ecclesiastical corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes, under the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* (S.C. 2009, c.23). The purposes of the Corporation are the following:

1. To be the legal identity in Canada of the religious denomination, the Christian Reformed Church in North America (the “Denomination”).
2. Through the members of its Board of Directors participating in the Council of Delegates (“COD”), to
 - i. Transact all matters assigned to it by the Synod of the Denomination (“Synod”).
 - ii. Lead the ministries that support congregations of the Denomination in light of the mission, vision, and callings that Synod establishes, providing recommendations to Synod when the mission, vision, and or callings need to be reconsidered.
 - iii. Provide the criteria (goals) and evaluation of progress toward such goals under a ministry plan for the unified ministry of the Denomination, with particular focus for Canada, while establishing the contours within which personnel pursue such goals.
 - iv. Cooperate with the Denomination’s educational institutions (Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary), and with World Renew toward integrating the respective missions of those institutions into the Denomination’s ministry program.
 - v. Lead (and coordinate with any separately incorporated agencies) agencies of the Denomination that Synod has established or will establish and whose domestic and international ministries of evangelism, faith formation, and church planting and strengthening extend the Denomination’s witness around the world.
 - vi. Ensure the financial integrity of the Denomination’s agencies and ministries, providing appropriate financial management and advancement policies, with particular focus on Canada, within which personnel function.
 - vii. Identify when necessary, evaluate regularly, and support constructively the administrative leaders, with a particular focus on leaders and activities in Canada, of the Denomination.
 - viii. Perform an intermediary role with three functions: (a) convey inputs for effective ministry from congregations and their members; (b) report back to classes and churches regarding work done by denominational ministries to achieve shared ministry goals; and

(c) assist churches to discern changing context and other factors that affect effective ministry; all to achieve shared goals for ministry expressed in the vision and ministry plan for the whole Denomination.

ix. Attend to the organizational structure and health of the Denomination by developing policies of assessment (e.g., Ministry Plan counts and measures, personnel surveys, etc.), reviewing outcomes, and addressing goals and policies as needed.

x. To do all other lawful acts and things necessary to fulfill the mandate and mission of the Corporation.

3. The Corporation has not been formed for pecuniary profit or gain. No part of the assets, income, or profit of the Corporation is for the benefit of its Members, Directors, or officers. However, the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth under Section 2 of these Bylaws.

4. The Corporation will comply with Canada Revenue Agency policies and regulations regarding the advocacy and public policy dialogue of registered charities.

3. Ecclesiastical Government

1. The Denomination's Church Order ("Church Order"), its Rules for Synodical Procedure ("Rules for Synodical Procedure"), and the mandates of Synod shall regulate the ecclesiastical organization and operation of the Corporation. Collectively, Church Order, the Rules for Synodical Procedure, and the mandates of Synod shall be referred to as the "Ecclesiastical Requirements." Consistent with Church Order, the Denomination is comprised of member churches which are grouped into regional Classes (each a "Classis," and collectively the "Classes").

2. The Denomination is a binational ecclesiastical body, with Classes in the United States and in Canada. The Corporation has an American counterpart which is formed as a nonprofit corporation under laws of the State of Michigan (the "American Corporation"). The American Corporation and the Corporation have entered into a Joint Ministries Agreement (the "JMA") under which the American Corporation and the Corporation have outlined structural and procedural requirements for the Denomination to act binationally. Synod has approved the creation of the COD, which governs the joint ministries and operations of the American Corporation and the Corporation.

4. Interpretation

1. In the interpretation of this Bylaw, words in the singular include the plural and vice-versa, words in one gender include all genders, and "person" includes an individual, body corporate, partnership, trust, and unincorporated organization.

2. Other than as specified above, words and expressions defined in the Act have the same meanings when used in these Bylaws.

5. Annual Financial Statements

1. The Corporation may, instead of sending copies of the annual financial statements and other documents referred to in subsection 172(1) (Annual Financial Statements) of the Act to the Members, publish a notice to its Members stating that the annual financial statements and documents provided in subsection 172(1) are available at the registered office of the Corporation, and any member may, on request, obtain a copy free of charge at the registered office or by prepaid mail.

6. Membership Conditions

1. The Members of the Corporation (“Members”) are those elected from time to time by Synod to serve on the Council of Delegates from Classes located in Canada or representing Canada at-large.
2. Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the Members is required to make any amendments to this section of the Bylaws if those amendments affect membership rights and/or conditions described in paragraphs 197(1)(e), (h), (l), or (m).

7. Place and Notice of Members’ Meeting

1. The Members shall be given notice and meet annually at the time and place as determined consistent with Church Order.
2. Subject to compliance with section 159 (Place of Members’ Meetings) of the Act, meetings of the Members may be held at any place within Canada determined by the board or, if all of the Members entitled to vote at such meeting so agree, outside Canada.
3. Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the Members is required to make any amendment to the Bylaws of the Corporation to change the manner of giving notice to Members entitled to vote at a meeting of Members.

8. Voting at Members’ Meetings

1. The Members shall vote consistent with *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

9. Directors

1. The Directors of the Corporation (“Directors”) shall be those serving on the COD from each Classis located in Canada (the “Classical Delegates”) and any at-large delegates of the COD who are from Canada (the “At-Large Delegates”) who are elected by the Members to serve as directors of the Corporation.
2. In the event that a binational classis elects a delegate that is a non-Canadian resident (or that is not a member of a Canadian congregation), the binational classis will recommend (or elect) a Canadian resident to serve on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
3. The individuals who occupy the following positions for the Denomination shall be *ex officio* staff without vote: Executive Director of the Denomination or a designee, Canadian Ministries Director, Director

of Finance and Operations or a designee, the Resonate Global Mission Canada Director, and, when appropriate, the Resonate Global Mission Director.

4. An individual is ineligible to serve as a Director if she/he has been convicted of a criminal or regulatory offence related to financial dishonesty or relevant to the operation of the organization. An individual who previously occupied a leadership position in an organization designated as a registered charity under *the Income Tax Act*, whose registration was revoked for a serious breach of the requirements for registration, is ineligible to serve as a Director of the Corporation.

5. The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be the governing body of the corporation and shall deliberate and determine issues that are in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation, other than issues that are reserved to the Members, either at law or under the Ecclesiastical Requirements.

6. The Canadian Ministries Director shall, subject to the authority and direction of the Board and President, be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. When acting as the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, the Canadian Ministries Director shall advise the Board of Directors and implement all orders, directions, and resolutions of the Board.

10. Term of Office of Directors

1. Directors shall serve for a term of three years. Directors may serve successive terms. However, a Director's term is not to exceed the maximum of six consecutive years.

11. Borrowing Powers of the Directors

1. The Directors of the Corporation may enter into banking relationships, without authorization of the Members, to

- (a) borrow money on the credit of the Corporation;
- (b) issue, reissue, sell, pledge, or hypothecate debt obligations of the Corporation;
- (c) give a guarantee on behalf of the Corporation; and
- (d) mortgage, hypothecate, pledge, or otherwise create a security interest in all or any property of the corporation, owned or subsequently acquired, to secure any debt obligation of the Corporation.

12. Remuneration of Directors

1. Directors shall not receive any remuneration for their services but may be reimbursed for expenses for their attendance at regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors.

13. Calling of Meetings of Board of Directors

1. The Directors will conduct an annual meeting of the Board following the annual meeting of Synod. In addition, the Board will hold at least

one other regular meeting each year. Normally, an *in camera* session is held at each annual meeting.

2. The President of the Board of Directors shall call additional special meetings of the Board if requested in writing by at least one-third (1/3) of the Directors.

3. Board Meetings by electronic conference. If all persons who are members of the Board consent and each has adequate access, then they may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of a conference telephone, video conference, or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to speak and hear each other, and a person participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

14. Notice of a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

1. All Directors of the Corporation are entitled to not less than fifteen (15) days' notice of all special Board of Director meetings. Notice shall be in writing and may be by electronic transmission. The notice shall contain sufficient information to allow a Director to determine what matters are to be deliberated.

15. Votes to Govern at Meetings of the Board of Directors

1. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of business at a Board of Directors meeting. Each Director present at a meeting shall have the right to exercise one (1) vote, but the Director serving as chair at a meeting votes only in the event of a tie vote. At all meetings of Directors of the Corporation every question shall be determined by a majority of votes present, unless otherwise specifically provided by the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

16. Committees of the Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors may form standing and ad hoc committees as are necessary for the Corporation to carry out the purposes of the Corporation. The committees shall perform those duties which are delegated by the Board of Directors. In addition, the COD will determine from time to time the membership of various joint committees comprised of individuals from Classes located in the United States and in Canada (the "Joint Committees").

2. The Executive Committee shall be a standing committee of this Corporation and shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The individuals who occupy the following positions for the Denomination shall be *ex officio* staff without vote: Executive Director of the Denomination or a designee, Canadian Ministries Director, and the Director of Finance and Operations or a designee. The Executive Committee shall fulfill such tasks as are assigned to it by the Board of Directors and act on behalf of the Board between meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee will not act on matters that are significant and that can be deferred until the next meeting of the Board as a whole.

Any action taken in the interim by the Executive Committee must be ratified by the Board of Directors.

3. Committee Meetings by Electronic Conference. If all persons who are members of a committee consent and each has adequate access, then they may participate in a meeting of the committee by means of a conference telephone, video conference, or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to speak and hear each other, and a person participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

17. Appointment of Officers

1. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers that the Board may elect or appoint. All officers must be Directors and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualify or until their resignation or removal. The Board of Directors may remove an officer by vote of the Board of Directors.

18. Description of Offices

1. President. The President shall have the authority and responsibilities as are prescribed from time to time by Synod, any relevant Ecclesiastical Requirements, and/or the Board of Directors. The duties of the President shall include the following:

- (a) Preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (b) Perform other duties as the Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

The President also shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the President's duties.

2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall have the authority and responsibilities of the President when the President is absent. The duties of the Vice-President shall include the following:

- (a) In the absence of the President, to serve in place of the President and perform those responsibilities of the President outlined under Section 18.1 of these Bylaws.
- (b) Perform other duties as the Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the President's duties. The Vice-President shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of any other duties that the Board of Directors assigns to the Vice-President.

3. Secretary. The Secretary shall call meetings of the Board of Directors consistent with the Ecclesiastical Requirements and the requirements of

the Act. The Board may assign other duties to the Secretary from time to time. The Secretary shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the Secretary's duties. The Secretary may delegate all or some portion of the duties of Secretary to a staff member.

4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the authority, duties, and responsibilities as are prescribed from time to time under the Ecclesiastical Requirements and/or by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep the books, records, and accounts of the corporation and shall render appropriate accountings to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the Treasurer's duties. The Treasurer may delegate all or some portion of the duties of Treasurer to a staff member.

5. Corporate Officers. The Corporation shall have corporate officers performing such duties as Synod and the Board determine from time to time. Synod previously has approved the position of Canadian Ministries Director of the Denomination to be filled by an individual (a) approved by Synod to be accountable to the Board of Directors as well as the Executive Director of the Denomination and (b) responsible for the general operations of the Corporation between meetings of the Board of Directors and the Members. The Canadian Ministries Director is an authorized signatory for the Corporation.

19. Termination of Directorship

1. A Directorship shall be terminated upon the occurrence of any of the following:

(a) Resignation given in writing to the President of the Board and the Executive Director of the Denomination;

(b) Upon the unanimous vote of all Directors, other than the Director who may be terminated, and at a special general meeting of Directors called for that purpose;

(c) Upon the Director ceasing to be a member of a church in the applicable Classis if the Director is a Classical Director; or

(d) Upon failure to attend two consecutive Board meetings without prior notice to the Secretary.

20. Vacancy in Office

1. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies on the Board of Directors due to the resignation or removal of a Director who is not a Classical Delegate, the COD may select an interim successor. Otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled at the next meeting of Synod.

2. The interim successor holds office until the next meeting of Synod. A Director elected to fill a vacancy holds office for the unexpired term of their predecessor.

3. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies due to the resignation of a Classical Delegate, the COD must choose an interim successor from the same Classis as their predecessor.

21. Notice Requirements

1. Permitted Methods. Notice may be given only in one or more of the following methods:

(a) hand delivery

(b) registered or certified mail (originating from either Canada or the United States)

(c) electronic transmission if the recipient consents as described below

2. Addresses and Expense. Unless otherwise provided by law, any notice or other communication required or permitted under these Bylaws must

(a) be in writing;

(b) have its delivery expenses prepaid by the sender;

(c) for notices given by the Secretary on the Corporation's behalf, be addressed to the address most recently received by the Secretary from the recipient;

(d) for notices given to the Corporation, be addressed to the Secretary's attention unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. If the sender holds the office of Secretary, that sender must give the notice to the President. If that sender also holds the office of the President, that sender must give the notice to each director; and

(e) for notices of meetings, describe the means of communication by which the recipient may participate.

3. For purposes of these Bylaws, "address" means a street address, post-office box, electronic mail address for electronic transmissions by electronic mail, or telephone facsimile number for electronic transmissions by facsimile.

4. Option for Electronic Methods. By written notice containing the recipient's electronic mail or facsimile address, a recipient may authorize the sender to give notices and other communications to that recipient by electronic mail or facsimile.

5. Effective Date of Notice. Notice given on the Corporation's behalf (i) that is mailed by registered or certified mail is deemed given three (3) business days after being deposited in the Canada Post Corporation or the U.S. Postal Service, postage prepaid, and (ii) that is sent by electronic transmission is deemed given when electronically transmitted to the person entitled to the notice in a manner that person authorized, and (iii) that is hand delivered is deemed given when handed to the recipient by the sender or left at the recipient's address in either a mailbox or with a person the sender reasonably believes will deliver the notice to the recipient.

22. Amendments to the Bylaws

1. The Board of Directors may amend these Bylaws by a majority vote of all of the Board of Directors.
2. This section does not apply to a Bylaw that requires a special resolution of the Members according to subsection 197(1) (fundamental change) of the Act, because such Bylaw amendments or repeals are only effective when confirmed by Members.

Appendix I

CERTIFIED COPY OF
SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS
OF
Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada
("the Corporation")

BYLAWS AND AMALGAMATION

WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it replace its bylaws;

AND WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it amalgamate or merge with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation and Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT

1. the bylaws of the Corporation, enacted on the 24th day of April 2014, are repealed and the new bylaws annexed to this resolution as Schedule A are approved;
2. the new bylaws will become effective on July 1, 2017;
3. the Corporation be and it is hereby authorized to enter into an Amalgamation, Merger, or other formal consolidation arrangement with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation and Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada;
4. that all deeds, documents, instruments and writings, acts, or proceedings connected with or pertaining to the Amalgamation, Merger, or other consolidation arrangement which may heretofore have been executed, made, done, or taken on behalf of the Corporation by any Officer or Director of the Corporation be and they are expressly approved, ratified, and confirmed; and
5. the Officers and Directors of the Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to perform and do all such other acts and things, and execute and deliver all such documentation, necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution or which shall be required for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of **Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada** (the "Corporation") hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Members of the Corporation at a duly called and properly constituted meeting of such held on the ___ day of _____, 2017.

DATED at _____, _____, this ___ day of _____, 2017.

Secretary

CERTIFIED COPY OF
RESOLUTION OF THE DIRECTORS
OF
Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada
("the Corporation")

BYLAWS AND AMALGAMATION

WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it replace its bylaws;

AND WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it amalgamate or merge with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation and Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT

1. the bylaws of the Corporation, enacted on the 24th day of April 2014, are repealed and the new bylaws annexed to this resolution as Schedule A are approved;
2. the new bylaws will become effective on July 1, 2017;
3. the Corporation be and it is hereby authorized to enter into an Amalgamation, Merger, or other formal consolidation arrangement with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation and Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada;
4. that all deeds, documents, instruments and writings, acts, or proceedings connected with or pertaining to the Amalgamation, Merger, or other consolidation arrangement which may heretofore have been executed, made, done, or taken on behalf of the Corporation by any Officer or Director of the Corporation be and they are expressly approved, ratified, and confirmed; and
5. the Officers and Directors of the Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to perform and do all such other acts and things, and execute and deliver all such documentation, necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution or which shall be required for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of **Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada** (the “Corporation”) hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Directors of the Corporation at a duly called and properly constituted meeting of such held on the ___ day of _____, 2017.

DATED at _____, _____, this ___ day of _____, 2017.

Secretary

Appendix J

CERTIFIED COPY OF
SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS
OF
Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada
 (“the Corporation”)

BYLAWS AND AMALGAMATION

WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it replace its bylaws;

AND WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it amalgamate or merge with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation and Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT

1. the bylaws of the Corporation, enacted on the 24th day of April 2014, are repealed and the new bylaws annexed to this resolution as Schedule A are approved;
2. the new bylaws will become effective on July 1, 2017;
3. the Corporation be and it is hereby authorized to enter into an Amalgamation, Merger, or other formal consolidation arrangement with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation and Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada;
4. that all deeds, documents, instruments and writings, acts, or proceedings connected with or pertaining to the Amalgamation, Merger, or other consolidation arrangement which may heretofore have been executed, made, done, or taken on behalf of the Corporation by any Officer or Director of the Corporation be and they are expressly approved, ratified, and confirmed; and
5. the Officers and Directors of the Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to perform and do all such other acts and things, and execute

and deliver all such documentation, necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution or which shall be required for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of **Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada** (the "Corporation") hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Members of the Corporation at a duly called and properly constituted meeting of such held on the __ day of _____, 2017.

DATED at _____, _____, this __ day of _____, 2017.

Secretary

CERTIFIED COPY OF
RESOLUTION OF THE DIRECTORS
OF
Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada
("the Corporation")

BYLAWS AND AMALGAMATION

WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it replace its bylaws;

AND WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it amalgamate or merge with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation and Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT

1. the bylaws of the Corporation, enacted on the 24th day of April 2014, are repealed and the new bylaws annexed to this resolution as Schedule A are approved;
2. the new bylaws will become effective on July 1, 2017;
3. the Corporation be and it is hereby authorized to enter into an Amalgamation, Merger, or other formal consolidation arrangement with the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada Corporation and Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada;
4. that all deeds, documents, instruments and writings, acts, or proceedings connected with or pertaining to the Amalgamation, Merger, or other consolidation arrangement which may heretofore have been executed, made, done, or taken on behalf of the Corporation by any Officer or Director of the Corporation be and they are expressly approved, ratified, and confirmed; and

5. the Officers and Directors of the Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to perform and do all such other acts and things, and execute and deliver all such documentation, necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution or which shall be required for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of **Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada** (the "Corporation") hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Directors of the Corporation at a duly called and properly constituted meeting of such held on the __ day of _____, 2017.

DATED at _____, _____, this __ day of _____, 2017.

Secretary

Appendix K

CERTIFIED COPY OF
RESOLUTION OF THE DIRECTORS
OF

Christian Reformed Church of North America – Canada Corporation

("the Corporation")

BYLAWS AND AMALGAMATION

WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it replace its bylaws;

AND WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it amalgamate or merge with Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada and Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:

1. the bylaws of the Corporation, enacted on the 24th day of April, 2014 are repealed and the new bylaws annexed to this resolution as Schedule A is approved;
2. the new bylaws will become effective on July 1, 2017;
3. the Corporation be and it is hereby authorized to enter into an Amalgamation, Merger or other formal consolidation arrangement with Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada and Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada;
4. that all deeds, documents, instruments and writings, acts or proceedings connected with or pertaining to the Amalgamation, Merger, or other consolidation arrangement which may heretofore have been executed, made, done or taken on behalf of the Corporation by any Officer or Director of the Corporation be and they are expressly approved, ratified and confirmed; and
5. the Officers and Directors of the Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to perform and do all such other acts and things, and execute and deliver all such documentation, necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution or which shall be required for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of **Christian Reformed Church of North America – Canada Corporation** (the "Corporation") hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Directors of the Corporation at a duly called and properly constituted meeting of such held on the 3rd day of May, 2017.

DATED at Grand Rapids, MI, this 3rd day of May, 2017.


Secretary

Appendix L

CERTIFIED COPY OF
SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS
OF

Christian Reformed Church of North America – Canada Corporation
(“the Corporation”)

BYLAWS AND AMALGAMATION

WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it replace its bylaws;

AND WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it amalgamate or merge with Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada and Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:

1. the bylaws of the Corporation, enacted on the 24th day of April, 2014 are repealed and the new bylaws annexed to this resolution as Schedule A is approved;
2. the new bylaws will become effective on July 1, 2017;
3. the Corporation be and it is hereby authorized to enter into an Amalgamation, Merger or other formal consolidation arrangement with Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada and Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions of Canada;
4. that all deeds, documents, instruments and writings, acts or proceedings connected with or pertaining to the Amalgamation, Merger, or other consolidation arrangement which may heretofore have been executed, made, done or taken on behalf of the Corporation by any Officer or Director of the Corporation be and they are expressly approved, ratified and confirmed; and
5. the Officers and Directors of the Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to perform and do all such other acts and things, and execute and deliver all such documentation, necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution or which shall be required for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of **Christian Reformed Church of North America – Canada Corporation** (the "Corporation") hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Members of the Corporation at a duly called and properly constituted meeting of such held on the 3rd day of May 2017.

DATED at Grand Rapids, MI, this 3rd day of May 2017.


Secretary

Appendix M

A Bylaw relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of

Back to God Ministries International: Canada
(the “Corporation”)

BE IT ENACTED as a Bylaw of the Corporation as follows:

1. Definition

In this Bylaw and all other Bylaws of the Corporation, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Act**” means the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* S.C. 2009, c. 23, including the Regulations made pursuant to the Act, and any statute or regulations that may be substituted, as amended from time to time;

“**articles**” means the original or restated articles of incorporation or articles of amendment, amalgamation, continuance, reorganization, arrangement, or revival of the Corporation;

“**Board**” means the board of directors of the Corporation, and “**Director**” means a member of the board;

“**Bylaw**” means this Bylaw and any other Bylaw of the Corporation as amended and which are, from time to time, in force and effect;

“**Chief Executive Officer**” is the Agency Director of Back to God Ministries International who directly serves the Corporation;

“**meeting of members**” includes an annual meeting of members or a special meeting of members;

“**special meeting of members**” includes a meeting of any class or classes of members and a special meeting of all members entitled to vote at an annual meeting of members;

“**ordinary resolution**” means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than 50 percent plus 1 of the votes cast on that resolution;

“**proposal**” means a proposal submitted by a member of the Corporation that meets the requirements of section 163 (Member Proposals) of the Act;

“**Regulations**” means the regulations made under the Act, as amended, restated, or in effect from time to time; and

“**special resolution**” means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on that resolution.

2. Purposes

The corporation is a nonprofit, ecclesiastical corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes, under the

Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (S.C. 2009, c.23). The purposes of the corporation are the following:

1. To be the legal identity in Canada of the religious ministry, Back to God Ministries International, of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (the “Denomination”).

2. Through the members of its Board of Directors participating in the Council of Delegates (“COD”), to

i. Transact all matters assigned to it by the Synod of the Denomination (“Synod”).

ii. Lead (and coordinate with any separately incorporated agencies) Back to God Ministries International, whose domestic and international ministries of evangelism, faith formation, and church planting and strengthening, especially by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the strategic use of media, extend the Denomination’s witness around the world.

iii. Ensure the financial integrity of Back to God Ministries International, providing appropriate financial management and advancement policies, with particular focus on Canada, within which personnel function.

iv. Identify when necessary, evaluate regularly, and support constructively the administrative leaders, with a particular focus on leaders and activities in Canada, of Back to God Ministries International.

v. To do all other lawful acts and things necessary to fulfill the mandate and mission of the corporation.

3. The corporation has not been formed for pecuniary profit or gain. No part of the assets, income, or profit of the corporation is for the benefit of its Members, Directors, or officers. However, the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth under Section 2 of these Bylaws.

4. Back to God Ministries International Canada will comply with Canada Revenue Agency policies and regulations regarding the advocacy and public policy dialogue of registered charities.

3. Ecclesiastical Government

1. The Denomination’s Church Order (“Church Order”), its Rules for Synodical Procedure (“Rules for Synodical Procedure”), and the mandates of Synod shall regulate the ecclesiastical organization and operation of this corporation. Collectively, Church Order, the Rules for Synodical Procedure, and the mandates of Synod shall be referred to as the “Ecclesiastical Requirements.” Consistent with Church Order, the Denomination is comprised of member churches which are grouped into regional Classes (each a “Classis,” and collectively the “Classes”).

2. Back to God Ministries International is a binational ministry, part of the Denomination with Classes in the United States and in Canada. This corporation has an American counterpart which is formed as a nonprofit corporation under laws of the State of Illinois (the “American Corporation”). The American Corporation and this corporation have entered into a Joint Ministries Agreement (the “JMA”) under which the American Corporation and this corporation have outlined structural and procedural requirements for Back to God Ministries International to act binationally. Synod has approved the creation of a Council of Delegates (the “COD”), which governs the joint ministries and operations of the American Corporation and this corporation.

4. Interpretation

1. In the interpretation of this Bylaw, words in the singular include the plural and vice-versa, words in one gender include all genders, and “person” includes an individual, body corporate, partnership, trust, and unincorporated organization.
2. Other than as specified above, words and expressions defined in the Act have the same meanings when used in these Bylaws.

5. Annual Financial Statements

1. The Corporation may, instead of sending copies of the annual financial statements and other documents referred to in subsection 172(1) (Annual Financial Statements) of the Act to the Members, publish a notice to its Members stating that the annual financial statements and documents provided in subsection 172(1) are available at the registered office of the Corporation, and any member may, on request, obtain a copy free of charge at the registered office or by prepaid mail.

6. Membership Conditions

1. The corporation is organized as a not-for-profit corporation under the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act*. The Members of this corporation (“Members”) are those elected from time to time by Synod to serve on the Council of Delegates from Classes located in Canada or representing Canada at-large.
2. Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the Members is required to make any amendments to this section of the Bylaws if those amendments affect membership rights and/or conditions described in paragraphs 197(1)(e), (h), (l), or (m).

7. Place and Notice of Members’ Meeting

1. The Members shall be given notice and meet annually at the time and place as determined consistent with Church Order.
2. Subject to compliance with section 159 (Place of Members’ Meetings) of the Act, meetings of the Members may be held at any place within Canada determined by the board or, if all of the Members entitled to vote at such meeting so agree, outside Canada.

3. Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the Members is required to make any amendment to the Bylaws of the Corporation to change the manner of giving notice to Members entitled to vote at a meeting of Members.

8. Voting at Members' Meetings

1. The Members shall vote consistent with the COD governance procedures.

9. Directors

1. The Directors of this corporation ("Directors") shall be those serving on the COD from each Classis located in Canada (the "Classical Delegates") and any at-large delegates of the COD who are from Canada (the "At-Large Delegates") who are elected by the Members to each of the four officer positions.

2. The individuals who occupy the following positions for the Denomination shall be ex officio without vote: Executive Director of the Denomination or a designee, the Back to God Ministries International Director or a designee, and the Director of Finance and Operations or a designee.

3. An individual is ineligible to serve as a Director if they have been convicted of a criminal or regulatory offence related to financial dishonesty or relevant to the operation of the organization. An individual who previously occupied a leadership position in an organization designated as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act, whose registration was revoked for a serious breach of the requirements for registration, is ineligible to serve as a Director of the organization.

4. The Board of Directors of this Corporation shall be the governing body of the corporation and shall deliberate and determine issues that are in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation, other than issues that are reserved to the Members, either at law or under the Ecclesiastical Requirements.

5. The Back to God Ministries International Director shall, subject to the authority and direction of the Board and President, be the Chief Executive Officer of Back to God Ministries International - Canada Corporation. When acting as the Chief Executive Officer of Back to God Ministries International - Canada Corporation, the Director of Back to God Ministries International shall advise the Board of Directors and implement all orders, directions, and resolutions of the Board of Back to God Ministries International - Canada Corporation.

10. Term of Office of Directors

1. Directors shall serve for a term of three years. Directors may serve successive terms. However, a Director's term is not to exceed the maximum of six consecutive years.

11. Borrowing Powers of the Directors

1. The Directors of the corporation may enter into banking relationships, without authorization of the Members, to

- (a) borrow money on the credit of the corporation;
- (b) issue, reissue, sell, pledge, or hypothecate debt obligations of the corporation;
- (c) give a guarantee on behalf of the corporation; and
- (d) mortgage, hypothecate, pledge, or otherwise create a security interest in all or any property of the corporation, owned or subsequently acquired, to secure any debt obligation of the corporation.

12. Remuneration of Directors

1. Directors shall not receive any remuneration for their services but may be reimbursed for expenses for their attendance at regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors.

13. Calling of Meetings of Board of Directors

1. The Directors will conduct an annual meeting of the Board following the annual meeting of Synod. In addition, the Board will hold at least one other regular meeting each year. Normally, an *in camera* session is held at each annual meeting.

2. The President of the Board of Directors shall call additional special meetings of the Board if requested in writing by at least one-third (1/3) of the Directors.

3. Board Meetings by Electronic Conference. If all persons who are members of the Board consent and each has adequate access, then they may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of a conference telephone, video conference, or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to speak and hear each other, and a person participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

14. Notice of a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

1. All Directors of the corporation are entitled to not less than fifteen (15) days' notice of all special Board of Director meetings. Notice shall be in writing and may be by electronic transmission. The notice shall contain sufficient information to allow a Director to determine what matters are to be deliberated.

15. Votes to Govern at Meetings of the Board of Directors

1. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of business at a Board of Directors meeting. Each Director present at a meeting shall have the right to exercise one (1) vote, but the Director serving as chair at a meeting votes only in the event of a tie vote. At all meetings of Directors of the corporation every question shall

be determined by a majority of votes present, unless otherwise specifically provided by the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

16. Committees of the Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors may form standing and ad hoc committees as are necessary for the corporation to carry out the purposes of the corporation. The committees shall perform those duties which are delegated by the Board of Directors. In addition, the COD will determine from time to time the membership of various joint committees comprised of individuals from Classes located in the United States and in Canada (the "Joint Committees").

2. The Executive Committee shall be a standing committee of this corporation and shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The individuals who occupy the following positions for the Denomination shall be ex officio without vote: Executive Director of the Denomination or a designee, the Back to God Ministries International Director, and the Director of Finance and Operations or a designee. The Executive Committee shall fulfill such tasks as are assigned to it by the Board of Directors and act on behalf of the Board between meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee will not act on matters that are significant and that can be deferred until the next meeting of the Board as a whole. Any action taken in the interim by the Executive Committee must be ratified by the Board of Directors.

3. **Committee Meetings by Electronic Conference.** If all persons who are members of a committee consent and each has adequate access, then they may participate in a meeting of the committee by means of a conference telephone, video conference, or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to speak and hear each other, and a person participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

17. Appointment of Officers

1. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers that the Members may elect or appoint. All officers must be Directors and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualify or until their resignation or removal by a vote of the Members.

18. Description of Offices

1. **President.** The President shall have the authority and responsibilities as are prescribed from time to time by Synod, any relevant Ecclesiastical Requirements and/or the Board of Directors. The duties of the President shall include the following:

(a) Preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.

(b) Perform other duties as the Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

The President also shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the President's duties.

2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall have the authority and responsibilities of the President when the President is absent. The duties of the Vice-President shall include the following:

(a) In the absence of the President, to serve in place of the President and perform those responsibilities of the President outlined under Section 18.1 of these Bylaws.

(b) Perform other duties as the Board of Directors may specify from time to time.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the President's duties. The Vice-President shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of any other duties that the Board of Directors assigns to the Vice-President.

3. Secretary. The Secretary shall call meetings of the Board of Directors consistent with the Ecclesiastical Requirements and the requirements of the Act. The Board may assign other duties to the Secretary from time to time. The Secretary shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the Secretary's duties. The Secretary may delegate all or some portion of the duties of Secretary to a staff member.

4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the authority, duties, and responsibilities as are prescribed from time to time under the Ecclesiastical Requirements and/or by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep the books, records, and accounts of the corporation and shall render appropriate accountings to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be an authorized signatory on behalf of the corporation for those matters which arise within the scope of the Treasurer's duties. The Treasurer may delegate all or some portion of the duties of Treasurer to a staff member.

5. Corporate Officers. The corporation shall have corporate officers performing such duties as Synod and the Board determine from time to time. Synod previously has approved the position of Director of Back to God Ministries International to be filled by an individual (a) approved by Synod to be accountable to the Board of Directors as well as the Executive Director of the Denomination and (b) responsible for the general operations of the corporation between meetings of the Board of Directors and the Members. The Back to God Ministries International Director is an authorized signatory for the corporation.

19. Termination of Directorship

1. A Directorship shall be terminated upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- (a) Resignation given in writing to the President of the Board and the Executive Director of the Denomination;
- (b) Upon the unanimous vote of all Directors, other than the Director who may be terminated, and at a special general meeting of Directors called for that purpose;
- (c) Upon the Director ceasing to be a member of a church in the applicable Classis if the Director is a Classical Director; or
- (d) Upon failure to attend two consecutive Board meetings without prior notice to the Secretary.

20. Vacancy in Office

1. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies on the Board of Directors due to the resignation or removal of a Director who is not a Classical Delegate, the COD may select an interim successor. Otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled at the next meeting of Synod.
2. The interim successor holds office until the members elect a replacement Director at the next meeting of Synod. A Director elected to fill a vacancy holds office for the unexpired term of their predecessor.
3. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies due to the resignation of a Classical Delegate, the COD must choose an interim successor from the same Classis as their predecessor.

21. Notice Requirements

1. Permitted Methods. Notice may be given only in one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) hand delivery
 - (b) registered or certified mail (originating from either Canada or the United States)
 - (c) electronic transmission if the recipient consents as described below
2. Addresses and Expense. Unless otherwise provided by law, any notice or other communication required or permitted under these Bylaws must
 - (a) be in writing;
 - (b) have its delivery expenses prepaid by the sender;
 - (c) for notices given by the Secretary on the corporation's behalf, be addressed to the address most recently received by the Secretary from the recipient;
 - (d) for notices given to the corporation, be addressed to the Secretary's attention unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. If the sender holds the office of Secretary, that sender must give the notice to the President. If that sender also holds the office of the President, that sender must give the notice to each director; and

(e) for notices of meetings, describe the means of communication by which the recipient may participate.

3. For purposes of these Bylaws, “address” means a street address, post-office box, electronic mail address for electronic transmissions by electronic mail, or telephone facsimile number for electronic transmissions by facsimile.

4. Option for Electronic Methods. By written notice containing the recipient’s electronic mail or facsimile address, a recipient may authorize the sender to give notices and other communications to that recipient by electronic mail or facsimile.

5. Effective Date of Notice. Notice given on the corporation’s behalf (i) that is mailed by registered or certified mail is deemed given when deposited in the Canada Post Corporation or the U.S. Postal Service, postage prepaid, and (ii) that is sent by electronic transmission is deemed given when electronically transmitted to the person entitled to the notice in a manner that person authorized, and (iii) that is hand delivered is deemed given when handed to the recipient by the sender or left at the recipient’s address in either a mailbox or with a person the sender reasonably believes will deliver the notice to the recipient.

22. Amendments to the Bylaws

1. The Board of Directors may amend these Bylaws by a majority vote of all of the Board of Directors.

2. This section does not apply to a Bylaw that requires a special resolution of the members according to subsection 197(1) (fundamental change) of the Act, because such Bylaw amendments or repeals are only effective when confirmed by members.

Appendix N



1855 West College Grove
Fulton Heights, IL 62421
708.371.8900

3478 Madison
PO Box 2070 65th LCDR
Burlington, ON L7R 2V8
905.224.9700

7600 East Dixon SE
Crested Butte, CO 81624
815.242.9301

600 Metropolitan
St. Louis, MO 63108

CERTIFIED COPY OF
RESOLUTION OF THE DIRECTORS
OF
Back to God Ministries International
("the Corporation")

BYLAWS

WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it replace its bylaws;

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:

1. the bylaws of the Corporation, enacted on the 24th day of April, 2014 are repealed and the new bylaws annexed to this resolution as Schedule A is approved; and
2. any one of the officers and/or directors of the Corporation is authorized to take all such actions and execute and deliver all such documentation which are necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution; and
3. the new bylaws will become effective on July 1, 2017.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of **Back to God Ministries International** (the "Corporation") hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Directors of the Corporation at a duly called and properly constituted meeting of such held on the 27th day of April, 2017.

DATED at Palos Heights Illinois, this 27th day of April, 2017.

Secretary



5551 West Orange Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46242
308.877.8382

3075 E. Highway
PO Box 50215, Springfield
Full Inquiry: 011 479 277
905.234.0700

1100 28th Street SE
Crested Heights, WI 49806
313.642.9721

backtoGod.com
www.backtoGod.com

CERTIFIED COPY OF
SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS
OF
Back to God Ministries International
("the Corporation")

BYLAWS

WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the Corporation that it replace its bylaws;

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:

1. the bylaws of the Corporation, enacted on the 24th day of April, 2014 are repealed and the new bylaws annexed to this resolution as Schedule A is approved; and
2. any one of the officers and/or directors of the Corporation is authorized to take all such actions and execute and deliver all such documentation which are necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution; and
3. the new bylaws will become effective on July 1, 2017.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of **Back to God Ministries International** (the "Corporation") hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution passed by the Members of the Corporation at a duly called and properly constituted meeting of such held on the 27 day of April, 2017.

DATED at Park Hills, Illinois, this 27 day of April, 2017.

MaS Van Beveren
Secretary

Appendix P New Mission Agency Branding

Following the board meetings in February, the executive leadership team of the new mission agency (NMA) formed a branding project team consisting of the following representatives:

Board members: Jenny Siebring-deGroot, Bruce Gritter, Ricardo Tavaréz, Dirk VanEyck

Executive leadership team: Gary Bekker, Moses Chung, Steve Kabetu, Colin Watson

Leadership team: Lois Craven, Ron Geerlings, Joel Huyser, Amy Schenkel, James Vanderlaan

Communications representatives: Josh Leo, Scott Meekhof

The process, as designed by our branding consultants at Hanon McKendry (see below), consisted of three phases. In the first phase, the project team finalized a new criteria set to use as a measure of any name candidates. The team incorporated the board's guidance from the February meeting and used it as a primary point of reference/key evaluation standard throughout the process.

This criteria set consisted of four main points:

1. Any acceptable candidate must be strongly consistent with the naming strategy (metaphoric as the primary approach; constructed as the secondary approach).
2. Any acceptable candidate must align clearly and well with an aspect of the brand platform and must support the other aspects. And, any acceptable candidate must not be contrary to any aspect.
3. Any acceptable candidate must fit well within the colored overlapping area of the three relationship spheres (see graphic below).
4. Any acceptable candidate must reconcile clearly and well with the findings and conclusions of the research done by Hanon McKendry.

In the second phase, the project team reviewed a total of ten new root name candidates developed by Hanon McKendry. After thorough discussion, debate, and prayer, the project team selected four candidates to bring to a second round of evaluation and further research. In the third phase, the project team reviewed the research and recommendations prepared by Hanon McKendry. The evaluation of the final candidates included two additional factors to the criteria set: functional and signals change, and available within the category. After more thoughtful conversation, the group unanimously endorsed the following recommendation:

Resonate Global Mission

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

The Root Name (Resonate) is defined as follows: to produce or be filled with a deep, full, reverberating sound. The word *resonance* is defined as an external force that drives another system to oscillate with greater amplitude. The work of the NMA amplifies the impact and results of those whom the NMA serves. The echoing effect transforms from less into more through partnering or networking and is only possible with the power of God's great work, so that ultimately others might connect to something spiritual that resonates deeply.

The primary intent of the modifier (Global Mission) is to communicate the purpose (Mission) and reach (Global) of the organization.

The tag line (Engaging People. Embracing Christ.) works to amplify and capture a deeper meaning behind the mission/vision or other key attributes.

The Endorser (A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church) works to demonstrate the relationship between the NMA and the denomination.

The branding project team unanimously and enthusiastically agrees that this recommendation meets all the criteria identified by the board, leadership, and research among our stakeholders and that it will serve us well as we embrace the future that God has in store for us.



CRC NMA Criteria Set for Name Development

March 14, 2017

As we initiate the next round of recommendation for root name candidates for the New Mission agency, Hanon McKendry will explore and evaluate new names according to the constructs outlined below:

Construct
Naming
Strategy

Metaphoric (Primary Approach)

Example - APPLE

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable to suggest a resemblance, emblem or symbol, as in "A mighty fortress is our God."

Advantages

Latitude to Flex Meaning
Highly Emotive
Captures Brand Spirit
Unexpected, Surprise Element
Strong Distinction
Excellent Retention
Inspirational

Disadvantages

Must build Recognition
Risk unintended Connotation
Needs descriptive Modifier

Constructed (Secondary Approach)

Example - FACEBOOK

A constructed name may blend two familiar words into an invented word that may also be metaphoric in nature.

Advantages

Blend Ideas (e.g. VersaTeller)
Strong Distinction
Good Retention
Shorten Long Names

Disadvantages

Overcome the Literal Meaning
Build Understanding

Brand Platform

We will explore metaphoric and constructed names that may reflect the brand attributes or brand promise or perhaps even the value proposition:

PERSONALITY

Reinforcing
Courageous Resourceful Innovator

Undermining
Passive Predictable Traditionalist

CRC NMA Root Name Criteria Set

Progressive, modern, innovative, bright, imaginative, exciting, and open to opinions. It **embodies compassion in action**, is **faithful to its principles**, and **committed to the growth of others**.

VOICE

Reinforcing

Clear Respectful Approachability

The ideal tone or voice of the NMA is **respectful and humble** - believing **everyone matters**. It is **inviting, engaging, friendly, and unpretentious**. The NMA is genuinely open to hearing ideas while considering change.

EXPERIENCE

Reinforcing

Extraordinarily Inspired Renewal

Invokes a genuine connection with the Divine resulting in **transformation** through **engaging partnership**. The relationship, through the experience, reinforces **reciprocal learning**, **peer-to-peer collaboration** emanating from **Christ-centered renewal**. There is a degree of **risk and adventure** due to the unknown but is undergirded by support and cooperation.

BRAND PROMISE

Connecting people, congregations & communities to be the Gospel in new ways.

VALUE PROPOSITION

Nimble advocate for a holistic approach to missional work that accomplishes God's plan for all people

Reluctant to explore new approaches; being timid, thwarted and discouraged; guarded, inflexible, and unimaginative. It is predictable in what has been done in the past and unwilling to take risk or be a stimulus for change.

Undermining

Inconsiderate Authoritative Indifference

Overbearing and insensitive and perhaps condescending at times. Communication that is confusing may create a perception of indifference. Limited listening may be authoritative and counter-intuitive to respectful approachability.

Undermining

Directed Uniform Relationship

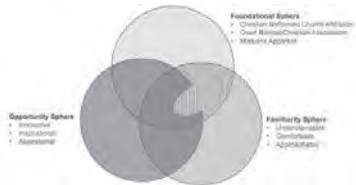
An undermining experience is seen to be the same regardless of context. It can be considered directed - constrained, as in obliged or forced (opposite of inspired); uniform - continuing without change or adaptation; a relationship implies connection but not necessarily extraordinary renewal.

We will explore name candidates that hint at connection or suggest a metaphor for connecting/connection.

We will explore name candidates that represent notions of being nimble and an advocate

Relationship

Name candidates should evoke the **familiar, yet slightly flex in opportunity to build name recognition and perhaps whisper the foundational ideas of the Great Commission**.



CRC NMA Root Name Criteria Set

**Survey
Comment
Considerations**

**Consider names that may be a
metaphor for the following aspects
of the NMA:**

Purpose – Bringing the gospel,
participating in God’s mission, living out
the Good News of Jesus

Action – Equipping, guiding, partnering

Outcome – Mission catalysts

**Consider the interpretative
connection of spiritual or biblical
connotation beyond the initial
expression.**

Be careful to avoid:

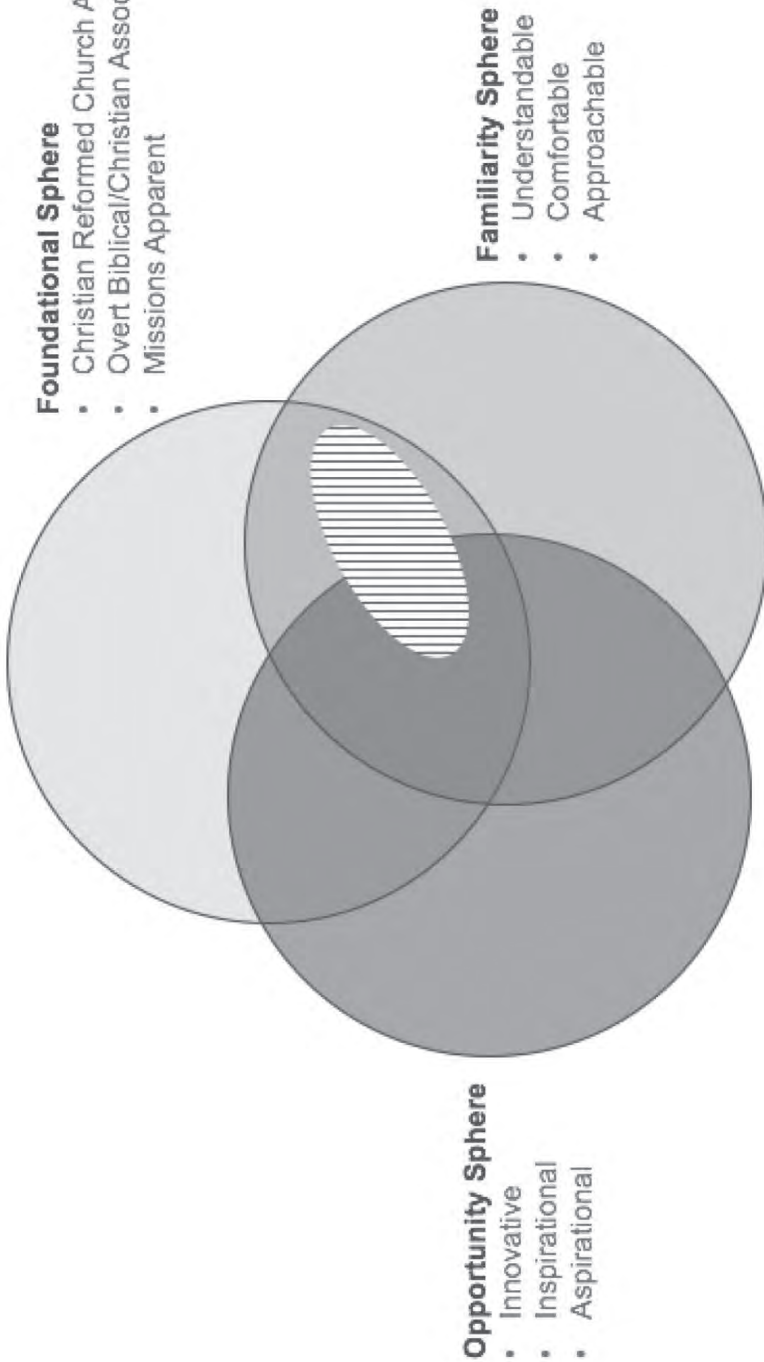
- A name that appears trendy or limits appeal because it is perceived as passé
- A name that has negative or unintended connotations in other languages
- A name that may introduce confusion about or contradict Reformed doctrine or accent
- A name that may be too easily interpreted as an inward focus or emphasis on the merging of the two mission agencies

EVALUATION SUMMARY

Each name candidate submitted for consideration will satisfactorily address these questions:

1. Any acceptable candidate must be strongly consistent with the naming strategy (metaphoric as the primary approach; constructed as the secondary approach).
2. Any acceptable candidate must align clearly and well with an aspect of the brand platform and must support the other aspects. And, any acceptable candidate must not be contrary to any aspect.
3. Any acceptable candidate must fit well within the colored overlapping area of the three relationship spheres.
4. Any acceptable candidate must reconcile clearly and well with the findings and conclusions of the research done by Hanon McKendry.

CRC NMA Root Name Criteria Set



Appendix Q Remembering, Reaffirming, and Reinvigorating Our Response to Global Humanitarian Challenges

I. Introduction

The world is facing its largest humanitarian crisis since 1945. An estimated 20 million people are living on the brink of starvation in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria. At the same time, violence and civil wars across the globe have led to the largest numbers of refugees in recent history.

In the face of these needs, recognizing the exceptional ministry capabilities of the Christian Reformed Church and acknowledging the past commitments of the CRCNA, denominational leadership and staff believe that now is the time to act. We request that the BOT and Synod **remember, reaffirm, and reinvigorate** our denomination's commitment to a comprehensive and integral response to the people who are hungry, poor, and rejected in our world and in our own nations.

II. What is our history of commitments?

In 1978 the synod of the Christian Reformed Church made the following Declaration on World Hunger:

Recognizing God as the Creator of all things, and [humankind] as his steward;
Confessing that God breaks into the lives of his people with his Word and Spirit, training them in patterns of love and justice;
Finding in God's Word his liberality for [human beings] and the whole creation, and protective laws for the defenseless and underprivileged;
Remembering the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who entered poverty so that others might become rich; and
Listening to God's call to his people to disciple all nations and to practice love and justice in the earth;
the synod of the Christian Reformed Church acknowledges that the alleviation of hunger at home and abroad is an integral part of our Christian responsibility, and asks that all members of the Christian Reformed Church devote themselves to gratitude, compassion, repentance, and justice as they respond to world hunger with a ministry of word and deed.

(Acts of Synod 1978, pp. 80-81)

As part of its report, the 1978 synodical Task Force on World Hunger recommended that the denomination begin a hunger education program for North American churches as part of the ministry of World Renew (then CRWRC). This would include an annual day of prayer and fasting to be observed by all CRC churches on the first Sunday in November. In addition, synod asked CRC families to consider giving an additional one percent of their income to support World Renew's hunger relief work.

That same synod also adopted two recommendations strongly affirming **education and advocacy** as a key part of our individual and corporate response to hunger and poverty:

That synod call upon the members of the church to seek to do justice in their chosen vocations in an attempt to alleviate the structural or systemic injustice evident in today's world, and that synod call upon members of our churches to consider joining local or national organizations designed to have a Christian impact on society as a whole.

That synod urge all churches to encourage and challenge their members to use their dual citizenship in the kingdom of God and their country by being a citizen advocate on behalf of the hungry and starving world; by contacting their representatives in government on key issues surrounding this problem, urging action consistent with Christian principles; by discussing such political issues in home, school, and church; and by active involvement in the political process. (*Acts of Synod 1978*, pp. 81-82)

Nearly forty years have now passed. During these forty years, the CRC has faithfully followed this synodical direction—learning, taking action, meeting failure, and celebrating success.

Along the way, we've learned from multiple studies and recommendations about the root causes of global hunger and poverty—the War and Peace report of 2006, the Migration of Workers report of 2010, and the strong recommendations contained in the 2012 report from the Task Force on Creation Stewardship.

Today, in the context of an increasingly dangerous, suffering, and divided world, we believe it is a good time for the CRCNA to remember and reinvigorate its historical and passionate commitment to understanding and working to end hunger, endemic poverty, and oppression in God's world.

III. What have been the results?

Synod's 1978 actions arose in response to the appalling famines of the early 1970s in northeastern Africa and Bangladesh that starved 2.5 to 3 million people. In addition to two excellent study reports, the CRC responded with a concerted and unified antihunger ministry. This involved a special World Hunger fund and the decision to do joint work—particularly in Sierra Leone—by both CRC World Missions and World Renew to combat global poverty and hunger in the name of Christ.

Our holistic ministry encompassing disaster response, community development, and justice work grew in the 1990s and throughout the first decade of the 21st century. In the process, it became clear that progress could be—and was being—made. Our efforts, combined with the work of many others and coordinated with political and global will, brought about change. Hunger and previously intractable poverty problems were being overcome. Consider these facts:

- The number of people living in extreme poverty has fallen from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015.
- The proportion of undernourished people in the developing regions has fallen from 23.3 percent in 1990 to 12.9 percent in 2014.
- The primary school enrollment rate in developing regions reached 91 percent in 2015, up from 83 percent in 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2015, 2.6 billion people gained access to improved drinking water.
- Since 1990, the global maternal mortality ratio has been cut nearly in half.

These are things to celebrate. As David Beckman, director of Bread for the World, often says: "We have made substantial progress against hunger and poverty. . . . So we know it is possible to further reduce and perhaps virtually end hunger in our lifetimes."

IV. Why do we need further action?

Today the situation of those living on the edge—both abroad and in our own countries—is deteriorating. These global situations not only affect the men, women, and children who are experiencing them but they threaten to deepen injustice and global instability. For example, consider the following:

- We face major conflicts in countries such as Syria, Iraq, Somalia, and the Sudan.
- High levels of sectarian, ethnic, and religious violence and divisions are tearing apart countries such as Nigeria, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Turkey, Libya, Palestine, and Israel.
- Drought and extreme heat—at least partially due to a changing climate—is spreading across an arc from Yemen to northern Nigeria, bringing with it hunger and famine.

All of this is driving economic and agricultural disintegration in many places. This in turn fuels conflict, massive human migration, and trafficking in the Global South. In more developed countries, the sudden flood of refugees and migrants is causing increased political instability.

Today there are over 65 million displaced persons in our world, over half of whom are children. That is more than at any time since World War II. The death rate is high. In 2016 over 360,000 migrants and refugees (mostly Africans) risked dangerous voyages from Libya to Italy. Over 5,000 died. At the same time, the African famine, developing as a result of drought, heat, and war, threatens 20 million Africans.

Even in North America we face deteriorating social conditions. While the rest of the world sees major decreases in maternal and infant mortality, the United States is seeing alarming increases. Maternal mortality is up by 22 percent since 2003¹ while infant mortality is now higher than in 27 other high income countries. In Canada, a nation blessed with abundant fresh water, there are 81 Indigenous communities with drinking water advisories 'south of the 60th parallel' (as of Feb. 2017; canada.ca/en/health-canada/topics/health-environment/water-quality-health/drinking-water/advisories-first-nations-south-60.html).

All this is happening at a time when the developed world seems afraid, confused, and unwilling to engage the root causes of such suffering. The United States, for example, is considering a budget that would substantially cut poverty-focused foreign assistance as well as domestic nutrition programs. It would eliminate nearly all spending on climate change adaptation and mitigation—as well as climate research. In Canada, federal government promises for new leadership and investment in life-sustaining development assistance are not being fulfilled.

All of this threatens the progress of the good work begun forty years ago.

¹ According to data released from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (healthdata.org/), there are 28 maternal deaths for every 100,000 births in the U.S. This represents a drastic 22 percent increase, up from 23 deaths in 2003. Since 1990, the maternal death rate in the U.S. has more than doubled.

V. What can we do?

Thankfully, the CRC's core identity is in Christ and not in any particular political movement, philosophy, or party. As an intentionally binational denomination, we transcend narrow nationalism. We consider issues from both Canadian and U.S. perspectives. This often results in broader, less nationalistic discernment. Binationality also allows our congregations and members to learn from each other and to view actions and ministries in the light of cross-border observation and dialogue.

VI. Recommendations

In the face of the world's current need, we ask that the BOT consider the following recommendations:

A. To recommend that Synod 2017

1. Urge CRC members, congregations, and agencies to remember and renew our passion to serve God by serving the poor and oppressed in ministries of relief, development, proclamation, and advocacy for justice.
2. Reaffirm and recommend to members, churches, denominational agencies, and educational institutions the conclusions and recommendations contained in our 1978 and 1979 reports on hunger, as well as in the 1993 report "Freedom to Serve: Meeting the Needs of the World."
3. Reaffirm and recommend to members, churches, denominational agencies, and educational institutions the conclusions and recommendations pertaining to root causes of suffering and oppression contained in the 2006 War and Peace report, the 2010 Migration of Workers report, and the 2012 report of the Task Force on Creation Stewardship.
4. Endorse and support a renewed and revised multiple agency, collaborative program that would build on our existing ministry capacities to exercise the following within a healthy biblical Reformed worldview:
 - a. Increase our efforts to educate CRC members, congregations, agencies, and educational institutions on how best to serve people who are poor and hungry.
 - b. Continue and increase our effective relief, development, and justice ministries with people who are suffering from drought, famine, war, climate change, trafficking, and persecution.
 - c. Increase our understanding of the root and systemic causes of hunger, poverty, oppression, and injustice.
 - d. Improve and broaden our ability to be active and engaged Christian citizens, standing with and advocating for the rights and welfare of those whom the world would disdain and discard.
 - e. Increase the financial support for World Renew's yearly World Hunger Sunday as well as collaborative peace, justice, and reconciliation education and mobilization efforts of the Office of Social Justice, Canadian Ministries, Worship Ministries, Faith Formation, and other Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) ministries.

B. (1) Take note that the above proposal arises in response to a decision of Synod 2016 (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829) instructing “the executive director to encourage the Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) collaboration group to continue to prioritize goals and assign resources for all of our justice and mercy denominational issues,” and (2) instruct the executive director to pursue other possible priorities as well as to plan and implement the program described in recommendation A, 4, above and report the results to synod annually through 2020.

Grounds:

1. This proposal offers a timely and urgent response to the increase in suffering we see in a world where the recent progress made in alleviating poverty, hunger, and oppression at home and abroad is threatened by expanding violence, changing climate, and mass migrations.
2. This proposal recognizes the effective poverty response, educational, and advocacy resources our denomination has already developed and encourages CRC members to utilize those ministries and resources (e.g., World Hunger Campaign, *Live Justly*, Good Soil, Churches Between Borders, Dance of Racial Reconciliation, Journey with Me, Blanket Exercise, Social Justice Mobilizers in Canada and the United States).
3. This proposal strongly reaffirms the findings of previous study committees and ministries that demonstrate that an effective antihunger and antipoverty response must be holistic. To be effective, we must weave together direct ministry action, education on root causes, and advocacy. (This could include, for example, development and agricultural programs; immigration reform; combating racism and discrimination; responding to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; creation care, including adaptation and mitigation of climate change; and refugee resettlement.)
4. This proposal reaffirms that an effective response to poverty and hunger must include holding our governments and international bodies accountable so that they devote sufficient resources to ending violence, preventing famine, trading fairly, reducing the causes of climate change, improving refugee and immigration policy, and paying attention to racism and discrimination endemic to our societies.
5. This proposal has strong continuity with previous synodical actions on hunger, poverty, and their root causes, including the World Hunger recommendations passed by synod in 1978 and 1979, the Freedom to Serve recommendations of 1993, endorsement of the Micah Challenge in 2004, the Migration of Workers report of 2010, and the Creation Stewardship climate recommendations in 2012.²
6. This proposal responds to synod’s instruction (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829) by providing significant and integrative prioritization, relying on synodical decisions of the past to chart a direction for current challenges, and to do so in a collaborative, multiple agency/ministry approach utilizing existing resources as much as possible.
7. This proposal is in sync with a recent request from Christian Churches Together (CCT) to call our churches to prayer for the U.S. Congress as

² For a more comprehensive treatment of synodical actions, see Addendum.

it considers budget cuts to major antipoverty programs. In addition, it supports ongoing advocacy by coalitions of which we are a part: Bread for the World, Circle of Protection, Micah Challenge/Network, Alliance to End Hunger, and others.

8. This proposal implements and significantly prioritizes several ministry plan goals from *Our Journey 2020*, particularly in the area of Mercy and Justice:

Step 4.4.1 Congregations identify and set goals to address local/national/global justice issues—discerning unique steps they can take to make an impact from their own communities.

*4.4.4 Congregations engage in active citizenship and **advocacy** that encourages them and their leaders to be accountable for developing and implementing just policies.*

Note: The above report and recommendations were prepared by a collaboration team of senior executive leadership, and staff from the offices of the Centre for Public Dialogue, Social Justice and Hunger Action, and World Renew, and presented to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA in May 2017 for action and recommendation to Synod 2017.

Addendum

Below is a selection of relevant synodical actions on world hunger, poverty, and oppression as well as migration and climate change—two major drivers of hunger and violence in our world.

1. 1978-79—Task Force on World Hunger Reports

The original World Hunger Task Force reports were received by Synods 1978 and 1979. Following is an abbreviated version of Synod 1978's actions. The full reports can be found in the *Acts of Synod 1978* and *Acts of Synod 1979*. Two publications resulted from these reports: *And He Had Compassion on Them* and *For My Neighbor's Good*.

ARTICLE 73

Task Force on World Hunger

B. Observations

This extensive study on world hunger by the task force appointed in 1976 confronts synod and the church with crucial decisions about our answer to the hunger of millions of fellow-citizens in our world.

The report faces us with the agony of hunger and starvation and with some of the complex causes of world hunger. Out of the biblical perspective that man is God's steward who is to care for the earth and its creatures, it calls on us to change our way of living and to do what we can do about world hunger.

It recommends a comprehensive plan, not only to feed the hungry, but to help them to feed themselves.

Basic to the answers that the task force recommends—and not to be missed in all the detail and complexity—is the conviction that the CRC must respond to world hunger with a word and deed ministry to the total man. Members of the task force have been helpful to the committee in coming to understand the report. At first we just saw a lot of words, charts, and pages. We differed on how to handle all this material. But gradually we caught the vision of our church getting it all together to minister to the agony of world hunger. We ended our long sessions on Report 37 with a fervent prayer of thanksgiving and joyful singing of the doxology. We trust that synod and the church will also catch the spirit of this report and prayerfully take on the responsibility God has given us.

C. *Recommendations*

2. That synod accept the report on world hunger as an initial fulfillment of the mandate given to the Task Force on World Hunger.

Ground: This report discusses the areas assigned in the mandate.

—Adopted

4. Declaration on World Hunger:

That synod adopt the following declaration as its foundational response to the issue of world hunger:

Recognizing God as the Creator of all things, and man as his steward;
Confessing that God breaks into the lives of his people with his Word and Spirit, training them in patterns of love and justice;

Finding in God's Word his liberality for men and the whole creation, and protective laws for the defenseless and underprivileged;

Remembering the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who entered poverty so that others might become rich; and

Listening to God's call to his people to disciple all nations and to practice love and justice in the earth;

the synod of the Christian Reformed Church acknowledges that the alleviation of hunger at home and abroad is an integral part of our Christian responsibility,

and asks that all members of the Christian Reformed Church devote themselves to gratitude, compassion, repentance, and justice as they respond to world hunger with a ministry of word and deed.

—Adopted

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

5. That synod call upon the people of the Christian Reformed Church to respond to the hunger faced by so many persons in this world. This call specifically lays upon the members of our churches the direct responsibility to develop significant individual responses by means of meaningful modifications of lifestyle, such as avoiding waste and excessive consumption, wisely using our natural resources, and fasting; contributing the money thus saved to hunger alleviation programs; and joining in congregational programs designed to alleviate hunger.

Grounds:

- a. Scripture repeatedly calls upon God's people to exercise responsible stewardship and self-denial.
- b. Our Christian responsibility dictates that our responses be channeled effectively.

—Adopted

6. That synod encourage the members of our church to study this report on world hunger and the materials listed in Appendix C so that they may develop a better understanding of the many facets of the world hunger problem.

Grounds:

- a. Education is a necessary component of any action program.
- b. These publications present a realistic analysis of the world hunger problem; many of them exhibit a biblical perspective as well.

—Adopted

7. That synod call upon the members of the church to seek to do justice in their chosen vocations in an attempt to alleviate the structural or systemic injustice evident in today's world, and that synod call upon members of our churches to consider joining local or national organizations designed to have a Christian impact on society as a whole.

Grounds:

- a. Scripture demands we display our faith in all areas, including our vocation.
- b. Organizations permit us jointly to accomplish much more than we can do individually. By way of example only, we mention the Christian Farmers Federations of Alberta, Ontario, and Iowa; and the Christian Labor Associations of Canada and the United States; there are other similar organizations.

—Adopted

CONGREGATIONAL ACTION

8. That synod designate the first Sunday of each November to be a denominational day of prayer and fasting in order to reflect on the awesome responsibility that believers in North America have in the face of the spiritual and physical starvation across the world.

Grounds:

- a. Such unified action will result in an increased awareness of worldwide spiritual and physical starvation.
- b. This symbolic action will demonstrate and signify our concern for the world's hungry and our commitment to assist them.
- c. This date, situated between the Canadian and American Thanksgiving days, is an appropriate time to remember the world's hungry in the midst of our plenty.

—Adopted

9. That synod urge all churches to encourage and challenge their members to use their dual citizenship in the kingdom of God and their country by being a citizen advocate on behalf of the hungry and starving world; by contacting their representatives in government on key issues surrounding this problem, urging action consistent with Christian principles; by discussing such political issues in home, school, and church; and by active involvement in the political process.

Grounds:

- a. The Scriptures clearly require us to be concerned about our civil government and to seek to influence it appropriately. Because the hunger problem depends so strongly upon governmental policy decisions, it is appropriate for individual Christians to seek to influence these policies.
- b. In some cases an individual can achieve greater results by influencing public policy than by any other single contribution he can make.
- c. Membership in the Committee for Justice and Liberty, the Associations for Public Justice, or Bread for the World can be an extremely effective way for citizens to be informed about and influence governmental policies and pending legislation concerning justice and world hunger.

—Adopted

10. That synod affirm that in today's shrinking world the nature of the deacons' responsibilities is international in scope, and that offerings for world benevolence are as necessary as offerings for local benevolence.

Grounds:

- a. As the world has become one small, international community, and as the benevolent needs of our local churches have been taken over more and more by our government, our deacons' responsibilities have broadened to the national and international needs evident today.
- b. The diaconate is an effective means the church may use to alleviate hunger abroad.

—Adopted

DENOMINATIONAL ACTION

11. That synod authorize the CRWRC with the help of the Task Force on World Hunger to collect, prepare, and distribute to the ministers of our church appropriate information regarding world hunger.

Grounds:

- a. The pulpit must be a prophetic witness to our Christian responsibilities in alleviating hunger.
- b. If the pulpit is to be a prophetic voice in dealing with the hunger problem, it is necessary for the ministers of our churches to be knowledgeable about the problem. The distribution of appropriate materials to our ministers will assist them in preparing their messages.

—Adopted

12. That synod instruct the CRWRC, with the assistance of other denominational agencies, along with local deacons and diaconal conferences, to sponsor conferences and workshops on world hunger throughout the denomination.

Grounds:

- a. A concerted response to the world hunger problem demands that our leaders be informed in detail about the problem and then use their position or the pulpit to acquaint our people with the many dimensions of the problem.
- b. Direct contact with knowledgeable speakers is needed to improve the level of awareness of our people regarding the hunger problem.
- c. Group interactions at such conferences will help to develop a comprehensive understanding of an attack on the hunger problem.

—Adopted

13. a. That synod authorize the development of a detailed action plan to respond effectively to world hunger with a ministry of word and deed.

—Adopted

- b. That this plan shall be developed by the Executive Director of CRWRC and the Executive Secretary of CRWM.

—Adopted

- c. That the plan shall include the following components:

- 1) Establishment of a special Hunger Fund, to be lodged with CRWRC but distinct from its regular operational budget. This hunger fund shall be used to finance the word/deed ministry outlined in the action program.
- 2) Encouragement of changes in lifestyle and use of the resulting savings for hunger alleviation.
- 3) Selection of a hungry country as the initial target for an intensive, long-range ministry to the whole person, with several alternate countries indicated. Congregations and classes will be encouraged to adopt sections of the target country.
- 4) The training and deployment of a corps of deacons and volunteers as "hunger coordinators" at the congregational and classical levels.
- 5) An appeal to the members of our church to devote at least one percent of their income to alleviation of hunger, without a decrease in their contribution to other work of the kingdom.

—Adopted

(Acts of Synod 1978, pp. 79-84)

2. 1993—“Freedom to Serve: Meeting the Needs of the World” report

“Freedom to Serve: Meeting the Needs of the World,” the report of the 1993 Task Force on World Hunger, provided a ringing call to renew the CRCNA’s commitment to minister to people trapped in hunger and poverty—including education and advocacy concerning the causes behind global poverty. It began with a vision and prayer for renewal (below) and ended with many recommendations to individuals, congregations, institutions/agencies, and denominations. The full report can be found in the *Agenda for Synod 1993* (pp. 138-55).

It is our vision and our prayer that
*God’s Spirit will revive the church,
inspiring each member and every ministry
to serve with compassion that is passionate
faithfully studying God’s Word,
following his will,
spreading his love,
and ceaselessly seeking to meet the needs of the world.*

*God’s grace will renew his children,
liberating each member and every ministry
to love our neighbors as ourselves—
using God’s good gifts in stewardly ways,
living lives that reflect his love,
respecting each neighbor as imagebearer,
and ardently acting to meet the needs of the world.*

*God’s love will bring about reunion,
joining each member and every ministry
to work together as brother and sister—
learning about hunger and poverty,
locating sources and solutions,
searching ourselves for sin,
and selflessly sharing to meet the needs of the world.*

Synod 1993 strongly endorsed the report and its recommendations. Following are the relevant actions from the *Acts of Synod 1993* (pp. 540-41):

ARTICLE 69

2. That synod endorse and commend to the churches the theme **FREEDOM TO SERVE: Meeting the Needs of the World** and the vision described in this report as a basis for denomination-wide ministry at home and abroad.
—Adopted
5. That synod commend and affirm the decision of the denominational agencies to join in achieving this vision.
—Adopted
6. That synod instruct each denominational agency to include in its long-range strategy an action plan for achieving its part of this vision and request each agency to consider the suggestions relevant to its ministry found in the sections of this report.
—Adopted

7. That synod instruct CRWRC and CRC Publications to ensure that a wide range of educational materials on hunger and poverty becomes available to the churches, including biblical studies, analyses of the causes of and solutions to poverty, and ministry-action guides.
—Adopted
8. That synod instruct the Synodical Interim Committee, through the services of the Ministries Coordinating Council, to provide active leadership, to practice frequent mutual accountability in implementing this vision by denominational agencies, and to assist denominationally related institutions and organizations such as the various colleges and advocacy organizations to this end.
—Adopted
9. That synod instruct the Synodical Interim Committee, through the services of the Ministries Coordinating Council, to engage a full-time person to coordinate the implementation of the vision described in this report.
—Adopted
10. That synod, beginning in 1993, designate the time between the Canadian and U.S. Thanksgiving Days as a time for the churches to focus on the “Freedom to Serve” theme, in celebration of Christ’s compassion and love and our freedom and responsibility to reflect his justice and mercy in this world. Activities could include one or more special worship services and liturgies, focused prayers and offerings, *Banner* features, church-school studies, *The Back to God Hour* broadcasts, college and seminary lectures, other mission emphases, etc.
—Adopted

3. 2004—Micah Challenge and Call

The Micah Challenge was an evangelical, global campaign to hold governments accountable for halving global hunger and poverty rates by achieving the Millennium Development Goals set at the United Nations Millennium Development Summit in 2000. The following was proposed by CRWRC (now World Renew) and endorsed by Synod 2004:

“That synod endorse the Micah Call and encourage strong CRC participation in the Micah Challenge” (*Acts of Synod 2004*, p. 555).

The Micah Call, endorsed by synod, follows:

The Micah Call

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

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

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

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

(Acts of Synod 2004, p. 490)

4. 2010—Report on the Migration of Workers

In 2010 synod reviewed a report on the migration of workers and adopted several recommendations as a response. Synod called CRC churches to actively educate their congregations about immigration, to adopt a compassionate stance toward the marginalized, and to advocate for immigration reform in the political arena. The complete report can be found in the *Agenda for Synod 2010* (pp. 535-85). Below is a summary of the decisions of Synod 2010 regarding the report:

ARTICLE 56

Committee to Study the Migration of Workers

Biblical Affirmations

2. That synod declare that the biblical teachings and principles from both the Old and New Testaments as summarized in this report properly inform and guide the church's ministry to both status or non-status immigrant people, and that they affirm the following:
 - a. All people are created in the image of God and are to be treated as such regardless of circumstances under which the church encounters individuals or of a given person's ethnicity, background, or legal status.
 - b. God's Word consistently directs the people of God to be welcoming toward the strangers in their midst and to extend special care to those most vulnerable to social or economic conditions that threaten their ability to survive.
 - c. The church of Jesus Christ welcomes all who profess faith in him as their Lord and Savior and who desire to live for him. God has no favorites—true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition of membership in the church.
 - d. God's Word calls upon believers to respect the governing authorities and the laws of the state. However, citizenship in the kingdom of God obligates believers to the highest law of love for God and neighbor above all, and the exercise of this love should lead believers to advocate for laws that will mandate the just and humane treatment of immigrant peoples.

—Adopted

Education and Awareness

3. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to encourage the Office of Race Relations to engage in, as a priority, a campaign to educate and raise cross-cultural sensitivity across our denomination and provide tools and resources to denominational agencies, classes, and local churches to deal with cross-cultural conflict that may arise from time to time.
4. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to encourage the CRC's relevant agencies to propose ways and to develop resources that will help in educating the churches and Christian schools by engaging in thoughtful study and discussion of the economic, political, social, and spiritual issues involved in the church's view of, and ministry with, immigrant people.

—Adopted

5. That synod encourage local churches to educate their membership about the socioeconomic, political, and security issues facing immigrants and newcomers, and equip them to respond in love and concern to the people groups that God is bringing into our nations.

Ground: The economic realities surrounding immigration and the presence of millions of documented and undocumented immigrants in the United States and Canada have created ongoing circumstances that already exist in many communities in which the church seeks to do ministry. This fact compels church members to educate themselves on the relevant issues already being faced by their various communities.

—Adopted

Ministry of Mercy and Compassion

6. That synod urge the Christian Reformed Church, through its assemblies and agencies, to affirm the need to reach out in hospitality and compassion to immigrant people, and that synod further encourage churches to display this ministry concern through actions that include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Prayerful study and discussion of issues related to the causes that motivate people to immigrate to other lands so as to deepen understanding of the circumstances under which many people live.
 - b. Mindful attention to the plight of both documented workers and people without status and to reach out in love to those who seek assistance for themselves and for their children in terms of financial assistance, food, clothing, and shelter.

Ground: Scripture calls us to be mindful of the plight of aliens and strangers, offering compassion and love in Christ's name to those who find themselves marginalized and in need.

—Adopted

Advocacy and Justice

7. That synod instruct the Board of Trustees to encourage the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action, and the Canadian Committee for Contact with the Government, in collaboration with their denominational and non-denominational partners, to engage in, as a priority, policy development and advocacy strategies that will lead to immigration reform and the enactment of fair, just, and equitable laws regarding those without status in Canada and the United States.
- Adopted
8. That synod encourage congregations and their individual members to speak out against, and seek to reform, laws and practices concerning the treatment of immigrants that appear to be unduly harsh or unjust.
- Adopted
9. That synod be mindful of the need for governments to create and enforce laws that protect the security and integrity of a given nation's borders, while encouraging congregations and church members to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform in ways that will reduce the number of people without status and/or non-status workers, and provide increased opportunities for immigrants to gain legal status within the nation.
- Adopted
10. That synod encourage congregations to advocate for a more just and dignified process on behalf of those suffering arrest and incarceration on account of their lack of status, and also to advocate for more humane treatment of those who are unfortunate enough to face a long imprisonment.

Ground: The governments of both the United States and Canada have been struggling with comprehensive immigration reform for years, recognizing

that current policies are insufficient to deal with contemporary aspects of immigration. The CRC can be of service to these governments by speaking up for the just treatment of all people as part of the larger process to reform current laws and policies.

—Adopted

Process

11. That synod recommend this report of the Committee to Study the Migration of Workers to the churches for study and discussion regarding issues surrounding the immigration of workers.

—Adopted

(*Acts of Synod 2010*, pp. 875-78)

5. 2012—Creation Stewardship Task Force Report

Synod 2012 called on the Christian Reformed Church and its officebearers and members to do all they can to take better care of God’s creation. Synod said churches and members should learn all that they can and then to do all that they can to address ecological problems, including climate change and the growing scarcity of energy resources. The complete report can be found in the *Agenda for Synod 2012* (pp. 287-411). Following is a summary of the recommendations approved by synod.

ARTICLE 71

Creation Stewardship Task Force

Reaffirmations

1. That synod reaffirm biblical principles of responsible dominion, care, and stewardship of creation as articulated in *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* and referenced in section IV, A of the Creation Stewardship Task Force report (*Agenda for Synod 2012*, pp. 295-301; *Contemporary Testimony*, par. 7-10, 13, 15, 18, 23-25, 43, 44, 50, 51, 55-58; see also par. 16).
2. That synod reaffirm that continually emerging science is a valid and necessary means for knowledge about God’s world and should therefore guide us in our love of God and neighbors, including care for the creation (see par. 50 of the *Contemporary Testimony*).

—Adopted

—Adopted

Statements

3. That synod recognize that
 - a. It is the current near-consensus of the international scientific community that climate change is occurring and is very likely due to human activity.
 - b. Human-induced climate change is an ethical, social justice, and religious issue.

—Adopted

Grounds:

- 1) Such climate change poses a significant threat to future generations, the poor, and the vulnerable.
- 2) Such climate change poses a significant challenge to us all.
- 3) We are called to “commit ourselves to honor all God’s creatures and to protect them from abuse and extinction, for our world belongs to God” (*Contemporary Testimony*, par. 51).

—Adopted

- c. Therefore, even when scientific uncertainties are taken into account, the precautionary principle (e.g., Overture 60, *Agenda for Synod 2012*, p. 594) compels us to take private and public actions to address climate change.
—Adopted

ARTICLE 74

Creation Stewardship Task Force

Call to Action

1. That synod call upon the churches, members, and denominational bodies to be voices for justice and public examples in the effort to live sustainably within our God-given resources, to promote stewardship in our own communities and our nations, and to seek justice for the poor and vulnerable among us and for future generations.
—Adopted
2. That synod call upon the churches and their members to reduce individual and collective carbon emissions to the atmosphere. We should examine energy choices in our homes, lives, businesses, farms, and institutions from a perspective of stewardship, challenging ourselves to use less energy and to use it more wisely.
—Adopted
3. That synod call upon the churches and their members to consider and advocate for public strategies that reduce carbon emissions and move us toward very low or zero net emissions.
—Adopted
4. That synod call upon the churches, their members, and appropriate denominational agencies and institutions to respond with generosity and compassion to people and places negatively affected by climate change, as well as to make efforts to mitigate it. This includes advocating with our governments to take the necessary actions in an effective global framework to assist populations that are bearing the brunt of the negative effects of climate change while being the least able to cope.
—Adopted
5. That synod direct the BOT to ensure that educational resources and programs are identified and made widely available to congregations, schools, and other groups in order to promote participation in the urgent global conversation concerning care for the creation.
—Adopted
6. That synod request the BOT to review the operational practices of major CRC agencies and institutions in the light of this report's conclusion concerning the need to exercise robust leadership in caring for the creation and addressing a changing climate, including the need to reduce our denominational carbon emissions.
—Adopted
(*Acts of Synod 2012*, pp. 802-805)

Appendix R

Vision, Mission Statement, and Mandate for Worship Ministries

VISION

Worship Ministries desires that every worshiping community in the Christian Reformed Church in North America experience Spirit-filled gospel proclamation and worship that is directed to God, is biblically based and theologically Reformed, and is characterized by creativity, discernment,

spiritual vitality, the faith formation of all worshipers, and a call to serve others.

MISSION STATEMENT

Enriched by a great diversity of communities, ethnicities, generations, styles, and gifts, Worship Ministries supports and strengthens biblically grounded and theologically Reformed worship in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

MANDATE

Worship Ministries accomplishes its mission for supporting and strengthening local worshiping communities in the Christian Reformed Church in North America by

Networking

- to seek ways for those who plan and lead worship in the CRCNA to meet for mutual encouragement and opportunities to share with, learn from, and listen to each other.
- to leverage worship opportunities and learning by connecting with and supporting worship-related efforts of other CRCNA ministries and agencies, particularly Faith Formation Ministries, and of other worship organizations, like the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Calvin Theological Seminary, and the Center for Excellence in Preaching.
- to foster ecumenical relationships that strengthen the CRCNA's understanding and practice of worship.

Equipping

local worshiping communities . . .

- to reflect deeply about their worship, using multiple resources including our creeds, confessions, contemporary testimonies, liturgical forms, and relevant synodical documents.
- to embrace their specific contexts and calls to ministry by reflecting their uniqueness in their worship and to enrich their worship by engaging with and learning from other churches both within and outside of the CRCNA.
- to join their worship with the church of all ages and around the world as an expression of our unity in Jesus Christ.
- to preach the Word of God faithfully, effectively, and contextually, and to respond as we are called.
- to share in the sacraments, teaching their full meaning and significance.
- to form all worshipers, including children and youth, into full, active, and conscious worship participants.
- to develop the gifts of all, including children and youth, and to incorporate those gifts into the worship life of the community (technology, hospitality, visual arts, speaking, planning, signing, carpentry, etc.).
- to mentor worship leaders from within the congregation, including children and youth.

- to include people of all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and without favoritism regarding gender, age, or abilities.
- to use and lead the Young Children and Worship program.
- to share their rich resources with each other, to utilize existing resources, and to aid in the creation of new resources that meet specific needs, through the publication of the quarterly journal *Reformed Worship*, the use of social media, and the CRCNA Network.

VALUES

Worship Ministries desires to create a space where we can listen to and learn from each other, form networks for peer learning, and develop resources to nurture faithful, effective, and contextual gospel proclamation and worship by valuing the following:

1. Humility and charity: The fundamental posture of this ministry is to learn and share local wisdom across communities, ethnicities, and generations.
2. Prioritizing people: Interpersonal learning across church types meets a deep need in this information-focused age and capitalizes on the strengths of a denomination.
3. Unity in diversity: Encourage more learning across ethnic, cultural, geographic, and church types, asking how common theological commitments are reflected in diverse local contexts.
4. Leveraging existing strengths and resources.
5. Avoiding programmatic silos: Develop weblike, open networks and resist the separation of worship and proclamation from other streams and initiatives.
6. Avoiding duplication: Focus on topics that a denomination is well positioned to address, and create awareness and access to other key resources.
7. Team identity: When people think of CRCNA work on worship and proclamation, we desire that they would think not merely of an “office” or “person” but of a team that includes people from multiple regions, ethnicities, congregations, and agencies. A primary function for Worship Ministries should be to gather, nurture, and sustain a realistic and effectively networked team.

Appendix S

The Middle East: Identifying CRC Priorities and Strategies (Endorsed by the Ministries Leadership Council and the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee in April 2017)

Background

In 2006 the CRC synod received a report from the Committee to Study War and Peace that highlighted the role of Christians and the church as “bearers of shalom.” In acting on the recommendations of that report, synod instructed denominational agencies and staff to develop more resources and act to raise CRC awareness of our peace-building calling. This included educating ourselves, doing programs that build peace and justice, and engaging in public witness for peace and justice.

A number of efforts ensued, including a CRC study visit to Palestine and Israel in 2007 and development of a two-year partnership agreement (2009-2011) with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) focused on Palestine-Israel education and advocacy. At that same time, we joined *Churches for Middle East Peace* (CMEP), a coalition of 27 church denominations and organizations in Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant traditions. CMEP's work is based on the understanding that sound, holistic policy is crucial to achieving and maintaining just and stable relationships in the Middle East. CMEP supports a comprehensive solution that will bring peace and justice to the region, including a negotiated peace agreement establishing security for the state of Israel, securing a viable Palestinian state, and reaching agreement on Jerusalem that allows the city to be shared by Israelis and Palestinians, and to be open to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

In addition, Hope Equals was a program established by Christian Reformed World Missions in 2009 with the purpose of empowering young adults to advocate for peace in the Middle East. The primary method for accomplishing this was to host annual trips to Israel/Palestine. Hope Equals formally ended in 2014, but the training on Christian Zionism that was developed continues to be offered by the Office of Social Justice.

Then, in 2016, the CRC synod received a report from the Committee to Study Religious Persecution and Liberty. Two adopted recommendations, in particular, are relevant: "that synod instruct the EIRC and direct the BOT to instruct World Renew and the Centre for Public Dialogue to consider their work with interfaith and refugee groups and to strategize ways in which to communicate about the injustice of persecution with the rest of the denomination" and "that synod direct the BOT to ask the Office of Social Justice (OSJ) to ensure the collection and distribution of up-to-date information about religious persecution and liberty to CRC congregations and to those who join the OSJ network."

A backdrop to these synodical actions of 2006 and 2016 is the Ecumenical Charter of the CRC, which encourages greater visible unity among Christian churches, suggesting such avenues and forms such as mutual understanding, cooperation in ministry through partnership agreements, collaboration in ethical-social testimony, and the like. Then, in 2010, synod clarified the interfaith aspects of our work, noting that while there are some surface similarities between ecumenical relations and interfaith dialogue, these different activities must be clearly distinguished. Ecumenical relations are encouraged and/or maintained with communions (Christian churches and ecumenical organizations) that are part of the global Christian community. Interfaith dialogue is an activity in which people from other faiths come together to understand each other better and, where possible, to stand together on selected issues that address the "common good."

Finally, two additional touchpoints are important. First, the resolution reached in a joint session of the RCA's General Synod and the CRC's Synod 2014 in Pella, Iowa, (sometimes referred to as the Pella Accord) declares that "the principle that guides us, and the intention that motivates us, is to 'act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel [us] to act separately.'" Given past cooperation with the RCA, whose involvement in the Middle East spans decades, this principle guides our strategizing now and in the future. Second, *Our Journey 2020*, the Ministry Plan of the CRC, includes these two important steps focusing on

congregations: “Congregations partner in their mercy / outreach / missions efforts to ensure they are doing ‘ministry with’ those who are marginalized” (Step 4.4.3), and “Congregations engage in active citizenship and advocacy that encourages them and their leaders to be accountable for developing and implementing just policies” (Step 4.4.4).

Next Steps

Given the aforementioned foundations, it is imperative that we identify our priorities and develop accompanying interagency / ministry strategies to respond faithfully to synodical instruction, the ecumenical charter, and shared principles as well as the goals of *Our Journey 2020* in financially responsible and sustainable ways.

Therefore we seek endorsement of an ad hoc team with a composition as described below to pursue this mandate:

To identify the priorities and strategies appropriate for CRC ministries and agencies needed to realize synodically approved goals in the areas of peacemaking, religious persecution, and interfaith activities that focus on the Middle East (Palestine and Israel, in particular) and benefit congregations per our Ministry Plan.

We suggest this composition for the ad hoc team (names are given for purposes of illustration at this point):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Calvin Theological Seminary | Sarah Schreiber |
| Back to God Ministries International | To be determined |
| Centre for Public Dialogue | Mike Hogeterp |
| Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations | Anthony Elenbaas |
| Educational Care | Gary Bekker |
| New Mission Agency | Joel Huyser, Steve Kabetu,
and/or Greg Sinclair |
| World Renew | To be determined |
| Office of Social Justice | Shannon Jammal-Hollemans
(with Peter Vander Meulen until
retirement) |

In considering priorities and strategies, at least three areas of inquiry and review are suggested:

First, possible purposes and focuses should be considered; the following grid may be helpful:

	Ecumenical relations with Christians in the Middle East (ME)	Interfaith dialogue with people of other faiths in the ME	Plight of refugees in the ME and causes of displacement	Causes and effects of religious persecution in the ME
Awareness Building				
Direct Partnership				
Advocacy				

Second, our participation in CMEP has continued, but we could take greater advantage of linking with their efforts in awareness building, partnership, and advocacy.

Third, our RCA brothers and sisters have been engaged in the Middle East for more than 100 years. This history of involvement gives them much greater facility in awareness building, partnership, and advocacy. In the spirit of the 2014 joint resolution reached in Pella, Iowa (the Pella Accord), we should together find ways to link to their efforts, learn from their experiences, and possibly step forward with them in new strategic initiatives and efforts.

Appendix T

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, 2016, 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 inquiries to the agencies and institutions themselves.

**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA**
Agencies and Institutions
Investment Summary in US\$
As of December 31, 2016

Categories Specified by Investment Policy:

SHORT TERM
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS
Cash, Money-market mutual funds & CDs
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES
CRCNA Funds LLC Liquidity Fund (1)
Other short term

CRCNA FUNDS LLC BALANCED FUND (2)

COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS
Publicly traded common, preferred,
and convertible preferred stock
Equity mutual funds

FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)
U.S. treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds
Publicly traded bonds and notes
(investment grade, at least A-rated)
Bond mutual funds
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts

Interagency Investments (Obligations):

Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)

Other Investments:

Private equity fund
Partnerships
Land contracts
Hedge funds
Other Alternatives
Life insurance cash value
Common stock – non-listed
Real estate (non-operating)

	Back to God Ministries International	Calvin College	Calvin Seminary	Denominational Services	CRC Foundation
\$	2,172,589	16,748,277	\$ 1,554,213	\$ 5,823,693	(9) \$ 256,564
	322,349	-	-	3,269	-
	51,093	-	-	942,084	-
	2,467,363	-	-	14,251	53,646
	-	564,251	-	-	-
	808,714	(3) 64,931,619	(10) 31,900,841	(10) 5,267,156	-
	-	39,141,975	-	4,689,933	(9) -
	-	-	-	7,513,966	(9) -
	172,119	(3) 24,403,750	(12) 6,680,434	(1) (16,700,032)	(9) -
	-	-	-	(3,000,000)	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	7,203	33,130,467	(4) 2,998,367	(4) -	-
	-	-	-	(4) -	-
	-	10,752,647	-	-	-
	-	12,272,816	(11) 430,317	(5) -	-
	435,841	(5) 430,317	(5) 111,940	(5) -	21,569
	-	2,768,480	(7) -	-	-
	6,000	(8) 80,000	(8) 1,050,000	(8) -	-
\$	6,443,271	\$ 205,224,599	\$ 44,295,795	\$ 4,554,321	\$ 331,779

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, 2016

	Home Missions	Loan Fund	World Missions	World Relief
Categories Specified by Investment Policy:				
SHORT TERM				
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS				
Cash, Money-market mutual funds & CDs	\$ 2,447,340	\$ 10,651,407	\$ 2,809,448	\$ 17,933,359
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES				
CRCNA Funds LLC Liquidity Fund (1)	1,180,894	-	193	26,655
Other short term	-	-	220,430	1,489,600
CRCNA FUNDS LLC BALANCED FUND (2)	3,158,452	-	4,362,932	7,429,774
COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS				
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	864	-	294,916	(3)
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)				
U.S. treasuries or Canadian gov't bonds	-	-	-	-
Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	-
Bond mutual funds	-	-	64,502	(3)
CIBC / TAL overdraft accounts	-	-	-	-
Interagency Investments (Obligations):				
Loans to CRCNA (Denom. Services)	-	2,000,000	-	1,000,000
Other investments:				
Private equity fund	-	-	-	-
Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Land contracts	-	-	-	-
Hedge funds	-	-	-	-
Other Alternatives	-	-	-	-
Life insurance cash value	-	-	-	-
Common stock -- non-listed	-	-	-	-
Real estate (non-operating)	24,957	-	38,339	35,058
Total	\$ 6,812,507	\$ 12,651,407	\$ 7,790,760	\$ 27,914,446

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

**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA**
Benefit Plans
Investment Summary
As of December 31, 2016

	Employees' Savings Plan - U.S. in U.S. \$	Ministers' Pension Plan U.S. in U.S. \$	Special Assistance Fund 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 \$
Categories Specified by Investment Policy:							
SHORT TERM							
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS							
Cash, CDs and money-market mutual funds	\$ -	\$ 4,061,612	\$ 117,549	\$ 187,165	\$ 2,150,974	\$ 311,190	\$ 116,154
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES							
Guaranteed investment contracts	-	-	-	240,363	-	-	-
Stable Asset Income Fund	2,897,862	-	-	-	-	-	-
COMMON AND PREFERRED STOCKS							
Publicly traded common, preferred, and convertible preferred stock	-	58,130,044	-	-	39,065,528	-	-
Diversified/Alternative mutual fund	5,943,064	10,781,155	-	3,431,188	-	-	-
Equity mutual funds	18,612,573	-	-	748,322	-	-	-
FIXED-INCOME ISSUES (LONG TERM)							
U.S. treasuries, Canadian govt bonds or Publicly traded bonds and notes (investment grade, at least A-rated)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bond mutual funds	5,990,870	17,791,691	-	469,331	10,754,565	-	-
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
	-	9,481,398	-	-	2,462,272	-	-
Total	\$ 33,444,369	\$ 100,245,900	\$ 117,549	\$ 5,076,369	\$ 54,433,339	\$ 311,190	\$ 116,154

Footnotes to the December 31, 2016 Investment Summary

1. CRCNA Funds LLC pooled/unitized fixed income account for agencies.
2. CRCNA Funds LLC pooled/unitized balanced account (fixed income 52%, equities 48%) for agencies.
3. Donated publicly traded stock or mutual funds.
4. Ownership interest in private equity funds, including unrealized gains and reinvestments. Private equity groups include Venture Capital, Domestic and International Partnerships, Natural Resources, and Distressed Debt.
5. Cash value of life insurance contracts received as gifts.
6. Includes promissory notes received in the sale of real estate.
7. Includes investment in Creative Dining Services, owned jointly with Hope College.
8. Real estate received as a gift or held for investment purposes.
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.
10. Includes equity, commodity, and hedged mutual funds.
11. Includes Tactical Tilt Allocation Fund and other alternative private equity funds.
12. Includes hedged mutual funds.

AGENCY AND INSTITUTION SUPPLEMENTS

Faith Formation

Calvin College Supplement

I. Introduction

The Calvin College Board of Trustees met May 4-5, 2017, and presents to synod this supplemental report. The board had a successful meeting and completed its scheduled work for committee and plenary sessions. During its meetings the board thanked eight members who are leaving the board—Rev. Pedro Aviles, Mr. A. Scott Boot, Mr. Philip Brondsema, Ms. Christine Metzger, Mr. Thomas Nobel, Mr. Jack Veltkamp, Mrs. Paula Wigboldy, Mrs. Pan Zhang—for their diligent work on the board and service to Calvin College.

II. Finance

The Calvin College Board of Trustees approved the 2017-2018 budget proposal, a debt policy, and a post-issuance compliance policy.

III. Academic

The Calvin College Board of Trustees ratified or endorsed a number of faculty appointments and reappointments. They also endorsed revisions of curricular programs, new courses, and course revisions.

IV. Board matters

The Calvin College Board of Trustees recommends that synod elect new members, reappoint for subsequent terms, and ratify the results of elections held in classes for membership on the Calvin College Board of Trustees.

A. Board membership

1. New trustees

a. Regional trustees

Region 9

Rev. Pedro Aviles is completing his first term on the board and is unable to serve a second term. The board presents the following slate of nominees for election during synod by the delegates from Region 9, to be presented to the full delegation of Synod 2017 for ratification:

Mr. Timothy (Tim) Goudzwaard is a supervisor for vocational programming and curriculum at Elim Christian School in Illinois. He is also a part-time spiritual formation coordinator at Palos Heights (Ill.) CRC, his local church. Mr. Goudzwaard received his B.A. in elementary

education with a focus on special education. He then went on to earn his M.A. in school leadership. He has served in every capacity on the executive council in his church as well as serving as an elder and deacon. Mr. Goudzwaard has a passion for higher education and the education of young adults in general through the development of new and improved ways.

Ms. Jilene Huizenga is a full-time instructor at Madison College in Madison, Wisconsin. She is a co-owner of a small business called Niche Publications, Inc. She received a master of science degree in organizational leadership and quality. She and her husband attend Second CRC, Randolph, Wisconsin, where she has served on the worship and evangelism committees. She previously also served as the president of the Parent's Association at Randolph Christian School. Ms. Huizenga is an advocate for higher education with a concentration on the Reformed worldview, as she believes it is transformational due to Jesus' part in everything we do here on earth.

Mr. Ray Vander Kooi (Region 11) and Dr. David Cok (Region 12) are both completing their first term on the board and are eligible for a second term. The board recommends that synod reappoint Mr. Vander Kooi and Dr. Cok to a second three-year term.

b. At-large trustees

Ms. Christine A. Metzger; Mr. Thomas Nobel, Jr.; and Dr. Jack Veltkamp are all completing a third term on the board. The board presents the following single nominees to Synod 2017 for election as at-large trustees:

Mr. Lambert (Bert) Kamp is a certified public accountant in the greater Chicago area. After seven years at Ernst & Young, Mr. Kamp started his own CPA firm and has been self-employed for twenty-nine years. He is the former president of both the Southwest Chicago Christian School Association Board (2010-2013) and Elim Christian Schools (2003-2005). He currently serves on the elder board at Orland Park CRC, where he and his wife are members.

Mr. Scott Spoelhof received a B.A. in business from Calvin College and an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan. He is the managing director of Bayside Capital Management and previously worked at Herman Miller and Johnson Controls. Mr. Spoelhof recently completed service as president of the Calvin College Board of Trustees and has served on the boards of the Bank of Holland and the Community Foundation of Holland/Zeland, as well as the Lakeshore Advantage Seed Fund Investment Committee.

Mr. Carl Triemstra was a pre-engineering student at Calvin College before transferring to the University of Michigan to complete a bachelor's degree in engineering. He received a master of arts degree in general management from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Steward School of Management. Mr. Triemstra worked at IBM for ten years and at Leo Burnett for eight years before starting his own firm, Symmetri Marketing Group, fifteen years ago, in Chicago. He served as a deacon at Park Lane CRC in Evergreen Park, Illinois, and is currently a member of Hope CRC, Oak Forest, Illinois. He has also served on the

boards of Roseland Christian School and Roseland Christian School Foundation and was involved with Chicago Christian School's capital campaign.

Mr. William J. Boer is completing his first term as an at-large member. It is recommended that synod reappoint Mr. Boer to a second three-year term. Mr. Craig H. Lubben is completing a second term as at-large member on the board. It is recommended that synod reappoint Mr. Lubben to a third three-year term. Dr. Philip J. Brondsema is completing service to the board after serving two terms.

c. Alumni trustees

Ms. Paula Wigboldy is completing her second term on the board. The board presents the following single nominee to Synod 2017 for appointment:

Ms. Rhonda Roorda was raised in the Washington, D.C., area and majored in telecommunications at Calvin College. She earned a master of arts degree at Michigan State University in communication urban studies. Ms. Roorda serves as director of member and financial services for the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan. To fulfill her calling to support children and families, she has coauthored (with Dr. Rita J. Simon) a trilogy of books on transracial adoption. She continues to travel throughout the country speaking to diverse audiences, including adoptive families and child welfare professionals on this issue. She mentors foster and adopted children. In 2010, Ms. Roorda was awarded the Judge John P. Steketee Adoption Hero Award from the Adoptive Family Support Network in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She currently lives in Brighton, Michigan, and recently completed service on the Calvin Alumni Board. Ms. Roorda is a member of Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Brighton, Michigan.

B. Board officers

The Calvin College Board of Trustees appointed the following officers of the board for 2017-2018: Mr. Craig Lubben, chair; Ms. Mary C. Bonnema, vice chair; Ms. Janice Buikema, secretary; Ms. Sally Vander Ploeg, treasurer (vice president for finance and administration); and Ms. Sharolyn Christians, assistant secretary (executive assistant to the president).

V. Other

The Calvin College Board of Trustees commissioned the college president, the cabinet, and the Planning and Priorities Committee to develop a long-term vision aligned with the college mission, and to begin work on the next five-year strategic plan to support the vision.

VI. Recommendation

That synod by way of the ballot elect new members, reappoint members to subsequent terms, and ratify the results of the Region 9 classis delegate for membership on the Calvin College Board of Trustees.

Calvin College Board of Trustees
Christine A. Metzger, secretary

World Renew Supplement

I. World Renew board nominees

A. Appointment of U.S. members-at-large

The board of World Renew requests that synod appoint the following nominees as U.S. members-at-large to a first term of three years:

Ms. LaVonne J. Koedam is an active member of Forest Grove CRC in Hudsonville, Michigan, serving in various roles as a GEMS teacher, choir member, missions committee member, and Bible study leader. She has also served in various volunteer positions with World Renew for a number of years. LaVonne has a servant heart and is eager to promote the work of World Renew.

Ms. Kelli Sexton is a member of Sherman Street CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her current occupation(s) include discipleship director at First Cutlerville CRC, Byron Center, Michigan; Classis Zeeland diaconal coordinator; and Dig program coordinator at Calvin Theological Seminary. Ms. Sexton is passionate about working with deacons and is gifted in the area of communication and helping teams to cast a vision. She is skilled at creating networks and facilitating partnerships between people and ministries. As a member-at-large delegate, she hopes to “bring a passion for the local church’s work in the world, following Jesus’ command to feed his sheep, both physically and spiritually.”

B. Appointment of Canada member-at-large

The board of World Renew requests that synod appoint the following nominee to a three-year term as Canada member-at-large to a first term of three years:

Mr. Ariel De Jong is a member of Fleetwood CRC in Surrey, British Columbia, employed as a senior partner with the law firm McCarthy Tetrault LLP. His desire is to serve as Jesus’ hands and feet in the world, and he sees World Renew as an opportunity to do so. In addition to his role as an active member of his church, Mr. De Jong has been an active volunteer with Christian schools, universities, and a senior housing facility. His legal expertise along with excellent judgment and communication skills will be an asset to promoting justice and mercy in a board role.

C. Canada member-at-large completing term

World Renew Canada expresses gratitude to Ms. Sarah Van Woerden, whose term as a young adult member-at-large from The King’s University ended upon completion of her degree.

II. Recommendation

That synod appoint and ratify members to the board of World Renew as recommended in section I above.

World Renew

Carol Bremer-Bennett, director, World Renew-U.S.

Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, director, World Renew-Canada

Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

The Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the seminary.

I. Board of Trustees

At its meeting on May 18-19, 2017, the board elected the following officers for 2017-2018: Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., chair; Rev. Curtis A. Walters, vice chair; Mrs. Teresa Renkema, secretary.

The following nominee is being submitted to Synod 2017 for appointment:

Region 10 at-large

Dr. Susan Beving Strikwerda was born in La Jolla, California. Her father's career in the U.S. Navy enabled their family to live in many places on the east and west coasts as well as in Hawaii and Spain. She is a graduate of Calvin College and received her D.D.S. degree from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. She practices dentistry in Holland, Michigan, with her husband, Rich. Dr. Strikwerda has been a member at Park CRC since moving to Holland, serving the church as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, and elder.

II. Academics

A. *Graduates*

Calvin Theological Seminary graduated its largest class ever, with 126 students receiving a certificate, diploma, or degree at its commencement service on May 20, 2017. Fifty-six of the students completed one of our two Spanish-language certificate programs and received either a Certificate in Hispanic Ministry or a Certificate in Family Counseling. Eight students received either the master in theological studies or the master of divinity degree through the seminary's Distance Learning program, which is now completing its fifth year.

In total, seventeen countries or territories were represented by this year's graduates: Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, and the United States.

B. *Distinguished Alumni Awards*

Rev. Dr. Joseph Tong (former president of International Theological Seminary, Los Angeles, California, and Bandung Theological Seminary in Indonesia) and Rev. Howard Vanderwell (former pastor of Lebanon CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa; Trinity CRC, Grandville, Mich.; Bethel CRC, Lansing, Ill.; and Hillcrest CRC, Hudsonville, Mich.) received the seminary's Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2017.

C. *Board appointments and actions*

At its recent meeting, the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees took the following actions:

1. Approved a recommendation to synod that the CTS Board of Trustees term of Rev. William R. Sytsma, Region 9, be extended for one year so that

Region 9 can submit nominations for this position. The first term would begin July 1, 2018.

2. Appointed Dr. Gary Burge as visiting professor of New Testament and faculty development specialist for a two-year period (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2019).
3. Appointed Dr. Robert Keeley as visiting professor of discipleship and faith formation (half-time) for one year (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018).
4. Approved the cross-appointment of Dr. David Rylaarsdam in worship, revising his title to professor of the history of Christianity and worship.
5. Appointed Rev. Troy Bierma as Lee S. Huizenga Distinguished Missionary-in-Residence for an initial term of one year (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018), contingent upon a funding partnership with CRC World Missions/new mission agency.
6. Appointed Rev. Jeffrey Bos as scholar-in-residence for an initial term of one year (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018), contingent upon funding for the position from CRC World Missions/new mission agency.
7. Received an initial draft of portions of the Calvin Theological Seminary's Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Reaccreditation Self-Study report.

III. Recommendations

- A. That synod appoint Dr. Susan Strikwerda to the position of Region 10 at-large member of the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.
- B. That synod approve a one-year extension of the CTS Board of Trustees term of Rev. William R. Sytsma, Region 9.

Calvin Theological Seminary
Teresa Renkema, secretary

STANDING COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTS

Candidacy Committee Supplement

I. Candidates for minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church

A. *Candidates for ministry*

Each year it is a privilege to meet and interview the applicants for candidacy. The interviews for these candidates were conducted this year by teams of four or five persons. The Candidacy Committee is pleased to recommend the following thirty-nine persons for candidacy to become ministers of the Word in the CRC. These candidates include those who graduated from other than Calvin Theological Seminary through the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy. Biographical details for each of the candidates can be found in the Candidate Booklet, available for download at crcna.org/candidacy.

The following motion will allow their names to be approved by synod:

That synod declare the following individuals as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, subject to completion of all remaining (if any) requirements (the list of candidates eligible for call is available on the Candidacy Committee website: crcna.org/candidacy). Subject to synod's approval, the candidates will be presented to Synod 2017 on Tuesday, June 13, at 2:30 p.m.

Patrick D. Anthony
Josiah L. Bokma
Laura M. de Jong
Mark DeVos
Bradley S. Diekema
Brian Dunn
Joshua K. Friend
Cari C. Fydirchuck
Ernesto J. Hernandez
Ryan K. Hoekstra
James C. Hollendonner
Sarah K. Hoos
Jeffrey M. Hoos
Eunjun Jeong
Rafik Kamel
George C. Keulen
JungSeong "Samuel" Kim
Hope Guan Lee
Hannah Ryou Lee
Michael R. McGowan

Kyle J. Meyaard-Schaap
Cory J. Nederveld
Fikre H. Norcha
Arek O'Connell
Ryan T. Pedde
Allen P. Pontarelli
Margaret Rekman
Janet A. Ryzebol
Bailey B. Sarver
Mark P. Van Andel
Michelle R. VandenBerg
Greg Vander Horn
Nicole Veenkamp
Jantje F. (Femke) Visser-Elenbaas
Michael A. Westerveld
Brian D. White
Joanna L. Wigboldy
Jianlou (John) Xu
Cody J. Zuiderveen

B. Extension of candidacy

The rules of synod require that a declared candidate by one synod must request an extension of candidacy status at the following synod if a call has not been accepted. The Candidacy Committee communicates with such persons in order to determine the validity of the request and to offer words of encouragement. The Candidacy Committee recommends the following thirty-four persons for approval of candidacy extension:

Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi	Sang Myung Lee
Elisabeth A. De Vries	Sheryl J. Leisman
Darrell Delaney	Katrina J. Olson
Kyle Dieleman	Jennifer L. Palkowski
Trent M. Elders	Matthew A. Pearce
Kendra R. Ettema	Kristen J. Pikaart
Kendall A. Everett	Kurt C. Schaefer
Tara K. Foreman	Ivan K. Santoso
Tyler Greenway	Kelli K. Sexton
Robert J. Gruessing	Sharon R. Smith
Laura A. Guichelaar-DeRuiter	Juli Stuelpnagel
Grant Hofman	Ricardo R. Tavarez
Ryan Hoogerbrugge	Jason R. Terpstra
Sarah J. Hoogendoorn	David van Eyk
Joseph Hwang	Thomas J. Van Wyk
Moses Kang	Beverly Weeks
Jonathan A. Kool	Bradley R. Zwiers

C. Reinstatement of candidacy

The Candidacy Committee has received a request from a previous candidate who had to suspend candidacy in order to fulfill mandatory military service in Korea. The person is now back in the United States, and is eager to be eligible once again for call. The Candidacy Committee recommends that synod reinstate the candidacy of Mr. Eun Chong “David” Shin.

The Candidacy Committee has also received a request from a previous candidate who suspended his candidacy for a period of time in order to serve in a college staff position that was not ordainable. He now wishes to be eligible for a call. The Candidacy Committee has interviewed him and recommends that synod reinstate the candidacy of Mr. Richard France-Coe.

II. Article 8 candidates approved

Our process for guiding pastors ordained in other denominations who wish to become ordained in the CRC is described in Church Order Article 8. Church Order Supplement, Article 8, F directs the Candidacy Committee to be intimately involved in this process and to submit for synod’s review the names of those approved for Article 8 process. The Candidacy Committee has concurred on *need* for the following persons in the past year. In each case the appropriate documents are on file with the director of the Office of Candidacy.

Date	Name of applicant	Classis	Former denomination
7-19-16	Kang, Seong Guen	Hanmi	Evangelical Church Alliance
8-16-16	Sarwar, Eric	Greater Los Angeles	Presbyterian Church of Pakistan
9-09-16	Park, Sang Jung	Hanmi	Presbyterian Church in Korea
9-10-16	Jung, Teukkoon	Hanmi	Korean Assoc. of Independent Churches
9-12-16	Jang, Ezra	Northern Illinois	Christian and Missionary Alliance
9-20-16	Koirala, Chuda Mani	Thornapple Valley	Korean Assoc. of Independent Churches
2-09-17	Kim, Choung Woo	Ko-Am	Presbyterian Church in Korea
3-03-17	Statham, Todd	B.C South-East	Presbyterian Church in Canada
3-03-17	Lanting, Frank	Alberta South/Sask.	Presbyterian Church in America
4-06-17	Lee, Sung Joo	Greater Los Angeles	Korean Presbyterian Church

III. Article 8 Process Reflections and Adjustments

As mentioned in our report to synod (*Agenda for Synod 2017*, p. 314), one of the especially challenging aspects of our work has to do with administering Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E relative to affiliation of persons already ordained in other denominations. At least three complex factors are at play in the challenge the committee faces.

First, congregational search committees often engage pastors who are not eligible for call. With the availability of the Internet, pastors and candidates not on any synodically approved list have opportunity to reach out to CRC search committees. In addition, given today's decline in denominational identity, search committees and church councils often are not aware of traditional search protocols and give serious consideration to such persons as they inquire. Finally, amid the sometimes confusing multiplicity of classis roles, and within a system that is not always so clear about the role of the appointed classis counselor, the task of mentoring and monitoring the work of a local search committee is not tended to effectively. As a result, the Candidacy Committee often receives requests to approve an Article 8 process at the end of a pastor-search process rather than at the beginning. And sometimes, as has been reported to earlier synods, a noneligible pastor is already on site before the Candidacy Committee has opportunity to engage in the process.

Second, many pastors from other denominations seek to serve within the CRCNA. Some of these pastors are simply seeking options to serve in the generic ecclesiastical world of North America. Some, however, are decidedly Reformed, offer significant gifts for ministry, and desire to affiliate with the CRCNA. Yet our denominational covenants with current pastors and candidates discourage the application of Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E. Even though recognition is given concerning persons with "extraordinary qualifications" (Supplement, Art. 8, E, 4, a), the Candidacy Committee feels the responsibility not to be easily persuaded that search committees and pastors be allowed to use this rationale when many ordinary and extraordinary persons currently approved by synod remain ready to serve if asked.

Third, some of our ministries, especially ethnic minority congregations, depend on the Article 8 process to find a new pastor. To expand on the preceding comments about persons with "ordinary and extraordinary" gifts, we recognize that Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E, 4 offers additional criteria for using this route. The Candidacy Committee has mentioned to previous synods (see *Agenda for Synod 2012*, p. 215; and *Agenda for Synod 2013*, p. 215) that what is referred to as the "need factor" is very straightforward for two categories: (1) "the need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural

or ethnic minority church” (Supplement, Art. 8, E, 4, d) and (2) the missional need for ordaining a person ready to plant a church (Supplement, Art. 8, E, 4, c). Many of our uses of Supplement, Article 8, E fall in one of these two categories. The Candidacy Committee finds great joy in this area of its work. We are convinced that the church is well served by a flexible Article 8 process for these ministry opportunities.

Over the past few years at least two accommodations have been made relative to the implementation of Church Order Article 8. First, the learning plan, generically referred to as the Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (MEPMC) in Church Order Art. 8-c, is adjusted to fit the context of the pastors who affiliate. In fact, the MEPMC use of accredited courses at Calvin Theological Seminary has occurred in only one instance in the past nine years. The MEPMC was originally imagined as a program with accredited course work offered through Calvin Theological Seminary. Yet early in the work of the Candidacy Committee the Korean community requested and received permission to offer a nonaccredited program in the Korean language. This program, called Korean Institute in Ministry (KIM), has been highly effective and much appreciated. Other nonaccredited learning opportunities have been created and approved, as reported to earlier synods. For the sake of consistency, the Candidacy Committee has moved almost uniformly to the use of nonaccredited learning plans for Article 8.

A second accommodation has been to offer an innovative option to non-CRC ordained persons who are very desirous of entering CRC ministry and who do not have an eligible church that is calling them (see *Agenda for Synod 2012*, p. 215; and *Agenda for Synod 2013*, p. 215). At least four persons already ordained have decided to take the regular EPMC in order to become eligible for call via Church Order Article 6. Though the original intent of the EPMC has been to provide a route for those never ordained, the program has been used for these persons already ordained but sincerely desirous of becoming eligible for call within the CRCNA.

At this point a tension has arisen that the Candidacy Committee believes is worthy of addressing. Some classis leaders and ministry partners have questioned the integrity of using a route designed for those not ordained (i.e., Church Order Art. 6, with the EPMC) for those who in fact are ordained and would normally use Article 8. Further, congregations and search committees who are not eligible to call a pastor under Article 8 (see Supplement, Art. 8, E, 1) may potentially make use of the accommodation just described and have their non-CRC ordained pastor candidate enroll in the EPMC under Article 6. The negative results are twofold: (1) an honest discussion of the “sustained and realistic search” requirement is often averted; and (2) there is the potential appearance of using rules to get around rules, and the system appears to lack integrity.

With the help of classis leaders and ministry partners who have raised this matter, the Candidacy Committee recognizes the weight of the problem that has just been described. The Candidacy Committee is committed anew to clearly pointing search committees and local congregations to the importance of working with the classis and the Candidacy Committee in discussing the option of calling persons ordained outside of the denomination. Only after this discussion has taken place can and should we decide upon learning

plans appropriate for the Article 8 process. At this point an adjustment to our practice can take place.

The adjustment we are proposing is that the Candidacy Committee make renewed use of the MEPMC accredited coursework offered through Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) for select Article 8 cases. The program is useful and deeper than the nonaccredited learning plan. Requiring the program may positively act as a deterrent for use of Article 8, and when the program is elected, it will act positively as a deep orientation to the denomination and its values.

For many, the basic individual and contextualized learning plan would still be used. This nonaccredited approach is sensitive to language and cultural and contextual needs, and it is also less costly. For others, the requirement of the accredited course work at CTS (the original version of the MEPMC) would be required. This is the core of the adjustment. The Candidacy Committee would enforce this requirement for cases in which culture and ministry context suggest it would be a beneficial and potentially successful mechanism for orientation to the denomination.

In addition the Candidacy Committee anticipates continuing to encounter cases in which an inquiring ordained pastor can be counseled to enroll in the EPMC. Yet for those ordained in other denominations that are in conversations with a CRC ministry, Article 8 would more consistently be used.

The Candidacy Committee therefore requests that synod formally endorse the increased use of the accredited MEPMC coursework offered through Calvin Theological Seminary in the Article 8 learning plans in order that affiliating pastors receive an appropriate orientation to the CRCNA and that vacant congregations will recognize and benefit from pastors' receiving as deep an orientation as is feasible.

IV. Recommendations

- A. That synod declare those listed in section I, A as candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.
- B. That synod approve the extensions of candidacy as recommended in section I, B.
- C. That synod approve the reinstatement of candidacy to Mr. Eun Chong "David" Shin and Mr. Richard France-Coe, as described in section I, C.
- D. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee in declaration of *need* for those listed in section II for affiliation under Church Order Article 8.
- E. That synod endorse the increased use of the accredited MEPMC coursework offered through Calvin Theological Seminary in the Article 8 learning plans in order that affiliating pastors receive an appropriate orientation to the CRCNA and that vacant congregations will recognize and benefit from pastors' receiving as deep an orientation as is feasible.

Candidacy Committee
David R. Koll, director of the Office of Candidacy

I. Review of recent and upcoming actions and activities

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) seeks to promote interfaith and ecumenical engagement among congregations and has recently produced two brochures available for churches and updated its website (crcna.org/eirc), providing links to resources. In addition, while the EIRC's interfaith subcommittee was launched a few years ago, the Reformed Church in America's InterReligious Task Force is exploring ways in which the RCA can be more involved in interfaith matters. Dr. Jim Payton, EIRC chair, serves on the RCA's InterReligious Task Force and seeks to find ways for the CRC and RCA to cooperate in these efforts.

The EIRC is actively exploring how the CRC's Digital Library could benefit our ecumenical partners, particularly in non-North American and non-European contexts.

The EIRC, along with others, endorses the formation of an ad hoc group that will seek to identify the priorities and strategies appropriate for CRC ministries and agencies needed to realize synodically approved goals in the areas of peacemaking, religious persecution, and interfaith activities that focus on the Middle East (Palestine and Israel, in particular) and benefit congregations per the CRCNA Ministry Plan.

Finally, the committee is sending a delegation to the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) General Council meeting this summer in Germany. The delegation includes EIRC members Rev. Anthony Elenbaas, Rev. Emmett Harrison, and Ms. Lenore Maine. In addition, Dr. Mary Buteyn will attend on behalf of the CRCNA. Dr. Peter Borgdorff will participate by means of his membership on the WCRC's executive committee, and Dr. William Koopmans will participate as an adviser to the WCRC executive committee. EIRC member Rev. Kathy Smith is on the General Council's worship planning committee.

II. Resolution of assignments

Synod 2016 instructed the executive director to task an ad hoc committee with the following mandate:

To investigate potential areas of collaborative partnership in ministry with Koreans in Korea. Composition should include members of the Korean Relations Team, EIRC, our educational institutions, and staff of the unified mission agency.

Grounds:

- 1) The current contributions of the president of Calvin Theological Seminary and of Calvin College staff have produced many fruitful relationships in Korea. Yet these programs are not coordinated by or inclusive of other CRC ministries. A team to consider such coordination and to maximize efforts would bless all parties involved. *Noted: CRCNA agencies and ministries have contributed to additional relationships.*
- 2) There are great opportunities for the CRCNA to learn about missions from Korean churches that claim a strong missional and prayer-filled history and identity. The CRCNA can grow in prayer in partnership with such churches. These opportunities to partner in ministry initiatives and in a learning community are beyond the mandate of the EIRC.

(Acts of Synod 2016, p. 839)

In response to this instruction, an ad hoc group was formed, and the following were appointed: Pastor Charles Kim, Korean ministries coordinator for Christian Reformed Home Missions; Rev. David Koll, director of Candidacy; Dr. Won Lee, professor of theology, Calvin College; Rev. Jul Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary; Dr. Jay Shim, professor of theology, Dordt College; Dr. Steven Timmermans, CRCNA executive director; and Rev. Paul Yu, Christian Reformed World Missions EurAsia director.

The group produced an extensive chart of existing relationships in which Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, and agencies and ministries of the CRCNA are interacting with various Korean institutions of higher learning, organizations, and churches. In addition, it is evident that the CRCNA is blessed with relationships in which individuals and congregations are connecting with ministries in Korea.

The group reviewed a number of these relationships. Along with benefits to ecumenical relations and mutual learning, some challenges were noted:

1. Differences in church polity

For example, ordination pathways and processes in the CRCNA differ from those for Korean denominations. In addition, the criteria for retention of ordination credentials are different.

2. Understanding the dynamics of Korean churches

Collaboration with Korean churches can be hampered by lack of mutual understanding. For example, the annual election of the moderator in Korean churches can make it challenging to establish and pursue long-term consistent ministry internally as well as collaboration with overseas partners externally. Appreciating these dynamics and even some of the divisive experiences among denominations in Korea is key to understanding the history and challenges of establishing ecumenical relationships even as we continue to seek better understanding and ministry cooperation.

The group also made the following observations in light of relationships that have developed:

- Educational institutions such as Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, Dordt College, and others have multiple relationships formed by memorandums of understanding with educational institutions in Korea.
- Learning and consultation events in Korea avoid exclusivity when a CRC ministry or educational institution helps to make arrangements by working with multiple Korean churches and groups.
- Greatly appreciated and valued are learning events between Korean churches/ministries/educational institutions and CRCNA churches/ministries/educational institutions that emphasize mutual contributions and benefits.

The EIRC duly noted the ad hoc group's observation that when it is not possible to pursue relationships through our *ecclesiastical fellowship* or *churches in dialogue* categories, the EIRC often finds ways to maintain relationships through participation in *ecumenical organizations* (e.g., WCRC). However, pursuit of the CRC's ecumenical task with Korean churches/ministries/educational institutions is hampered by the lack of an appropriate

organization through which to become involved with potential partners in Korea.

Therefore, at the recommendation of the ad hoc group, the EIRC will seek to recognize the use of informal and formal networks—often springing from various forms of partnership—to meet the purpose we tend to associate with ecumenical organizations (“to better carry out the CRC’s ecumenical responsibilities broadly, effectively, and efficiently”¹). Should informal networks—particularly those connecting with Korean-based churches and organizations—become formalized, the EIRC may well recommend that synod approve entering into formal partnership with such entities. The EIRC has therefore instructed staff to intentionally explore new ways of pursuing relationships under a broadened understanding of our *ecumenical organizations* category.

At this point in our history, relationships between multiple Korean partners and some CRC partners have emerged but generally have not been fully collaborative among CRC agencies, ministries, and educational institutions. Therefore, the EIRC has also instructed staff to conduct update and review sessions at least once a year with appropriate representatives from Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, CRC agencies and ministries, congregations and classes, and other CRC-related organizations. In this way collaborative partnerships with Korean churches and educational institutions may emerge, utilizing informal networks and giving rise, where possible and appropriate, to more formal networks of ecumenical partnership—thus more effectively contributing to the visible oneness of the church of Jesus Christ in the world.

Based on the ad hoc committee’s report to the EIRC and the two instructions the EIRC has provided to staff, the EIRC judges the aforementioned mandate by Synod 2016 to the executive director sufficiently addressed and asks synod to note its fulfillment.

III. Recommendation

That synod take note of the fulfillment of the instruction to the executive director by Synod 2016 regarding “areas of collaborative partnership in ministry with Koreans in Korea” (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 839).

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee
Jim Payton, chair
Steven R. Timmermans, executive director (ex officio)

¹ A rationale from the CRC Ecumenical Charter for participation in ecumenical organizations.

OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATION

Overture 19: Keep Current Designation of the Belhar Confession as Ecumenical Faith Declaration

The council of First CRC in Owen Sound, Ontario, overtures synod to leave the Belhar Confession as an Ecumenical Faith Declaration.

Grounds:

1. In 2012 Classis Huron overtured synod to not adopt the Belhar Confession as the fourth form of unity in the CRC.
2. Nothing has been presented to change the concerns presented to synod in 2012 that justify the change of status of the Belhar Confession to that of a *testimony*.
3. We do not want the Belhar included in the Covenant for Officebearers (CRC 2012).

Council of First CRC, Owen Sound, Ontario
Richard Huizinga, clerk

Note: This overture was presented to the February 2017 meeting of Classis Huron but was not adopted.

Overture 20: Allow Each Classis to Select Its Own Representative to the Council of Delegates

The *Rules for Synodical Procedure* require that all board and committee members are elected from a slate of multiple nominees presented to synod for election (section VI, D, 2; see also Council of Delegates Governance Handbook 2.131, *Agenda for Synod 2017*, p. 52). This procedure was adopted especially for the boards and committees that represent multiple classes, so that synod itself, rather than the constituent classes, would have the authority to decide the composition of its service committees and denominational boards.

With the structural changes that establish the Council of Delegates as representatives of an individual classis, however, the practice of having synod elect its interim committee from forty-eight separate slates presented by the various classes seems unnecessarily cumbersome and undermines the principle that the COD should utilize a constituent representative model of governance (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829).

Classis Hudson therefore overtures synod to modify the *Rules for Synodical Procedure*, the Council of Delegates Governance Handbook, and any

other relevant policies, to establish that each classis be allowed to elect, by its own preferred procedures, its individual representative to the Council of Delegates (keeping in mind, of course, the CRC's commitment to have the composition of its boards reflect the diversity of the church membership as much as possible). At-large members of the Council of Delegates, as well as members of other synodical service committees, would presumably continue to be elected from a slate of nominees presented to synod.

Grounds:

1. Individual classes can have a personal acquaintance with their nominees to the Council of Delegates and are in a better position to judge the relative merits of each nominee than synod as a whole, which must frequently make its choice based only on a written biography.
2. Allowing each classis to elect its own representatives to the Council of Delegates would foster a "direct and clear link between the [denominational] board and its constituents" (*Agenda for Synod 2016*, p. 688).

Classis Hudson

Mary B. Stegink, stated clerk

Communication in Response to Overture 9

The following is a communication sent by staff of the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action in response to the concern raised about the Do Justice blog in the spring of 2017. The advisory committee that addressed the overture felt it was important to include this response in the Acts of Synod 2017 because it outlines many important principles and faith considerations concerning the matter of communicating in a digital format such as a blog within the CRCNA. Ninety-nine percent of the content remains the same as in the original communication—only details such as the removal of names, grammatical and Scripture quote clarifications, and style elements have been changed.

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The staff of the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue and the Office of Social Justice wish to thank the leaders of Classis Minnkota for their concern for faithfulness to Scripture and obedience to the first commandment to worship God alone, a concern that we ourselves share. In response to Overture 9, an overture from Classis Minnkota requesting that synod “Establish Oversight of the Blog *Do Justice*,” we would like to offer the following for the consideration of the synodical advisory committee considering this overture.

### Response to initial communication

First, we offer a point of clarification to the contention that we did not respond to the initial communication from Classis Minnkota. The Office of Social Justice email account (osjha@crcna.org) received an email from [name removed] on January 23rd outlining his concerns about some articles on the blog, as well as his overall appreciation for the site. We appreciated how respectful and careful his email was, and especially that he reached out directly to our offices before widening the circle of conversation, following Jesus’ model laid out in Matthew 18. Our *Do Justice* editor, [name removed], considered his message carefully, spoke with colleagues, and responded to [name removed] at the email address he used to send the original email on February 2nd, a week and a half after we received his initial email. We did not receive a response from [name removed].

It is unfortunate that this apparent break in communications prevented a better dialogue about the concerns raised in [name removed]’s original communication, especially since these questions of syncretism and pluralism have been dealt with extensively by synod and particularly by the Canadian churches of the CRC in the past (Synod 1999; Cross-cultural Ministry Forum 2000). Our staff members, particularly our Canadian staff members like [name removed], are well versed in these reports and refer to them often.

### **Referring to God by non-European names**

Second, we are concerned by the assertion that in referring to the Great Spirit, *Do Justice* writers were referring to a god other than the one true God. Indigenous peoples, including Indigenous Christians such as [name removed] and [name removed], understand the Great Spirit to be Creator God. Scripture clearly teaches that there is only one Creator of all things, who is revealed incarnate in Jesus Christ and also manifests himself in creation (Ps. 19:1-4; Rom. 1:20; John 1:1-14).

The apostle Paul, when speaking with Greek philosophers at the Areopagus, equates their worship of the “Unknown God” with the Lord (Acts 17:22-28) and adds, “As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’” In doing so, he affirmed an insight from a non-Hebrew culture about the relationship of people and the Creator. This is not to say that we are free to worship other gods. When Christians in non-European cultures refer to God our Creator from within their cultural context, they will use language consistent with their cultural contexts. It is unreasonable to accuse them of idolatry because they refer to God using another name than Christians of European descent may be familiar with.

The good news is revealed, experienced, and expressed in cultural contexts the world over, and this diversity is a gift to the body of Christ. The church is made more complete when the praise, confession, and testimonies of every tribe, people, and tongue are heard in their unique cultural variations.

### **The revelation of God in creation**

Third, the overture’s concern with the authority of Scripture can be interpreted as a negation of the testimony of Scripture regarding the revelation of the Creator within creation, which is affirmed in Indigenous oral teachings and testimony. Our Reformed theology of common grace, drawing on the scriptural bases of passages such as Psalm 19:1-4 and Romans 1:20, affirms that the one true God is revealed in creation. We distinguish this grace from special grace, certainly, but we honor the profound witness of God in creation as affirmed by Scripture. In the words of Herman Bavinck in his *Reformed Dogmatics (Volume 1)*, “God’s revelation began in creation and continues in the maintenance and governance of all things. He reveals himself in nature all around us, displays it in his eternal power and divinity, and in blessings and judgements alternately shows this goodness and wrath. . . . This revelation of God is general, perceptible as such, and intelligible to every human. Nature and history are the book of God’s omnipotence and wisdom, his goodness and justice. All peoples have to a certain extent recognized this revelation.” The gospel testimony asserts that the non-Hebrew Magi knew about the ‘King of the Jews’ because they had seen his star (Matt. 2:1-12). Early stories of Christian mission in North America tell of Indigenous peoples expressing familiarity with God-as-Creator (as explained by Christian missionaries) and a curiosity about the Son of the Creator.

### **Syncretism versus contextualization of the gospel**

Fourth, it is critical in this discussion that we differentiate between syncretism and contextualization of the gospel. Syncretism is “the amalgamation or attempted amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools

of thought" (*Oxford English Dictionary*). Contextualization is the faithful proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ within a culture using words, symbols, and concepts endemic to that culture. Possibly the best example of contextualization is the gospel of John, where the Holy Spirit inspired a Hebrew man to use the Greek concept of the *logos* ("the Word"—John 1:1, 14) to proclaim the Hebrew victim of a Roman crucifixion as the risen Savior to the whole world within a Hellenistic culture.

Where contextualization is done well, it will employ unique cultural expressions to motivate people to love the triune Creator with all of their spirit, mind, heart, and strength and to love their neighbors as themselves. Indeed, as in the example of the good news in the gospel of John, the contextualization process will bless both the evangelist and the evangelized. Both the Hebrew Christian church and current Christians were blessed by the contextualizing use of the Greek concept of the *logos*; indeed for many Christians today, the opening passage of the gospel of John is an anchor of faith. Simply put, syncretism is contextualization done poorly. Discernment between contextualization and syncretism cannot be done by persons unfamiliar with the cultural expressions of contextualized gospel proclamation.

Cultural diversity, like biodiversity, is a gift of God in creation. South African Christians will worship, serve, and understand God differently than Cree Christians. Indonesian Christians will worship, serve, and understand God differently than Argentinian Christians. The gospel is unchanging, but it is embodied in a myriad of forms all over the world—that's the beauty of God's diverse and unified family.

To insist that Christians of all other cultures must conform to one Western European contextualization of the unchanging gospel message demonstrates cultural arrogance and idolization of our own culture. It also shows a lack of concern for relationships with Indigenous sisters and brothers in Christ and asks them to renounce their cultures in order to become Christian. If we are to truly become "God's diverse and unified family," as the report by this name adopted by Synod 1996 urges, and encourage diverse multiethnic leadership in the Christian Reformed Church that reflects the diversity of the neighborhoods where we live, we cannot short-circuit the Spirit-led discernment of Christians of all ethnicities by imposing on them Euro-American or Euro-Canadian shapes for their gospel living.

Furthermore, there is much that we can learn from each other, across cultural lines. As we learn, listen, and discern together, we are built up as the body of Christ and live more fully into the ministry of reconciliation to which we are called and which Christ modeled by tearing down the "dividing wall of hostility" (Eph. 2:14-22). There is much richness that is lost when one cultural expression of the gospel is prioritized above others. This was the goal of the *Do Justice* series "In 1492, Indigenous Peoples Discovered Columbus," into which several of the articles cited in the overture fit: to live into Synod 2016's declaration that the Doctrine of Discovery is a heresy by learning from the perspectives of Indigenous peoples. (See <http://dojustice.crcna.org/1492-indigenous-peoples-discovered-columbus>.)

## Every Christian's responsibility to practice discernment in his or her cultural context

Regardless of the culture from which he or she comes, every Christian bears the responsibility to "be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2, ESV). As Reformed Christians, we believe that each culture is affected by both common grace and total depravity. This is true in Indigenous cultures and in Euro-Canadian and Euro-American cultures. In prayerful discernment, each of us must renounce that which is not of God in our own culture, but can embrace the good gifts of our cultures, such as celebrating the Easter season in spring (festivals of the spring equinox were a practice in pre-Christian Europe) or marking Christ's birth with a Christmas tree (a practice that drew on pre-Christian symbolism, in which evergreens symbolized eternal life), without fear of syncretism. Indigenous Christians have the same responsibilities and rights of discernment and celebration. The Indigenous people referenced in the overture are devout Christians who have discerned which of the cultural practices from their cultures can be used to glorify the one true God. It is critical for Euro-Americans and Euro-Canadians to practice this discernment too, in order to avoid being seduced by the idolatries of money, power, self-reliance, and sex that can so easily corrupt faith and human flourishing in ways that are not pleasing to God.

Classis Minnkota's concerns about syncretism and the integration of culture and Christian faith are critical—even suspicious—of non-European practices, and do not evidently examine European syncretisms. We observe a prevailing assumption in the church that Western European practices and interpretations are normative in Christianity. Ultimately this is idolatrous, and it is also at the root of suspicion about Indigenous cultural practices. Unless we are Jewish, we have all been "grafted into the vine," Jesus, as Christ himself teaches in John 15:1-17. As Bert Adema writes in his discussion paper submitted to the Cross-cultural Ministry Forum in 2000, "In horticultural practice . . . Macintosh, Empire, Spartan, Red Delicious scions which are grafted onto one rootstock will bear fruit that is of their respective types. (In Romans 11, the apostle Paul also uses the imagery of grafting.) Christians from around the world have been given new life in Christ by the grafting power of his Spirit, which produces fruit with a Creator-endorsed diversity."

### **Purpose of *Do Justice***

The purpose of the *Do Justice* blog is to provide a conversation space for justice in the Christian Reformed Church. Because it is a conversation space and is meant to encourage thought and discussion around issues related to the call to do justice (see Mic. 6:8 and other texts) and to encourage the leadership and contributions of those responding to this call in Christian Reformed congregations, reflections on *Do Justice* do not always reflect the official positions of the Christian Reformed Church. In the article "What I Learned from a Full Moon Ceremony," for example, publishing of the writer's reflections on the experience does not imply full endorsement of the writer's perspective or experience.

## Conclusion

There are lessons that our staff will draw from this discussion, including the following:

- In order to avoid communications breakdowns, such as encountered with [name removed], we have reviewed and adapted our follow-up procedures appropriately.
- We will deliberately refer to past synodical discussions where possible in editor's notes, so that curious readers may become better acquainted with issues that have already been discussed by synod. We are already careful to do so on the Office of Social Justice website.
- We will be more clear that the perspectives expressed on *Do Justice* are not necessarily the official positions of the Christian Reformed Church or its ministries.

In conclusion, we hope that the above material is sufficient to suggest that Overture 9 should not move forward. We trust that the preceding explanation of the purpose, supervision, and rationale for *Do Justice* indicates an already rigorous editorial capacity and review function. Please also note the practical changes we have made in order to better explain the contexts of potentially controversial posts to our readers.

Further, should the advisory committee believe that the CRC as a whole would benefit by further exploration of the issues raised by the *Do Justice* posts and Overture 9, we suggest that synod review the findings of *Hearts Exchanged* and convene a new CRCNA forum for discernment on issues of cross-cultural mission, contextualization of the gospel, and syncretism. The nine recommendations coming out of *Hearts Exchanged* all point to the importance of continual humility, discernment, and dialogue on cross-cultural ministry. We consider the Minnkota overture to be one such opportunity for continued discernment and dialogue.





# FINANCIAL REPORTS



**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

|                                             | Fiscal<br>14-15<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>15-16<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>16-17<br>Budget | Fiscal<br>17-18<br>Proposed<br>@ .7500 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Share                              | \$ 3,194                  | \$ 3,050                  | \$ 2,920                  | \$ 2,898                               |
| % of Total Income                           | 37.8%                     | 32.6%                     | 32.8%                     | 33.1%                                  |
| Other Gift Income:                          |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Gifts & Offerings                           | \$ 3,585                  | \$ 3,125                  | \$ 4,230                  | \$ 3,982                               |
| Estate Gifts                                | \$ 1,394                  | \$ 2,980                  | \$ 1,500                  | \$ 1,600                               |
| Total Gift Income                           | 4,979                     | 6,105                     | 5,730                     | 5,582                                  |
| % of Total Income                           | 59.0%                     | 65.3%                     | 64.4%                     | 63.7%                                  |
| Other Income:                               |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Tuition & Sales                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Grants-Animation/Capital                    | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Miscellaneous                               | \$ 273                    | \$ 188                    | \$ 250                    | \$ 280                                 |
| Total Other Income                          | 273                       | 188                       | 250                       | 280                                    |
| % of Total Income                           | 3.2%                      | 2.0%                      | 2.8%                      | 3.2%                                   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                         | <b>8,446</b>              | <b>9,343</b>              | <b>8,900</b>              | <b>8,760</b>                           |
| <b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b> |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Program Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| English                                     | \$ 2,419                  | \$ 2,214                  | \$ 2,375                  | \$ 2,475                               |
| FTEs                                        | 16                        | 16                        | 16                        | 16                                     |
| International                               | \$ 4,021                  | \$ 3,642                  | \$ 3,908                  | \$ 3,658                               |
| FTEs                                        | 10                        | 8                         | 8                         | 8                                      |
| Education                                   | \$ 165                    | \$ 150                    | \$ 177                    | \$ 172                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 2                         | 2                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Total Program Service \$                    | \$ 6,605                  | \$ 6,006                  | \$ 6,460                  | \$ 6,305                               |
| Total Program Service FTEs                  | 28                        | 26                        | 26                        | 26                                     |
| % of Total \$                               | 73.8%                     | 71.1%                     | 72.6%                     | 72.0%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 75.7%                     | 72.2%                     | 72.2%                     | 72.2%                                  |
| Support Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Management & General                        | \$ 799                    | \$ 929                    | \$ 890                    | \$ 925                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 4                         | 4                         | 4                         | 4                                      |
| Plant Operations                            | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Fund-raising                                | \$ 1,551                  | \$ 1,513                  | \$ 1,550                  | \$ 1,530                               |
| FTEs                                        | 5                         | 6                         | 6                         | 6                                      |
| Total Support Service \$                    | 2,350                     | 2,442                     | 2,440                     | 2,455                                  |
| Total Support Service FTEs                  | 9                         | 10                        | 10                        | 10                                     |
| % of Total \$                               | 26.2%                     | 28.9%                     | 27.4%                     | 28.0%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 24.3%                     | 27.8%                     | 27.8%                     | 27.8%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                   | <b>\$ 8,955</b>           | <b>\$ 8,448</b>           | <b>\$ 8,900</b>           | <b>\$ 8,760</b>                        |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                           | <b>37</b>                 | <b>36</b>                 | <b>36</b>                 | <b>36</b>                              |
| <b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>               | <b>\$ (509)</b>           | <b>\$ 895</b>             | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                            |

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

|                                             | Fiscal<br>14-15<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>15-16<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>16-17<br>Budget | Fiscal<br>17-18<br>Proposed<br>@ .7500 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Share                              | \$ 2,389                  | \$ 2,367                  | \$ 2,246                  | \$ 2,249                               |
| % of Total Income                           | 1.6%                      | 1.6%                      | 1.5%                      | 1.5%                                   |
| Other Gift Income:                          |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Gifts & Offerings                           | \$ 3,443                  | \$ 3,603                  | \$ 3,485                  | \$ 3,360                               |
| Estate Gifts                                | \$ 53                     | \$ 55                     | \$ 34                     | \$ 34                                  |
| Total Gift Income                           | 3,496                     | 3,658                     | 3,519                     | 3,394                                  |
| % of Total Income                           | 2.3%                      | 2.4%                      | 2.3%                      | 2.2%                                   |
| Other Income:                               |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Tuition & Sales                             | \$ 139,083                | \$ 139,630                | \$ 141,858                | \$ 142,831                             |
| Grants                                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Miscellaneous                               | \$ 3,943                  | \$ 4,217                  | \$ 4,373                  | \$ 4,267                               |
| Total Other Income                          | 143,026                   | 143,847                   | 146,231                   | 147,098                                |
| % of Total Income                           | 96.0%                     | 96.0%                     | 96.2%                     | 96.3%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                         | <b>148,911</b>            | <b>149,872</b>            | <b>151,996</b>            | <b>152,741</b>                         |
| <b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b> |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Program Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Education                                   | \$ 129,426                | \$ 131,204                | \$ 132,885                | \$ 133,536                             |
| FTEs                                        | 576                       | 572                       | 552                       | 552                                    |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Total Program Service \$                    | \$ 129,426                | \$ 131,204                | \$ 132,885                | \$ 133,536                             |
| Total Program Service FTEs                  | 576                       | 572                       | 552                       | 552                                    |
| % of Total \$                               | 86.9%                     | 87.5%                     | 87.4%                     | 87.4%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 77.7%                     | 79.0%                     | 77.2%                     | 77.2%                                  |
| Support Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Management & General                        | \$ 8,019                  | \$ 7,600                  | \$ 8,135                  | \$ 8,175                               |
| FTEs                                        | 60                        | 55                        | 58                        | 58                                     |
| Plant Operations                            | \$ 8,319                  | \$ 8,055                  | \$ 7,869                  | \$ 7,908                               |
| FTEs                                        | 69                        | 66                        | 73                        | 73                                     |
| Fund-raising                                | \$ 3,147                  | \$ 3,013                  | \$ 3,107                  | \$ 3,122                               |
| FTEs                                        | 36                        | 31                        | 32                        | 32                                     |
| Total Support Service \$                    | 19,485                    | 18,668                    | 19,111                    | 19,205                                 |
| Total Support Service FTEs                  | 165                       | 152                       | 163                       | 163                                    |
| % of Total \$                               | 13.1%                     | 12.5%                     | 12.6%                     | 12.6%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 22.3%                     | 21.0%                     | 22.8%                     | 22.8%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                   | <b>\$ 148,911</b>         | <b>\$ 149,872</b>         | <b>\$ 151,996</b>         | <b>\$ 152,741</b>                      |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                           | <b>741</b>                | <b>724</b>                | <b>715</b>                | <b>715</b>                             |
| <b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                            |

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

|                                             | Fiscal<br>14-15<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>15-16<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>16-17<br>Budget | Fiscal<br>17-18<br>Proposed<br>@ .7500 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Share                              | \$ 2,567                  | \$ 2,449                  | \$ 2,364                  | \$ 2,327                               |
| % of Total Income                           | 33.5%                     | 32.0%                     | 31.2%                     | 31.2%                                  |
| Other Gift Income:                          |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Above Ministry Share                        | \$ 1,165                  | \$ 1,215                  | \$ 1,400                  | \$ 1,300                               |
| Estate Gifts                                | \$ 180                    | \$ 140                    | \$ 100                    | \$ 200                                 |
| Total Gift Income                           | 1,345                     | 1,355                     | 1,500                     | 1,500                                  |
| % of Total Income                           | 17.5%                     | 17.7%                     | 19.8%                     | 20.1%                                  |
| Other Income:                               |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Tuition & Sales                             | \$ 2,408                  | \$ 2,440                  | \$ 2,310                  | \$ 2,200                               |
| Grants                                      | \$ 1,272                  | \$ 1,342                  | \$ 1,338                  | \$ 1,350                               |
| Miscellaneous                               | \$ 73                     | \$ 69                     | \$ 75                     | \$ 75                                  |
| Total Other Income                          | 3,753                     | 3,851                     | 3,723                     | 3,625                                  |
| % of Total Income                           | 49.0%                     | 50.3%                     | 49.1%                     | 48.6%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                         | <b>7,665</b>              | <b>7,655</b>              | <b>7,587</b>              | <b>7,452</b>                           |
| <b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b> |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Program Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Instructional                               | \$ 3,049                  | \$ 3,031                  | \$ 3,073                  | \$ 2,935                               |
| FTEs                                        | 23                        | 22                        | 21                        | 20                                     |
| Public Service                              | \$ 96                     | \$ 104                    | \$ 86                     | \$ 81                                  |
| FTEs                                        | 1                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1                                      |
| Academic Support                            | \$ 1,312                  | \$ 1,262                  | \$ 1,324                  | \$ 1,280                               |
| FTEs                                        | 5                         | 5                         | 6                         | 6                                      |
| Student Services                            | \$ 546                    | \$ 577                    | \$ 626                    | \$ 660                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 5                         | 5                         | 5                         | 5                                      |
| Student Aid                                 | \$ 363                    | \$ 329                    | \$ 285                    | \$ 250                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 1                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1                                      |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Total Program Service \$                    | \$ 5,366                  | \$ 5,303                  | \$ 5,394                  | \$ 5,206                               |
| Total Program Service FTEs                  | 35                        | 34                        | 34                        | 33                                     |
| % of Total \$                               | 68.9%                     | 69.2%                     | 71.1%                     | 70.2%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 67.3%                     | 68.0%                     | 68.0%                     | 67.3%                                  |
| Support Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Management & General                        | \$ 914                    | \$ 872                    | \$ 882                    | \$ 845                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 9                         | 9                         | 8                         | 8                                      |
| Plant Operations                            | \$ 866                    | \$ 910                    | \$ 677                    | \$ 726                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 2                         | 2                         | 3                         | 3                                      |
| Fund-raising                                | \$ 639                    | \$ 582                    | \$ 630                    | \$ 640                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 6                         | 5                         | 5                         | 5                                      |
| Total Support Service \$                    | 2,419                     | 2,364                     | 2,189                     | 2,211                                  |
| Total Support Service FTEs                  | 17                        | 16                        | 16                        | 16                                     |
| % of Total \$                               | 31.1%                     | 30.8%                     | 28.9%                     | 29.8%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 32.7%                     | 32.0%                     | 32.0%                     | 32.7%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                   | <b>\$ 7,785</b>           | <b>\$ 7,667</b>           | <b>\$ 7,583</b>           | <b>\$ 7,417</b>                        |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                           | <b>52</b>                 | <b>50</b>                 | <b>50</b>                 | <b>49</b>                              |
| Post-retirement cost other than pension >   | 48                        | -                         |                           |                                        |
| <b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>               | <b>\$ (72)</b>            | <b>\$ (12)</b>            | <b>\$ 4</b>               | <b>\$ 35</b>                           |

**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

|                                             | Fiscal<br>14-15<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>15-16<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>16-17<br>Budget | Fiscal<br>17-18<br>Proposed<br>@ .7500 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Share                              | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| % of Total Income                           | 0.0%                      | 0.0%                      | 0.0%                      | 0.0%                                   |
| Other Gift Income:                          |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Gifts & Offerings                           | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Estate Gifts                                | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Total Gift Income                           | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| % of Total Income                           | 0.0%                      | 0.0%                      | 0.0%                      | 0.0%                                   |
| Other Income:                               |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Tuition & Sales                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Grants                                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Note Interest                               | \$ 1,068                  | \$ 984                    | \$ 1,052                  | \$ 852                                 |
| Total Other Income                          | 1,068                     | 984                       | 1,052                     | 852                                    |
| % of Total Income                           | 100.0%                    | 100.0%                    | 100.0%                    | 100.0%                                 |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                         | <b>1,068</b>              | <b>984</b>                | <b>1,052</b>              | <b>852</b>                             |
| <b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b> |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Program Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Loan Interest                               | \$ 591                    | \$ 574                    | \$ 550                    | \$ 400                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 1                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1                                      |
| Provision for loan losses                   | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Total Program Service \$                    | \$ 591                    | \$ 574                    | \$ 550                    | \$ 400                                 |
| Total Program Service FTEs                  | 1                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1                                      |
| % of Total \$                               | 66.6%                     | 61.2%                     | 59.0%                     | 50.6%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 33.3%                     | 33.3%                     | 50.0%                     | 50.0%                                  |
| Support Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Management & General                        | \$ 297                    | \$ 364                    | \$ 382                    | \$ 390                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 1                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1                                      |
| Plant Operations                            | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Fund-raising                                | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Total Support Service \$                    | 297                       | 364                       | 382                       | 390                                    |
| Total Support Service FTEs                  | 1                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1                                      |
| % of Total \$                               | 33.4%                     | 38.8%                     | 41.0%                     | 49.4%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 66.7%                     | 66.7%                     | 50.0%                     | 50.0%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                   | <b>\$ 888</b>             | <b>\$ 938</b>             | <b>\$ 932</b>             | <b>\$ 790</b>                          |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                           | <b>2</b>                  | <b>2</b>                  | <b>2</b>                  | <b>2</b>                               |
| <b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>               | <b>\$ 180</b>             | <b>\$ 46</b>              | <b>\$ 120</b>             | <b>\$ 62</b>                           |

# Congregational Services

## Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2017-2018

|                                                          | Fiscal<br>14-15<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>15-16<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>16-17<br>Budget | Fiscal<br>17-18<br>Proposed<br>@ .7500 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Share                                           | \$ 5,678                  | \$ 5,474                  | \$ 5,395                  | \$ 4,977                               |
| % of Total Income                                        | 45.5%                     | 40.7%                     | 42.0%                     | 40.1%                                  |
| Other Gift Income:                                       |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Gifts & Offerings                                        | \$ 725                    | \$ 940                    | \$ 852                    | \$ 1,504                               |
| Estate Gifts                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ 10                                  |
| Total Gift Income                                        | 725                       | 940                       | 852                       | 1,514                                  |
| % of Total Income                                        | 5.8%                      | 7.0%                      | 6.6%                      | 12.2%                                  |
| Other Income:                                            |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Tuition & Sales                                          | \$ 5,777                  | \$ 5,872                  | \$ 5,198                  | \$ 5,035                               |
| Grants                                                   | \$ -                      | \$ 1,000                  | \$ 1,212                  | \$ 680                                 |
| Services & Misc                                          | \$ 309                    | \$ 149                    | \$ 192                    | \$ 214                                 |
| Total Other Income                                       | 6,086                     | 7,021                     | 6,602                     | 5,929                                  |
| % of Total Income                                        | 48.7%                     | 52.3%                     | 51.4%                     | 47.7%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                      | <b>12,489</b>             | <b>13,435</b>             | <b>12,849</b>             | <b>12,420</b>                          |
| <b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b>              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| <b>Program Services:</b>                                 |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Lead-Chaplaincy Services                                 | \$ 261                    | \$ 266                    | \$ 256                    | \$ 261                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 2                         | 2                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Lead-Pastor-Church Relations/SCE                         | \$ 1,246                  | \$ 982                    | \$ 1,106                  | \$ 1,048                               |
| FTEs                                                     | 6                         | 6                         | 6                         | 6                                      |
| Lead-Candidacy                                           | \$ 179                    | \$ 235                    | \$ 237                    | \$ 240                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 2                         | 2                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Lead-Ecumenical Relations                                | \$ 170                    | \$ 150                    | \$ 132                    | \$ 115                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Lead-Network/Healthy Church                              | 26                        | 26                        | -                         | -                                      |
| FTEs                                                     | 1                         | 1                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Justice-Race Relations                                   | \$ 483                    | \$ 654                    | \$ 574                    | \$ 542                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 4                         | 4                         | 5                         | 5                                      |
| Justice-Safe Church Ministry                             | \$ 206                    | \$ 244                    | \$ 285                    | \$ 287                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 2                         | 2                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Justice-Disability Concerns                              | \$ 298                    | \$ 265                    | \$ 274                    | \$ 276                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 2                         | 2                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Justice-Social & Restorative Justice                     | \$ 717                    | \$ 727                    | \$ 630                    | \$ 519                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 5                         | 5                         | 7                         | 7                                      |
| Justice-Ministries in Canada                             | \$ 1,074                  | \$ 1,088                  | \$ 991                    | \$ 1,022                               |
| FTEs                                                     | 5                         | 5                         | 6                         | 6                                      |
| Faith-Volunteer Services                                 | \$ 168                    | \$ 153                    | \$ 197                    | \$ 105                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 2                         | 2                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Faith-Church Resources (FA)                              | \$ 385                    | \$ 538                    | \$ 585                    | \$ 598                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 4                         | 4                         | 5                         | 5                                      |
| MSS-Agency services                                      | \$ 5,285                  | \$ 4,859                  | \$ 3,453                  | \$ 3,287                               |
| FTEs                                                     | 24                        | 24                        | 14                        | 14                                     |
| MSS-Faith Alive (FA)                                     | \$ 841                    | \$ 1,177                  | \$ 1,237                  | \$ 6                                   |
| FTEs                                                     | 6                         | 6                         | 6                         | 6                                      |
| MSS-Banner (FA)                                          | \$ 1,293                  | \$ 1,221                  | \$ 1,323                  | \$ 1,233                               |
| FTEs                                                     | 4                         | 4                         | 4                         | 4                                      |
| MSS-Libros Desafio (FA)                                  | \$ 482                    | \$ 556                    | \$ 225                    | \$ 184                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 3                         | 3                         | 3                         | 3                                      |
| MSS-Communications                                       | \$ 641                    | \$ 198                    | \$ 179                    | \$ 188                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 3                         | 3                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Worship-Worship Resources (FA)                           | \$ 380                    | \$ 404                    | \$ 476                    | \$ 483                                 |
| FTEs                                                     | 3                         | 3                         | 3                         | 3                                      |
| Training - TLTI                                          |                           |                           |                           | 637                                    |
| FTEs                                                     |                           |                           |                           | 5                                      |
| Training - Coffee Break                                  |                           |                           |                           | 345                                    |
| FTEs                                                     |                           |                           |                           | 3                                      |
| Training - Educational Care                              |                           |                           |                           | 191                                    |
| FTEs                                                     |                           |                           |                           | 1                                      |
| Grant Programs - Leadership Init., Connections, Pastor F | \$ 121                    | \$ 427                    | \$ 950                    | \$ 4                                   |
| FTEs                                                     |                           |                           |                           | 4                                      |
| Total Program Service \$                                 | \$ 13,294                 | \$ 13,528                 | \$ 12,527                 | \$ 13,749                              |
| Total Program Service FTEs                               | 72                        | 72                        | 73                        | 84                                     |
| % of Total \$                                            | 99.7%                     | 99.9%                     | 99.8%                     | 99.9%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                                          | 98.6%                     | 98.6%                     | 98.6%                     | 98.8%                                  |
| <b>Support Services:</b>                                 |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Management & General                                     | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| FTEs                                                     | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| D.D.M.                                                   | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| FTEs                                                     | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Fund-raising                                             | \$ 37                     | \$ 17                     | \$ 20                     | \$ 20                                  |
| FTEs                                                     | 1                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1                                      |
| Total Support Service \$                                 | 37                        | 17                        | 20                        | 20                                     |
| Total Support Service FTEs                               | 1                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1                                      |
| % of Total \$                                            | 0.3%                      | 0.1%                      | 0.2%                      | 0.1%                                   |
| % of Total FTEs                                          | 1.4%                      | 1.4%                      | 1.4%                      | 1.2%                                   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                                | <b>\$ 13,331</b>          | <b>\$ 13,545</b>          | <b>\$ 12,547</b>          | <b>\$ 13,769</b>                       |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                                        | <b>73</b>                 | <b>73</b>                 | <b>74</b>                 | <b>85</b>                              |
| <b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>                            | <b>\$ (842)</b>           | <b>\$ (110)</b>           | <b>\$ 302</b>             | <b>\$ (1,349)</b>                      |



**Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$)  
Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

|                                             | Fiscal<br>14-15<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>15-16<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>16-17<br>Budget | Fiscal<br>17-18<br>Proposed<br>@ .7500 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Share                              | \$ 7,780                  | \$ 7,444                  | \$ 7,114                  | \$ 7,073                               |
| % of Total Income                           | 37.1%                     | 34.4%                     | 35.0%                     | 37.6%                                  |
| Other Gift Income:                          |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Gifts & Offerings                           | \$ 10,682                 | \$ 10,209                 | \$ 11,264                 | \$ 10,326                              |
| Estate Gifts                                | \$ 1,223                  | \$ 3,189                  | \$ 1,207                  | \$ 936                                 |
| Total Gift Income                           | 11,905                    | 13,398                    | 12,471                    | 11,262                                 |
| % of Total Income                           | 56.7%                     | 61.8%                     | 61.4%                     | 59.9%                                  |
| Other Income:                               |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Tuition & Sales                             | \$ 120                    | \$ 134                    | \$ 135                    | \$ 49                                  |
| Grants                                      | \$ 76                     | \$ 57                     | \$ 44                     | \$ 20                                  |
| Miscellaneous                               | \$ 1,111                  | \$ 633                    | \$ 548                    | \$ 392                                 |
| Total Other Income                          | 1,307                     | 824                       | 727                       | 461                                    |
| % of Total Income                           | 6.2%                      | 3.8%                      | 3.6%                      | 2.5%                                   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                         | <b>20,992</b>             | <b>21,666</b>             | <b>20,312</b>             | <b>18,796</b>                          |
| <b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b> |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Program Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Teams - N. America                 | \$ 3,703                  | \$ 3,086                  | \$ 3,345                  | \$ 2,955                               |
| FTEs                                        | 20                        | 18                        | 18                        | 18                                     |
| Ministry Devel & Plan. - CBI                | \$ 737                    | \$ 559                    | \$ 769                    | \$ 2,350                               |
| FTEs                                        | 6                         | 5                         | 4                         | 14                                     |
| Africa & Europe                             | \$ 3,556                  | \$ 3,631                  | \$ 2,823                  | \$ 3,057                               |
| FTEs                                        | 24                        | 18                        | 20                        | 18                                     |
| Eurasia-reclassified 17-18                  | \$ 2,772                  | \$ 2,546                  | \$ 2,137                  |                                        |
| FTEs                                        | 17                        | 14                        | 14                        | -                                      |
| Latin America & Asia                        | \$ 4,079                  | \$ 4,017                  | \$ 3,016                  | \$ 3,799                               |
| FTEs                                        | 21                        | 19                        | 20                        | 23                                     |
| Global/other Int'l program                  | \$ 1,587                  | \$ 1,461                  | \$ 3,731                  | \$ 1,825                               |
| FTEs                                        | 15                        | 40                        | 41                        |                                        |
| Mission Educ Engagement/Vol                 | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ 86                     | \$ 884                                 |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | 2                         | 1                         | 3                                      |
| Total Program Service \$                    | \$ 16,434                 | \$ 15,300                 | \$ 15,907                 | \$ 14,870                              |
| Total Program Service FTEs                  | 103                       | 116                       | 118                       | 76                                     |
| % of Total \$                               | 80.7%                     | 78.5%                     | 78.3%                     | 75.7%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 83.1%                     | 85.9%                     | 84.3%                     | 73.1%                                  |
| Support Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Management & General                        | \$ 2,137                  | \$ 2,132                  | \$ 1,984                  | \$ 1,804                               |
| FTEs                                        | 6                         | 6                         | 6                         | 7                                      |
| Operations and Logistics/PLC                | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ 597                                 |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | -                         | -                         | 4                                      |
| Fund-raising                                | \$ 1,804                  | \$ 2,051                  | \$ 2,415                  | \$ 2,377                               |
| FTEs                                        | 15                        | 13                        | 16                        | 17                                     |
| Total Support Service \$                    | 3,941                     | 4,183                     | 4,399                     | 4,778                                  |
| Total Support Service FTEs                  | 21                        | 19                        | 22                        | 28                                     |
| % of Total \$                               | 19.3%                     | 21.5%                     | 21.7%                     | 24.3%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 16.9%                     | 14.1%                     | 15.7%                     | 26.9%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                   | <b>\$ 20,375</b>          | <b>\$ 19,483</b>          | <b>\$ 20,306</b>          | <b>\$ 19,648</b>                       |
| TOTAL FTEs**                                | 124                       | 135                       | 140                       | 104                                    |
| **Partner & Vol FTE est. incl above         | N/A                       | 30                        | 30                        | -                                      |
| <b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>               | <b>\$ 617</b>             | <b>\$ 2,183</b>           | <b>\$ 6</b>               | <b>\$ (852)</b>                        |

## Synodical Administrative Services

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2017-2018

|                                             | Fiscal<br>14-15<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>15-16<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>16-17<br>Budget | Fiscal<br>17-18<br>Proposed<br>@ .7500 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Share                              | \$ 2,398                  | \$ 2,296                  | \$ 2,193                  | \$ 2,395                               |
| % of Total Income                           | 40.0%                     | 49.1%                     | 74.0%                     | 84.7%                                  |
| Other Gift Income:                          |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Gifts & Offerings                           | \$ 19                     | \$ 602                    | \$ 572                    | \$ 258                                 |
| Estate Gifts                                | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Total Gift Income                           | 19                        | 602                       | 572                       | 258                                    |
| % of Total Income                           | 0.3%                      | 12.9%                     | 19.3%                     | 9.1%                                   |
| Other Income:                               |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Tuition & Sales                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ 10                     | \$ 10                                  |
| Grants                                      | \$ 75                     | \$ -                      | \$ 75                     | \$ 50                                  |
| Services & Misc                             | \$ 3,503                  | \$ 1,779                  | \$ 113                    | \$ 113                                 |
| Total Other Income                          | 3,578                     | 1,779                     | 198                       | 173                                    |
| % of Total Income                           | 59.7%                     | 38.0%                     | 6.7%                      | 6.1%                                   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                         | <b>5,995</b>              | <b>4,677</b>              | <b>2,963</b>              | <b>2,826</b>                           |
| <b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b> |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Program Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Synodical Services & Grants                 | \$ 2,239                  | \$ 2,400                  | \$ 1,057                  | \$ 1,310                               |
| FTEs                                        | 5                         | 5                         | 5                         | 5                                      |
| Communications                              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| FTEs                                        |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Sea to Sea expenses & grants                | \$ 14                     |                           |                           |                                        |
| FTEs                                        |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Leadership Programs                         | \$ 35                     | \$ 17                     | \$ 100                    |                                        |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | -                         | -                         |                                        |
| Total Program Service \$                    | \$ 2,288                  | \$ 2,417                  | \$ 1,157                  | \$ 1,310                               |
| Total Program Service FTEs                  | 5                         | 5                         | 5                         | 5                                      |
| % of Total \$                               | 62.2%                     | 64.7%                     | 40.8%                     | 46.4%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 41.7%                     | 41.7%                     | 35.7%                     | 35.7%                                  |
| Support Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Management & General                        | \$ 991                    | \$ 908                    | \$ 1,091                  | \$ 978                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 4                         | 4                         | 5                         | 5                                      |
| D.E.D.                                      | \$ 353                    | \$ 295                    | \$ 333                    | \$ 278                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 2                         | 2                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Fund-raising (Foundation & LE)              | \$ 48                     | \$ 116                    | \$ 254                    | \$ 260                                 |
| FTEs                                        | 1                         | 1                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Total Support Service \$                    | 1,392                     | 1,319                     | 1,678                     | 1,516                                  |
| Total Support Service FTEs                  | 7                         | 7                         | 9                         | 9                                      |
| % of Total \$                               | 37.8%                     | 35.3%                     | 59.2%                     | 53.6%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 58.3%                     | 58.3%                     | 64.3%                     | 64.3%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                   | <b>\$ 3,680</b>           | <b>\$ 3,736</b>           | <b>\$ 2,835</b>           | <b>\$ 2,826</b>                        |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                           | <b>12</b>                 | <b>12</b>                 | <b>14</b>                 | <b>14</b>                              |
| <b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>               | <b>\$ 2,315</b>           | <b>\$ 941</b>             | <b>\$ 128</b>             | <b>\$ -</b>                            |

## World Renew

### Operating Budget (000s of U.S.\$) Fiscal Year 2017-2018

|                                             | Fiscal<br>14-15<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>15-16<br>Actual | Fiscal<br>16-17<br>Budget | Fiscal<br>17-18<br>Proposed<br>@ .7500 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                              |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Ministry Share                              | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| % of Total Income                           | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Other Gift Income:                          |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Gifts & Offerings                           | \$ 19,786                 | \$ 17,416                 | \$ 22,024                 | \$ 19,363                              |
| Estate Gifts                                | \$ 2,254                  | \$ 5,871                  | \$ 1,700                  | \$ 1,305                               |
| Total Gift Income                           | 22,040                    | 23,287                    | 23,724                    | 20,668                                 |
| % of Total Income                           | 61.6%                     | 65.9%                     | 70.8%                     | 67.8%                                  |
| Other Income:                               |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Tuition & Sales                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Grants                                      | \$ 13,119                 | \$ 11,758                 | \$ 9,500                  | \$ 9,350                               |
| Miscellaneous                               | \$ 646                    | \$ 311                    | \$ 300                    | \$ 450                                 |
| Total Other Income                          | 13,765                    | 12,069                    | 9,800                     | 9,800                                  |
| % of Total Income                           | 38.4%                     | 34.1%                     | 29.2%                     | 32.2%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                         | <b>35,805</b>             | <b>35,356</b>             | <b>33,524</b>             | <b>30,468</b>                          |
| <b>EXPENSES (FTE = Full Time Employee):</b> |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Program Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Overseas programs                           | \$ 11,372                 | \$ 11,078                 | \$ 13,518                 | \$ 12,320                              |
| FTEs                                        | 40                        | 38                        | 42                        | 45                                     |
| No. America programs                        | \$ 393                    | \$ 415                    | \$ 100                    | \$ 100                                 |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Disaster relief programs                    | \$ 1,524                  | \$ 1,521                  | \$ 1,298                  | \$ 1,774                               |
| FTEs                                        | 13                        | 13                        | 14                        | 10                                     |
| Above-budget relief costs                   | \$ 16,065                 | \$ 12,796                 | \$ 14,074                 | \$ 14,044                              |
| FTEs                                        | 4                         | 3                         | 2                         | 2                                      |
| Education                                   | \$ 1,463                  | \$ 1,603                  | \$ 1,500                  | \$ 1,750                               |
| FTEs                                        | 12                        | 12                        | 12                        | 12                                     |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
|                                             | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                      | \$ -                                   |
| Total Program Service \$                    | 30,817                    | 27,413                    | 30,490                    | \$ 29,988                              |
| Total Program Service FTEs                  | 69                        | 66                        | 70                        | 69                                     |
| % of Total \$                               | 88.5%                     | 86.6%                     | 85.4%                     | 85.1%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 73.4%                     | 70.2%                     | 72.9%                     | 70.4%                                  |
| Support Services:                           |                           |                           |                           |                                        |
| Management & General                        | 1,438                     | 1,641                     | 2,078                     | \$ 2,269                               |
| FTEs                                        | 6                         | 7                         | 6                         | 7                                      |
| Plant Operations                            | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| FTEs                                        | -                         | -                         | -                         | -                                      |
| Fund-raising                                | 2,571                     | 2,593                     | 3,144                     | \$ 2,990                               |
| FTEs                                        | 19                        | 21                        | 20                        | 22                                     |
| Total Support Service \$                    | 4,009                     | 4,234                     | 5,222                     | 5,259                                  |
| Total Support Service FTEs                  | 25                        | 28                        | 26                        | 29                                     |
| % of Total \$                               | 11.5%                     | 13.4%                     | 14.6%                     | 14.9%                                  |
| % of Total FTEs                             | 26.6%                     | 29.8%                     | 27.1%                     | 29.6%                                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                   | <b>34,826</b>             | <b>31,647</b>             | <b>35,712</b>             | <b>\$ 35,247</b>                       |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                           | <b>94</b>                 | <b>94</b>                 | <b>96</b>                 | <b>98</b>                              |
| <b>NET INCOME / (EXPENSE)</b>               | <b>979</b>                | <b>3,709</b>              | <b>(2,188)</b>            | <b>\$ (4,779)</b>                      |

## Ministers' Pension and Special Assistance Funds – Canada

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

|                                               | MPF<br>2015<br>Actual | MPF<br>2016<br>Actual | SAF<br>2015<br>Actual | SAF<br>2016<br>Actual |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ADDITIONS:</b>                             |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Ministry Share                                | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ 59                 | \$ 100                |
| % of Total Income                             | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  | 96.7%                 | 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                       | \$ 3,553              | \$ 3,170              | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| Grants                                        | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| Investment Earnings/(Losses)                  | \$ 2,614              | \$ 3,209              | \$ 2                  | \$ 3                  |
| Total Other Income                            | 6,167                 | 6,379                 | 2                     | 3                     |
| % of Total Income                             | 100.0%                | 100.0%                | 3.3%                  | 2.9%                  |
| <b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>                        | <b>6,167</b>          | <b>6,379</b>          | <b>61</b>             | <b>103</b>            |
| <b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b> |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Program Services:                             |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Distributions                                 | \$ 2,768              | \$ 2,618              | \$ 35                 | \$ 15                 |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| Total Program Service \$                      | \$ 2,768              | \$ 2,618              | \$ 35                 | \$ 15                 |
| Total Program Service FTEs                    | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| % of Total \$                                 | 78.2%                 | 74.8%                 | 100.0%                | 100.0%                |
| % of Total FTEs                               | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  | -                     | -                     |
| Support Services:                             |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Management & General                          | \$ 771                | \$ 882                | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| FTEs                                          | 1                     | 1                     | -                     | -                     |
| Plant Operations                              | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| Fund-raising                                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| Total Support Service \$                      | 771                   | 882                   | -                     | -                     |
| Total Support Service FTEs                    | 1                     | 1                     | -                     | -                     |
| % of Total \$                                 | 21.8%                 | 25.2%                 | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  |
| % of Total FTEs                               | 100.0%                | 100.0%                | -                     | -                     |
| <b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>                       | <b>\$ 3,539</b>       | <b>\$ 3,500</b>       | <b>\$ 35</b>          | <b>\$ 15</b>          |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                             | <b>1</b>              | <b>1</b>              | <b>-</b>              | <b>-</b>              |
| <b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>           | <b>\$ 2,628</b>       | <b>\$ 2,879</b>       | <b>\$ 26</b>          | <b>\$ 88</b>          |

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

### Changes in Net Assets (000s)

|                                               | MPF<br>2015<br>Actual | MPF<br>2016<br>Actual | SAF<br>2015<br>Actual | SAF<br>2016<br>Actual |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ADDITIONS:</b>                             |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Ministry Share                                | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ 139                | \$ 179                |
| % of Total Income                             | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  | 50.7%                 | 100.0%                |
| Other Gift Income:                            |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Above Ministry Share                          | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| Estate Gifts                                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| Total Gift Income                             | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| % of Total Income                             | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  |
| Other Income:                                 |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Participant Assessments                       | \$ 5,394              | \$ 5,384              | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| Grants                                        | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ 135                | \$ -                  |
| Investment Earnings                           | \$ (219)              | \$ 4,921              | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| Total Other Income                            | 5,175                 | 10,305                | 135                   | -                     |
| % of Total Income                             | 100.0%                | 100.0%                | 49.3%                 | 0.0%                  |
| <b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>                        | <b>5,175</b>          | <b>10,305</b>         | <b>274</b>            | <b>179</b>            |
| <b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b> |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Program Services:                             |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Distributions                                 | \$ 9,834              | \$ 9,904              | \$ 253                | \$ 152                |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| FTEs                                          |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| FTEs                                          |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| FTEs                                          |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| FTEs                                          |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| FTEs                                          |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Total Program Service \$                      | 9,834                 | 9,904                 | 253                   | 152                   |
| Total Program Service FTEs                    | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| % of Total \$                                 | 89.8%                 | 90.6%                 | 100.0%                | 100.0%                |
| % of Total FTEs                               | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  |                       |                       |
| Support Services:                             |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Management & General                          | \$ 1,118              | \$ 1,023              | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| FTEs                                          | 2                     | 2                     | -                     | -                     |
| Plant Operations                              | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| Fund-raising                                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  |
| FTEs                                          | -                     | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| Total Support Service \$                      | 1,118                 | 1,023                 | -                     | -                     |
| Total Support Service FTEs                    | 2                     | 2                     | -                     | -                     |
| % of Total \$                                 | 10.2%                 | 9.4%                  | 0.0%                  | 0.0%                  |
| % of Total FTEs                               | 100.0%                | 100.0%                |                       |                       |
| <b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>                       | <b>10,952</b>         | <b>10,927</b>         | <b>253</b>            | <b>152</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                             | <b>2</b>              | <b>2</b>              | <b>-</b>              | <b>-</b>              |
| <b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>           | <b>(5,777)</b>        | <b>(622)</b>          | <b>21</b>             | <b>27</b>             |

## Employees' Retirement Plan – Canada

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

|                                               | 2015<br>Actual | 2016<br>Actual |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>ADDITIONS:</b>                             |                |                |
| Ministry Share                                | \$ -           | \$ -           |
| % of Total Income                             | 0.0%           | 0.0%           |
| Other Gift Income:                            |                |                |
| Above Ministry Share                          | \$ -           | \$ -           |
| Estate Gifts                                  | \$ -           | \$ -           |
| Total Gift Income                             | -              | -              |
| % of Total Income                             | 0.0%           | 0.0%           |
| Other Income:                                 |                |                |
| Employer Contributions                        | \$ 443         | \$ 450         |
| Participant Contributions                     | \$ 55          | \$ 58          |
| Investment Earnings                           | \$ 69          | \$ 313         |
| Total Other Income                            | 567            | 821            |
| % of Total Income                             | 100.0%         | 100.0%         |
| <b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>                        | <b>567</b>     | <b>821</b>     |
| <b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b> |                |                |
| Program Services:                             |                |                |
| Distributions                                 | \$ 154         | \$ 434         |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| Total Program Service \$                      | \$ 154         | \$ 434         |
| Total Program Service FTEs                    | -              | -              |
| % of Total \$                                 | 95.1%          | 97.7%          |
| % of Total FTEs                               |                |                |
| Support Services:                             |                |                |
| Management & General                          | \$ 8           | \$ 10          |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| Plant Operations                              | \$ -           | \$ -           |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| Fund-raising                                  | \$ -           | \$ -           |
| FTEs                                          | -              | -              |
| Total Support Service \$                      | 8              | 10             |
| Total Support Service FTEs                    | -              | -              |
| % of Total \$                                 | 4.9%           | 2.3%           |
| % of Total FTEs                               |                |                |
| <b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>                       | <b>\$ 162</b>  | <b>\$ 444</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                             | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>       |
| <b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>           | <b>\$ 405</b>  | <b>\$ 377</b>  |

## Employees' Savings Plan – U.S.

### Changes in Net Assets (000s)

|                                               | 2015<br>Actual  | 2016<br>Actual  |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>ADDITIONS:</b>                             |                 |                 |
| Ministry Share                                | \$ -            | \$ -            |
| % of Total Income                             | 0.0%            | 0.0%            |
| Other Gift Income:                            |                 |                 |
| Above Ministry Share                          | \$ -            | \$ -            |
| Estate Gifts                                  | \$ -            | \$ -            |
| Total Gift Income                             | -               | -               |
| % of Total Income                             | 0.0%            | 0.0%            |
| Other Income:                                 |                 |                 |
| Contributions                                 | \$ 2,378        | \$ 2,352        |
| Grants                                        | \$ -            | \$ -            |
| Investment earnings                           | \$ 8            | \$ 1,787        |
| Total Other Income                            | 2,386           | 4,139           |
| % of Total Income                             | 100.0%          | 100.0%          |
| <b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>                        | <b>2,386</b>    | <b>4,139</b>    |
| <b>DEDUCTIONS (FTE = Full-Time Employee):</b> |                 |                 |
| Program Services:                             |                 |                 |
| Distributions                                 | \$ 1,514        | \$ 1,330        |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| Total Program Service \$                      | \$ 1,514        | \$ 1,330        |
| Total Program Service FTEs                    | -               | -               |
| % of Total \$                                 | 91.8%           | 90.7%           |
| % of Total FTEs                               | 0.0%            | 0.0%            |
| Support Services:                             |                 |                 |
| Management & General                          | \$ 135          | \$ 136          |
| FTEs                                          | 1               | 1               |
| Plant Operations                              | \$ -            | \$ -            |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| Fund-raising                                  | \$ -            | \$ -            |
| FTEs                                          | -               | -               |
| Total Support Service \$                      | 135             | 136             |
| Total Support Service FTEs                    | 1               | 1               |
| % of Total \$                                 | 8.2%            | 9.3%            |
| % of Total FTEs                               | 100.0%          | 100.0%          |
| <b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>                       | <b>\$ 1,649</b> | <b>\$ 1,466</b> |
| <b>TOTAL FTEs</b>                             | <b>1</b>        | <b>1</b>        |
| <b>NET ADDITIONS / (DEDUCTIONS)</b>           | <b>\$ 737</b>   | <b>\$ 2,673</b> |

# REPORT OF SYNOD 2017





# SYNOD 2017 SERVICE OF PRAYER, WORD, AND SACRAMENT

Crossroads Community Church, Schererville, Indiana  
June 11, 2017  
3:00 p.m.

*(Asterisk [\*] indicates worshipers may rise in body or in spirit.)*

## **God Calls Us to Worship**

Welcome

Pastor Zach Young

\*Songs of Praise:

“This Is Amazing Grace”

Phil Wickham

“O Praise the Name”

Anástasis

## **Greetings and Introductions**

Synod 2017 President

Rev. Drew Brown

Synod 2017 Vice President

Rev. Cornelius Pool

Rev. Thea Leunk

## **We Respond with Offerings and Dedication**

Offering for World Renew

\*Song of Response:

“Holy Spirit”

Kari Jobe

## **God Comes to Us through His Word**

Prayer for Illumination and Gratitude

Pastor Zach Young

Sermon: “Walk Humbly with God”

Rev. Drew Brown

Text: Micah 6:8

Closing Prayer

## **God Comes to Us through the Sacrament**

Partaking of Communion

Pastor Bryan Vickery

Prayer

Rev. Cornelius Pool

## **We Respond with Dedication**

\*Songs of Dedication:

“It is Well with My Soul”

Audrey Assad

“Cornerstone”

Hillsong

Prayer for Synod

Dr. Jul Medenblik

Blessing

Rev. Drew Brown

Worship Leader: Zach Young  
Prayer Leader: President of Synod 2017, Cornelius Pool  
Bass Guitar: Al Terpstra  
Drums: Jimmy Clausing  
Electric Guitar: Joshua Triezenberg  
Piano/Keyboard: Cyndi Schoon  
Vocals: Stephanie Rex, Cyndi Schoon, Stephanie Young

# MINUTES OF SYNOD 2017

**FRIDAY MORNING, June 9, 2017**

**First Session**

**ARTICLE 1**

President pro tem Rev. Drew Brown welcomes delegates and advisers and gives thanks to all who have worked to make Synod 2017 go smoothly.

The president pro tem introduces Dr. Kurt Dykstra, J.D., president of Trinity Christian College, who welcomes delegates to the Trinity Christian College campus.

Rev. Brown leads in an opening prayer for the gathering of synodical delegates and advisers in the DeVos Gymnasium at Trinity Christian College. Delegates sing “All Creatures of Our God and King” and “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” led by Ms. Kim Boss, Ms. Jill Ramirez, Mr. Al Terpstra, Mr. Joshua Triezenberg, Mr. Johnny Van Til, Ms. Stephanie Young, and Mr. Zach Young. Mr. Terpstra leads in prayer.

Rev. Brown reflects on “Yours Is the Kingdom, Glory, and Power” and Matthew 6:13—emphasizing that all matters at synod are to be for *God’s* kingdom, glory, and power, not ours. He leads in closing prayer.

Delegates and advisers conclude worship by singing “This I Believe” and “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

**ARTICLE 2**

The president pro tem asks the executive director, Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, to call the roll of delegates listed on the credentials of the forty-eight classes:

**DELEGATES TO SYNOD 2017**

| Classis                    | Delegates              |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Alberta North              |                        |
| Minister                   | William D. Nieuwenhuis |
| Elder                      | Jason VanDoesburg      |
| Deacon                     | John Taekema           |
| Other                      | John A. Ooms           |
| Alberta South/Saskatchewan |                        |
| Minister                   | S. George Koopmans     |
| Elder                      | Nelly Eyk              |
| Deacon                     | Bert Tanis             |
| Other                      | J. Cameron Fraser      |
| Arizona                    |                        |
| Minister                   | José Rayas             |
| Elder                      | Rodney J. Hugen        |
| Deacon                     | Vacant                 |
| Other                      | Eduardo A. Gonzalez    |

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Atlantic Northeast |                        |
| Minister           | Jonathan B. Fischer    |
| Elder              | Edward R. Wierenga     |
| Deacon             | Terry L. Woodnorth     |
| Other              | Edward C. Visser       |
| B.C. North-West    |                        |
| Minister           | Curtis D. Korver       |
| Elder              | Kathy N. Smith         |
| Deacon             | Colin R. Banks         |
| Other              | Andrew E. Beunk        |
| B.C. South-East    |                        |
| Minister           | Michael J. VanderKwaak |
| Elder              | Beatrice Vander Bos    |
| Deacon             | Johanna Meyles         |
| Other              | Chad M. Vandervalk     |
| California South   |                        |
| Minister           | Cornelius Pool         |
| Elder              | Jack D. Nydam          |
| Deacon             | Maritza V. Blanco      |
| Other              | Rudy Gonzalez          |
| Central California |                        |
| Minister           | John Kim               |
| Elder              | Paul Su                |
| Deacon             | David L. Harrington    |
| Other              | Titus E. Davis         |
| Central Plains     |                        |
| Minister           | Matthew C. McClure     |
| Elder              | Richard D. Dykema      |
| Deacon             | Vacant                 |
| Other              | Brian P. Tarp          |
| Chatham            |                        |
| Minister           | Daryl J. Meijer        |
| Elder              | Bill Barneveld         |
| Deacon             | John H. Klein-Geltink  |
| Other              | James R. Poelman       |
| Chicago South      |                        |
| Minister           | Phillip S. Leo         |
| Elder              | Robert A. Cooper       |
| Deacon             | Evelyn Bussema         |
| Other              | Henry Doorn            |
| Columbia           |                        |
| Minister           | Alvin J. Machiela      |
| Elder              | Leroy A. Werkhoven     |
| Deacon             | Vacant                 |
| Other              | Thomas J. Kok          |
| Eastern Canada     |                        |
| Minister           | Craig L. Hoekema       |
| Elder              | Richard Smit           |
| Deacon             | Gerrit Tenyenhuis      |
| Other              | Joseph M. Groeneveld   |
| Georgetown         |                        |
| Minister           | Joshua S. Van Drunen   |
| Elder              | Carol R. Woltjer       |
| Deacon             | Vacant                 |
| Other              | David L. Jolman        |
| Grand Rapids East  |                        |
| Minister           | David H. Beelen        |
| Elder              | Mary J. Bouwma         |
| Deacon             | Klasien Vaalburg       |
| Other              | Thea N. Leunk          |

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Grand Rapids North  |                       |
| Minister            | Peter R. Byma         |
| Elder               | Karen D. VanderMeulen |
| Deacon              | Linda B. Rienstra     |
| Other               | Daniel R. Wolters     |
| Grand Rapids South  |                       |
| Minister            | Robert L. Boersma     |
| Elder               | Judith A. Otte        |
| Deacon              | Beverly J. Clover     |
| Other               | James R. DeZeeuw      |
| Grandville          |                       |
| Minister            | Roger B. Groenboom    |
| Elder               | Jerry A. Sikkema      |
| Deacon              | Mary Kortman          |
| Other               | Shaun M. O'Brien      |
| Greater Los Angeles |                       |
| Minister            | Tom Van Engen         |
| Elder               | Thomas H. Byma        |
| Deacon              | Dick Van Eck, Jr.     |
| Other               | Julius B. Umawing     |
| Hackensack          |                       |
| Minister            | Petr Kornilov         |
| Elder               | Ruth Somersall        |
| Deacon              | Vacant                |
| Other               | Amy Vander Vliet      |
| Hamilton            |                       |
| Minister            | Kenneth F. Benjamins  |
| Elder               | Judy M. Cook          |
| Deacon              | Gina M. Taylor        |
| Other               | Ed W. Visser          |
| Hanmi               |                       |
| Minister            | Sung Ho Jung          |
| Elder               | Vacant                |
| Deacon              | Hye Sung Park         |
| Other               | Jeong Ha Chun         |
| Heartland           |                       |
| Minister            | Mark Vande Zande      |
| Elder               | Michael J. Jacobsma   |
| Deacon              | Keith E. Boersma      |
| Other               | John W. Van Der Heide |
| Holland             |                       |
| Minister            | Lee Khang             |
| Elder               | Calvin J. Hoogstra    |
| Deacon              | Debra A. Mead         |
| Other               | John P. Douma         |
| Hudson              |                       |
| Minister            | Joel D. Vande Werken  |
| Elder               | George R. Young       |
| Deacon              | Andrew van der Meer   |
| Other               | Kevin C. Vande Streek |
| Huron               |                       |
| Minister            | Paul J. Droogers      |
| Elder               | David E. DeHaan       |
| Deacon              | Candace Burnett       |
| Other               | Paul D. DeWeerd       |
| lakota              |                       |
| Minister            | Samuel J. Krikke      |
| Elder               | Wayne Bok             |
| Deacon              | Val Haverhals         |
| Other               | Drew D. Hoekema       |

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Illiana           |                        |
| Minister          | Richard T. Vanderwal   |
| Elder             | Dan C. Paul            |
| Deacon            | Jessica A. Groen       |
| Other             | Laryn G. Zoerhof       |
| Kalamazoo         |                        |
| Minister          | James C. Halstead      |
| Elder             | Matthew A.T. Smith     |
| Deacon            | Richard R. Porter      |
| Other             | Daniel S. Sarkipato    |
| Ko-Am             |                        |
| Minister          | Tae J. Son             |
| Elder             | Sang W. Park           |
| Deacon            | Vacant                 |
| Other             | Theodore S. Lim        |
| Lake Erie         |                        |
| Minister          | Nathan D. Gritter      |
| Elder             | Linda R. Barrett       |
| Deacon            | Luanne England         |
| Other             | Benjamin Van Arragon   |
| Lake Superior     |                        |
| Minister          | Steven A. Zwart        |
| Elder             | Andrea M. Nederlof     |
| Deacon            | Randy J. Kroll         |
| Other             | Donald G. Draayer      |
| Minnkota          |                        |
| Minister          | Joshua M. Christoffels |
| Elder             | Virgil D. Van Essen    |
| Deacon            | Greg A. Talsma         |
| Other             | John A. Bothof         |
| Muskegon          |                        |
| Minister          | Donald E. Byker        |
| Elder             | Robert R. Broekema     |
| Deacon            | Janet C. Weiden        |
| Other             | Jane H. De Groot       |
| Niagara           |                        |
| Minister          | Woodrow P. Dixon       |
| Elder             | Archie A. Vermeer      |
| Deacon            | Pietronella Verweij    |
| Other             | Colin Vander Ploeg     |
| Northcentral Iowa |                        |
| Minister          | Joel A. De Boer        |
| Elder             | Craig W. Eckels        |
| Deacon            | Vacant                 |
| Other             | Kelly L. Vander Woude  |
| Northern Illinois |                        |
| Minister          | Pedro Aviles           |
| Elder             | Chuck J. Slinkman      |
| Deacon            | Al DeLosSantos         |
| Other             | Daniel Gregory         |
| Northern Michigan |                        |
| Minister          | Chris A. Kostelansky   |
| Elder             | Carl E. Veenstra       |
| Deacon            | Vacant                 |
| Other             | David J. Prince        |
| Pacific Northwest |                        |
| Minister          | J. Scott Roberts       |
| Elder             | Michael S. Boer        |
| Deacon            | Daniel L. Obbink       |
| Other             | Karyl G. Groeneveld    |

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Quinte            |                     |
| Minister          | John T. Wildeboer   |
| Elder             | Arnold Depooter     |
| Deacon            | Yvonne A. Riemersma |
| Other             | Gregg C. Lawson     |
| Red Mesa          |                     |
| Minister          | Bobby L. Boyd       |
| Elder             | Omar Tsosie         |
| Deacon            | Jon R. Hunt         |
| Other             | John W. Dykhuis     |
| Rocky Mountain    |                     |
| Minister          | Todd H. Hilkemann   |
| Elder             | Eric P. Snyder      |
| Deacon            | Liam Harrell        |
| Other             | Diego Hiriart       |
| Southeast U.S.    |                     |
| Minister          | David J. Weemhoff   |
| Elder             | John S. Maatman     |
| Deacon            | Irma N. Rodriguez   |
| Other             | Joshua W. Jung      |
| Thornapple Valley |                     |
| Minister          | Wayne Coleman       |
| Elder             | Robert J. Zoerman   |
| Deacon            | Jill Ellens         |
| Other             | James A. Kralt      |
| Toronto           |                     |
| Minister          | Richard E. Grift    |
| Elder             | Jeanette A. Romkema |
| Deacon            | Dennis R. Jurjens   |
| Other             | Michael S. Irshad   |
| Wisconsin         |                     |
| Minister          | Rodolfo Galindo     |
| Elder             | Henry Perez         |
| Deacon            | Carol J. Wynstra    |
| Other             | Bruce McMurry       |
| Yellowstone       |                     |
| Minister          | Jack A. Huttinga    |
| Elder             | Carl Wierda         |
| Deacon            | Robert A. Kincaid   |
| Other             | Peter J. DeVries    |
| Zeeland           |                     |
| Minister          | Scott C. Stark      |
| Elder             | Robert W. Brower    |
| Deacon            | Vacant              |
| Other             | Aaron J. Vriesman   |

The roll indicates that the following delegates are absent with notice: Ms. Linda Rienstra (Grand Rapids North), Rev. Petr Kornilov (Hackensack), Rev. Jeong Ha Chun (Hanmi), and Dr. Sang W. Park (Ko-Am).

Alternate Mr. Kenneth C. Kruithof (Holland) is present in place of Rev. John P. Douma.

The president pro tem declares that a quorum of the membership is present and that the assembly of Synod 2017 is duly constituted.

### ARTICLE 3

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces the faculty advisers who are present: Dr. Amanda W. Benckhuysen, Dr. John Bolt, Dr.



Dean Deppe, Dr. Ronald J. Feenstra, Rev. Kathy S. Smith, and Rev. Geoffrey A. Vandermolen.

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces to synod the ethnic advisers who are present: Rev. David Cheung, Mr. Mina Meliky, and Mr. Jei Wilson.

The executive director welcomes and individually introduces to synod the women advisers who are present: Mrs. Gail De Young, Mrs. Karen Knip, and Ms. Melissa Van Dyk.

The executive director also welcomes and individually introduces to synod the young adult representatives who are present: Mr. Izhar Alvarez, Ms. Kristy Bootsma, Mr. Travis Moelker, Mr. Andrew Rylaarsdam, Ms. Onalee A. Sneller, Mr. Jehvon Walker, and Ms. Joelle Wilhelm.

The executive director welcomes Dr. Michael K. Le Roy, president of Calvin College, and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

#### ARTICLE 4

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

President: Rev. Cornelius Pool  
Vice President: Rev. Thea N. Leunk  
First Clerk: Mr. Rudy Gonzalez  
Second Clerk: Rev. Ed W. Visser

#### ARTICLE 5

Rev. Drew Brown welcomes the officers to the podium and congratulates them.

Rev. Cornelius Pool expresses the appreciation of synod to Rev. Brown for his participation in the opening of synod.

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

#### ARTICLE 6

The president proceeds with the reading of the Public Declaration of Agreement with the Beliefs of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The delegates rise to show their assent.

#### ARTICLE 7

The executive director, on behalf of synod, welcomes fraternal delegates and ecumenical representatives who are present and notes those yet to arrive: Rev. Kabaongo Kalala Malebongo Athanase (United Reformed Church in Congo); Rev. Nate Dreesmann (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians); Rev. Kayla Fik (Reformed Church in America); Rev. Dr. Risimati Hobyane (Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid Afrika; GKSA); Rev. Dr. David Han (Global Christian Forum); Rev. Jonah Lagat (Reformed Church of East Africa); Rev. Marius Ndabazaniye (Evangelical Reformed Church - Burundi); Rev. Fikre Norcha (Presbyterian Church in Ethiopia); Rev. Jean-Bosco Nsaimana (Christian Reformed Church - Burundi); Rev. Dr. Woyita Olla (Kale Heywet Church in Ethiopia); Rev. Peter Sinia (Nederlands

Gereformeerde Kerken); Rev. Dr. Henk Stoker (GKSA); Rev. Martin Wanjala (Christian Reformed Church in Eastern Africa); and Rev. Patrick Jok Ding Wic (Sudanese Reformed Church).

The executive director introduces the synod news office staff, *The Banner* staff, synod office staff, prayer coordinator, IT staff, worship coordinator, transportation coordinator, Trinity Christian College events coordinator, denominational executive staff, Board of Trustees president and vice president, and directors of agencies present.

#### ARTICLE 8

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

#### ARTICLE 9

The executive director 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 2017 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). Synod 1982 added, “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 recorded. Delegates to synod are informed at the opening session of synod that all the general sessions are being recorded. Synod has designated that the office of the executive director 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 [executive director] of synod.
- B. Visitor privileges
  1. Members of the gallery (visitors) are at liberty to make audio recordings of the public proceedings of synod provided it is done unobtrusively (i.e., that it in no way inhibits or disturbs 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 [video recording] 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 10

The executive director presents the report of the Program Committee, which recommends the following advisory committees for Synod 2017:

### *Committee 1—Synodical Services*

**Chair:** Laryn G. Zoerhof; **reporter:** Joel D. Vande Werken; **ministers:** John A. Bothof, Joel A. De Boer, David L. Johlman, Petr Kornilov, Gregg C. Lawson, Theodore S. Lim, Brian P. Tarpy, Aaron J. Vriesman, David J. Weemhof; **elders:** Robert R. Broekema, Judy Cook, Nelly Eyk, Calvin J. Hoogstra, Michael J. Jacobsma, Henry Perez, Carl E. Veenstra; **deacons:** Colin R. Banks, Beverly J. Clover, LuAnne England, David L. Harrington, John W. Taekema; **adviser:** John Bolt; **young adult representative:** Travis Moelker.

### *Committee 2—Church Order and Synodical Matters*

**Chair:** James A. Kralt; **reporter:** Kenneth F. Benjamins; **ministers:** Paul D. DeWeerd, Donald G. Draayer, Tom J. Kok, Chris A. Kostelansky, Daryl J. Meijer, Cornelius Pool, David J. Prince, Benjamin W. Van Arragon, John W. Van Der Heide, John T. Wildeboer; **elders:** Mary J. Bouwma, Richard D. Dykema, Shaun M. O'Brien, Dan C. Paul, Edward R. Wierenga, George R. Young; **deacons:** Evelyn Bussema, Al DeLosSantos, Jill Ellens, Liam Harrell, Jon R. Hunt, Yvonne A. Riemersma; **advisers:** Karen Knip, Kathleen S. Smith; **young adult representative:** Izhar Alvarez.

### *Committee 3—Education and Candidacy*

**Chair:** José Rayas; **reporter:** Peter R. Byma; **ministers:** Robert L. Boersma, Donald E. Byker, Jonathan B. Fischer, William D. Nieuwenhuis, Tae J. Son, Scott C. Stark, Michael J. VanderKwaak, Colin Vander Ploeg, Mark Vande Zande; **elders:** Jeanette A. Romkema, Kathy N. Smith, Matthew A.T. Smith, Omar Tsosie, Leroy A. Werkhoven, Carl Wierda, Robert J. Zoerman; **deacons:** Karyl G. Groeneveld, Val Haverhals, Mary Kortman, Greg A. Talsma, Bert Tanis; **adviser:** David Cheung; **young adult representative:** Kristy Bootsma.

### *Committee 4—Congregational Services I*

**Chair:** John A. Ooms; **reporter:** James R. Poelman; **ministers:** Paul J. Droogers, Roger B. Groenboom, James C. Halstead, Joshua Jung, Samuel J. Krikke, Thea N. Leunk, Julius B. Umawing, Richard T. Vanderwal, Edward C. Visser, Daniel R. Wolters; **elders:** Robert A. Cooper, Anold Depooter, Rodney J. Huguen, Andrea Nederlof, Eric P. Snyder, Beatrice Vander Bos; **deacons:** Maritza V. Blanco, Keith E. Boersma, Robert A. Kincaid, Hye Sung Park, Pietronella Verweij, Carol J. Wynstra; **adviser:** Amanda W. Benckhuysen; **young adult representative:** Onalee A. Sneller.

*Committee 5—Congregational Services II*

**Chair:** Curtis D. Korver; **reporter:** Amy Vander Vliet; **ministers:** David H. Beelen, Bobby L. Boyd, Wayne Coleman, Peter DeVries, John P. Douma, Daniel Gregory, Alvin J. Machiela, Bruce McMurry, Kevin C. Vande Streek, Chad Vandervalk; **elders:** Titus E. Davis, Carol R. De Mots Woltjer, Jane H. DeGroot, Judith A. Otte, Richard J. Smit, Virgil D. Van Essen, Archie A. Vermeer; **deacons:** Dennis R. Jurjens, Randy J. Kroll, Gina M. Taylor, Dick Van Eck; **adviser:** Geoffrey A. Vandermolten; **young adult representative:** Jehvon Walker.

*Committee 6—Global Mission and Ministry*

**Chair:** Andrew E. Beunk; **reporter:** John W. Dykhuis; **ministers:** Joshua M. Christoffels, Eduardo A. Gonzalez, Richard E. Grift, Craig L. Hoekema, Drew D. Hoekema, John Kim, S. George Koopmans, Matthew C. McClure; **elders:** Michael S. Boer, Linda R. Barrett, Thomas H. Byma, Craig W. Eckels, Diego Hiriart, Sang W. Park, Jerry A. Sikkema; **deacons:** John H. Klein Geltink, Debra A. Mead, Klasien Vaalburg, Andrew H. van der Meer, Terry Woodnorth; **advisers:** Dean B. Deppe, Gail De Young, Mina Meliky; **young adult representative:** Joelle Wilhelm.

*Committee 7—Financial Matters*

**Chair:** Tom Van Engen; **reporter:** Henry Doorn; **ministers:** Jeong Ha Chun, James R. DeZeeuw, J. Cameron Fraser, Todd H. Hilckermann, Lee Khang, Dan Sarkipato; **elders:** Robert W. Brower, Michael S. Irshad, John S. Maatman, Jack D. Nydam, Chuck J. Slinkman, Karen D. Vander Meulen; **deacons:** Candace Burnett, Jessica A. Groen, Johanna Meyles, Daniel L. Obbink, Gerrit Tenyenhuis.

*Committee 8—Interdenominational Matters*

**Chair:** Steven R. Zwart; **reporter:** Phillip S. Leo; **ministers:** Pedro Aviles, Woodrow P. Dixon, Rodolfo Galindo, Nathan D. Gritter, Joseph M. Groeneveld, Sung Ho Jung, J. Scott Roberts, Ed W. Visser; **elders:** Bill Barneveld, Wayne Bok, David E. DeHaan, Rudy Gonzalez, Ruth Somersall, Paul Su, Jason Van Doesburg; **deacons:** Richard R. Porter, Linda B. Rienstra, Irma N. Rodriguez, Janet C. Weiden; **advisers:** Ronald J. Feenstra, Melissa Van Dyk, Jei Wilson; **young adult representative:** Andrew Rylaarsdam.

ARTICLE 11

The president of synod, Rev. Cornelius Pool, leads in closing prayer. Synod recesses at 10:45 a.m. so that the advisory committees may do their work. Synod will reconvene Saturday at 8:15 a.m.

**SATURDAY MORNING, June 10, 2017**

**Second Session**

ARTICLE 12

Worship leaders Rev. Joel A. De Boer, women adviser Ms. Gail DeYoung, Rev. Joy Engelsman, elder delegate Matthew Smith, and deacon delegate Ms. Jan C. Weiden lead delegates and advisers in worship with singing “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” and “Solas.”

Rev. David Beelen gives the greeting from the book of Jude and encourages delegates and advisers of synod in passing the peace of Christ. Rev. Beelen reads Psalm 150 as the call to praise. Delegates and advisers respond by singing “Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah” and “Every Praise Is to Our God.”

Mr. Jei Wilson (ethnic adviser) offers prayer for Illumination and reads Romans 3:9-26 followed by a meditation on “Faith at 70 Miles per Hour.” Saving faith is not just knowledge of Jesus—saving faith is complete trust in Jesus Christ. We cannot boast in our own works. May our faith produce a love for God that results in genuine love for our neighbors. Mr. Wilson leads in prayer.

Delegates respond with an affirmation of faith from Heidelberg Catechism Q.&A. 21 and sing “We Believe.”

Elder delegate Ms. Judy Cook offers closing prayer, and Rev. David Beelen gives the blessing—a sending to testify to the Word.

Delegates and advisers conclude worship with singing “We’ve Come This Far by Faith,” and “I Will Trust in the Lord.”

The roll indicates that the following delegate(s) are still absent: Ms. Linda Reinstra (Grand Rapids North), Rev. Jeong Ha Chun (Hanmi), and Rev. Petr Kornilov (Hackensack). Dr. Pedro Aviles (Northern Illinois) is also absent.

The officers of synod announce that Dr. Sang W. Park (KoAm) is not able to attend synod.

#### ARTICLE 13

The officers of synod announce the following appointments:

Testimonial Banquet Committee:  
Deacon delegate Jill Ellens  
Elder delegate Rudy Gonzalez  
Elder delegate Rodney J. Hugen  
Women adviser Karen Knip

Hospitality Committee:  
Ms. Ginny Carpenter

Sergeant at Arms:  
Deacon delegate Colin Banks

Worship Planning Committee:  
Elder delegate Robert Cooper  
Women adviser Gail E. De Young  
Deacon delegate Mary Kortman  
Elder delegate Beatrice VandenBos  
Ethnic adviser Jei Wilson

Minutes Review Committee:  
Rev. Andrew E. Beunk  
Deacon delegate Val Haverhals

#### ARTICLE 14

Rev. Ronald A. Klimp introduces, via video conference, the annual Chaplaincy Conference attendees gathered in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry gives thanks for being part of the CRC as it celebrates its 75th anniversary. In 1917 Rev. Leonard Trap was the first CRC pastor to volunteer for service to troops in World War I—without a formal endorsement. In 1942 (75 years ago) the synod of the CRCNA approved chaplaincy as an official ministry, giving it some structure, recognition, and a formal process. In 1974 there was sufficient demand to appoint the first director of chaplains. In March 2017, following the retirement of Rev. Klimp, Rev. Sarah H. Roelofs, who has been a hospital chaplain and an Air Force Reserve chaplain, became the first female director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry.

This year we celebrate 75 official years and, in practice, a total of 100 years of chaplaincy. Chaplaincy is growing in numbers and in a variety of services.

The president of synod expresses the gratitude of synod to the chaplains, and Mr. Colin Watson, director of ministries and administration, offers a prayer and blessing for chaplains and their ministry.

#### ARTICLE 15

The president presents the following on behalf of the officers of synod:

A. That all requests for privilege of the floor by the BOT, CRC agencies, educational institutions, standing committees, and study committees of synod contained within the reports to synod are granted.

B. That synod approve the following requests for special offerings for the agencies, ministries, and educational institutions of the CRC that are contained within the reports to Synod 2017:

1. That synod approve and endorse two offerings by the churches in support of Back to God Ministries International (*Agenda for Synod 2017*, p. 242).
2. That synod, along with the Board of Trustees, encourage all Christian Reformed congregations to recognize the following Sundays as significant opportunities to pray for and to receive an offering for the new mission agency: Easter, Pentecost, the third Sunday in September, and Reformation Day Sunday (*Agenda for Synod 2017*, p. 255).
3. That synod commend the work of mercy carried on by World Renew and urge the churches to take at least four offerings per year in lieu of ministry-share support (*Agenda for Synod 2017*, p. 294).

—Adopted

C. That synod take note of the following protests submitted by way of the Credentials for Synod:

Classis Minnkota: “The following delegates and alternates attend synod, but in order to do so in good conscience, protest the seating of women as delegates: Joshua Christoffels, Virgil Van Essen, Greg Talsma, and John Bothof. Please see the communication from Classis Minnkota for a more complete explanation of our convictions.”

D. The officers have ruled that if requests to record a negative vote are received, the name, classis, and grounds will be read by the clerks; only the name and classis will be included in the minutes.

#### ARTICLE 16

The executive director presents the ballot for board and committee elections, and the delegates vote. Voting for agency boards and committee members is done electronically. The ballot results (boards and committees lists) will be ratified by synod prior to the adjournment of synod.

The president announces that all ballot-related recommendations in the *Agenda for Synod 2017* and in the Supplementary Reports (for appointment, reappointment, or ratification of members for denominational boards or committees) have been satisfied upon completion of the ballot.

## ARTICLE 17

The morning session is recessed at 9:45 a.m. so that delegates can work in advisory committees. Rev. Edward C. Visser (Atlantic Northeast) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the DeVos Gymnasium.

## SATURDAY EVENING, June 10, 2017

### Third Session

## ARTICLE 18

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Melissa Van Dyke (women adviser) leads in opening prayer.

The officers announce that Rev. Rodolfo Galindo (Wisconsin) and Ms. Yvonne A. Riemersma (Quinte) are absent for the evening session.

## ARTICLE 19

Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director, addresses the delegates on the state of the church: Where is the Lord taking us in the future? The desired future is (1) Ministry Plan: *Our Journey 2020*—that our congregations will flow like streams into their communities; (2) Prioritization and Evaluation—to evaluate and prioritize all existing programs and ministries with the goal of reducing the institutional footprint; (3) Reimagine Ministry Shares; and (4) Ministering to a Broken and Hurting World. The Lord is taking us into a flourishing ministry in and through congregations, calling us to be selfless and wise in resource stewardship and to speak the gospel in word and deed.

Rev. Thea Leunk (vice president) offers prayer for Dr. Timmermans.

## ARTICLE 20

The president introduces Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, president of the Board of Trustees, who addresses delegates on the work of the Board of Trustees and the executive director.

Mr. Van Spronsen gives thanks and gratitude for Dr. Steven R. Timmermans. Gratitude has been the theme of the Board of Trustees this year. The BOT has been grateful for finances and for agencies desiring to join together, as well as for all the ministries. The BOT has been grateful for the start of the new mission agency, grateful and blessed for all the people who have joined our denomination, and grateful for the service of those retiring from or transitioning in their work for the denominational offices.

Mr. Van Spronsen adds that he is grateful for his parents and their appreciation for the church. He is also grateful for all the delegates present at synod. We are diverse, he concludes, and we praise God for our diversity. He asks delegates to be grateful for each other as they work as delegates to synod throughout the coming week.

Mr. Rudy Gonzalez (first clerk) offers prayer for Mr. Van Spronsen.

## ARTICLE 21

The president introduces Dr. Kurt D. Selles, director of Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI), and Ms. Deb Koster, program producer of *Family Fire* at BTGMI, who address delegates on the work of BTGMI through a video



presentation. The theme for 2017-18 is spiritual growth on the basis of 1 Corinthians 3:6-9, where Paul writes: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building." BTGMI programming offers diverse media experiences on a range of topics to help people grow spiritually and find encouragement wherever they are in life. Dr. Selles shares a few stories, including developments in the Chinese-ministry and French-ministry programs. Ms. Deb Koster shares stories about *Family Fire* ministries through Facebook posts, e-books, audience growth, and the testimony and prayer team.

The president responds, and Rev. Ed Visser (second clerk) offers prayer for Dr. Selles and Ms. Koster.

#### ARTICLE 22

The evening session adjourns at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Jon R. Hunt (Red Mesa) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene on Monday, June 12, at 8:15 a.m. in the DeVos Gymnasium.

### MONDAY MORNING, June 12, 2017

#### Fourth Session

#### ARTICLE 23

Elder delegate Mr. Robert Brower, elder delegate Mr. Arnold Depooter, women adviser Ms. Gail De Young, Rev. Sung Ho June, deacon delegate Ms. Mary Kortman, elder delegate Ms. Andrea Nederlof, Rev. Jose Rayas, Rev. Richard T. Vanderwal, and Rev. Kelly I. Vander Woude lead delegates in singing "Reformation Hymn," "Wonderful Grace of Jesus," and "Your Cross."

Ms. De Young leads in opening prayer, and delegates sing "Amazing Grace" in Spanish, Navajo, Korean, and English.

Elder delegate Ms. Beatrice Vander Bos reads Ephesians 2:1-10, followed by the singing of "Your Cross."

Rev. John Ooms reads Ephesians 2:8-9: "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Rev. Ooms reflects on our lifeline and notes that it is the grace of God that unleashes salvation into the world. Because of God's great love for us which is rich in mercy, we are God's masterpiece and he sees us as his children.

Delegates respond by singing "Not What My Hands Have Done," and Rev. Joshua Jung offers morning prayer.

Rev. John Ooms gives the blessing from Revelation 22:21, and delegates and advisers close worship with singing "Reformation Hymn."

Roll call indicates that Ms. Linda Rienstra (Grand Rapids North) will be arriving later. Rev. John P. Douma (Holland) is now present. Dr. Pedro Aviles (Northern Illinois) is now present.



## ARTICLE 24

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Joel D. Vande Werken reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections I, A-B; II, A, 1, 3-4, 7-10, 11, a, c-e; 12, 14-17; B, 1-4, including Appendices A, C, E-G), pp. 21-36, 44-129, 134-35, 137-79
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections I, A-C, including Appendices A-O)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed.

#### C. Recommendations

1. That synod take note of the Board's action to accept the invitation from Pillar Church in Holland, Michigan, to serve as the convening church of Synod 2018, in joint session with the RCA General Synod 2018 (II, A, 1).  
—*Adopted*
2. That synod approve the interim appointments made by the Board for synodical deputies and alternate synodical deputies (II, A, 3), as well as appointments to the agency and institution boards as needed.  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod take note that the implementation for the transition from the Board of Trustees governance model to the new Council of Delegates governance model will take place as of July 1, 2017 (II, A, 11).  
—*Noted*
4. That synod take note of the transition plan for the Council of Delegates executive committee, as found in Appendix C (II, A, 11, e).

*Ground*: There is significant benefit in ensuring that an interim executive committee is in place for any matters that might arise between July 1, 2017, and the first meeting of the COD in October 2017. In addition, the interim executive committee would prepare the agenda for the inaugural meeting (October 2017) of the COD. This provision would ensure the leadership and continuity that would be necessary during this inaugural year of the COD.

—*Noted*

5. That synod take note of the overview grid (Appendix E) and the summary grid of CRC ministry, history, and funding (Appendix F) as partial fulfillment of the request of Synod 2016 (II, B, 4).  
—*Noted*
6. That synod take note of the Program Evaluation Overview document (Appendix G) as partial fulfillment of the request of Synod 2016 (II, B, 4).  
—*Noted*

7. That synod express appreciation for members of the Board of Trustees who have served the denomination with dedication and have contributed toward the governance of the CRCNA (BOT Supplement section I, A, 2).  
—Adopted

8. That synod, in order to fulfill the legal obligations for the transition to the new Council of Delegates model of governance (BOT Supplement section I, C),

a. Take note that the BOT, as directors of the Michigan Corporation, (1) received as information the resolutions of the CRHM U.S. Board for merger approval (Appendix B) and of the CRWM U.S. Board for merger approval (Appendix C) and (2) adopted the Resolution for Merger and the Restated Bylaws as provided in Appendices D-1 through D-3 (including Appendices A and E).

—Noted

b. Approve the resolution adopted by the CRHM U.S. Board (Appendix B) and the resolution adopted by the CRWM U.S. Board (Appendix C).  
—Adopted

c. Approve the Resolution for Merger and the Restated Bylaws as provided in Appendix D-1 through D-3 (including Appendices A and E).  
—Adopted

d. Approve the U.S. Restated Bylaws as the Bylaws for the BTGMI Corporation (Appendix F) as presented in the BTGMI Corporation Resolution of April 27, 2017 (Appendix G).  
—Adopted

e. (a) Receive as information the resolutions of the CRHM Canada Corporation Directors and Members (Appendix I) and the CRWM Canada Corporation Directors and Members (Appendix J) and (b) take note that the Board of Trustees endorsed the CRCNA Canada Corporation's resolution of Directors and Members (Appendices K and L) repealing the current bylaws (enacted September 26, 2014) and approving the new CRCNA Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix H), including the amalgamation of the CR World Missions Corporation and CR Home Missions Corporation into the CRCNA Canada Corporation to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.

*Note:* Synod recognizes and understands that CRCNA staff shall take any and all action, including bringing recommended changes to the Canadian corporations as needed, in order to maintain or achieve compliance with Canadian law.

—Adopted

f. Endorse the CRCNA Canada Corporation's resolution of Directors and Members (Appendices K and L) repealing the current bylaws (enacted September 26, 2014) and approving the new CRCNA Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix H), including the amalgamation of the CR World Missions Canada Corporation and CR Home Missions Canada Corporation into the CRCNA Canada Corporation to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.

*Note:* Synod recognizes and understands that CRCNA staff shall take any and all action, including bringing recommended changes to the Canadian corporations as needed, in order to maintain or achieve compliance with Canadian law.

—*Adopted*

- g. Endorse the BTGMI Canada Corporation’s repeal of the current bylaws (enacted April 24, 2014) and approval of the new BTGMI Canada Corporation bylaws (Appendix M) as presented in the BTGMI Canada Corporation Resolutions of April 27, 2017 (Appendices N and O), to reflect the transition to the new Council of Delegates model.

*Note:* Synod recognizes and understands that CRCNA staff shall take any and all action, including bringing recommended changes to the Canadian corporations as needed, in order to maintain or achieve compliance with Canadian law.

—*Adopted*

- h. Take note that the BOT noted the following action of the BTGMI U.S. Corporation Board of Directors: during the transition time from July 1, 2017, until the first meeting of the Council of Delegates, the four U.S. members of the BTGMI board who are transitioning onto the COD also serve as the interim officers of the BTGMI U.S. Corporation.

—*Noted*

- i. Take note that the BOT noted the following action of the BTGMI Canada Corporation Board of Directors: during the transition time from July 1, 2017, until the first meeting of the Council of Delegates, that the four Canadian delegates elected to serve on the COD Interim Executive Committee also serve as the interim officers of the BTGMI Canada Corporation.

—*Noted*

- j. Upon adoption of the COD Governance Handbook and election of COD delegates—thereby establishing the Council of Delegates—disband the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and the boards of Back to God Ministries International and the new mission agency (i.e., the joint board of Christian Reformed World Missions and Christian Reformed Home Missions), effective June 30, 2017.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Historical Committee**

A. *Materials:* Historical Committee Report, pp. 365-72

B. *Privilege of the floor:* A Historical Committee member

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod recognize Dr. Lyle Bierma, who is completing his second term, and express gratitude for his contributions and service, including several years as chair of the committee.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod acknowledge and thank Dr. Richard Harms for his nineteen years of service as archivist for the Christian Reformed Church.  
—*Adopted*
3. That synod instruct all churches and classes to send duplicates (photocopies, faxes, or email attachments) of their constitutions and articles of incorporation to the archives. Copies can be sent via surface mail, fax, or email to Archives, Calvin College, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402; fax: 616-526-7689; or [crcarchives@calvin.edu](mailto:crcarchives@calvin.edu).  
—*Adopted*
4. That synod encourage the following classes, all of which have at least one member congregation more than ten years old that has not had its minutes duplicated, to contact the archives to have this done: Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, Atlantic Northeast, B.C. North-West, B.C. South-East, California South, Central California, Central Plains, Chatham, Chicago South, Columbia, Georgetown, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Greater Los Angeles, Hackensack, Hanmi, Heartland, Holland, Hudson, Huron, Iakota, Illiana, Kalamazoo, Ko-Am, Lake Erie, Lake Superior, Minnkota, Muskegon, Northcentral Iowa, Northern Illinois, Northern Michigan, Pacific Northwest, Quinte, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain, Southeast U.S., Toronto, Wisconsin, and Yellowstone.  
—*Adopted*

### III. Synod Review Task Force

A. *Materials*: Synod Review Task Force Report, p. 397

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive the following as information: The mandate of the Synod Review Task Force is “to research, examine, and review the principles, practices, and functions of synod; recommend changes and improvements that do not require amendments to the Church Order for implementation; and propose any Church Order changes for study and adoption by a subsequent synod” (*Agenda for Synod 2016*, p. 49). The work of this task force is expected to be completed by September 15, 2018, in time for its report to be distributed to the churches and classes in advance of Synod 2019.

—*Adopted*

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

#### ARTICLE 25

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins reporting, presents the following:

#### I. Response to Overtures 1 and 2: Approve Transfer of Alto CRC, Waupun, Wisconsin, from Classis Wisconsin to Classis Minnkota

A. *Materials*: Overture 1, pp. 417-18; Overture 2, p. 418

B. *Recommendation*

That synod accede to Overtures 1 and 2 and approve the transfer of Alto CRC, Waupun, Wisconsin, from Classis Wisconsin to Classis Minnkota.

*Grounds:*

1. Both classes agree to the transfer.
2. Church Order Supplement, Article 39 allows for such transfers, and previous synods have also approved them.
3. This transfer allows Alto CRC to join a classis in which it can serve in harmony.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overture 6: Amend Church Order Article 13**

A. *Materials:* Overture 6, pp. 421-22

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 6.

*Ground:* The transfer of ecclesiastical supervision is adequately addressed under Church Order Article 12-b.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod add the following statement to Church Order Supplement, Article 13-b (after the second paragraph):

The credentials of a minister of the Word serving in specialized ministry (e.g., chaplaincy) may be sent to another church when such a change makes supervision of a minister's doctrine and life easier and/or more effective. Transfer of ministerial credentials requires the regular calling process of the local church and must be approved by both councils and classes.

*Ground:* The statement clarifies that credentials may be transferred, but only through the regular calling process.

—*Adopted*

## **III. Response to Overture 7: Amend Church Order Article 45**

A. *Materials:* Overture 7, pp. 422-23

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 7.

*Grounds:*

1. The concerns raised in Overture 7 have already been addressed by Synod 2015.
2. It is important to affirm the principle of parity of office. All officebearers have a critical voice in the broader assemblies of the church.
3. It takes time for the churches and classes to become accustomed to the representation of all the offices at the broader assemblies.
4. The concerns raised by Overture 7 are being addressed by the Synod Review Task Force and the denominational efforts of classical renewal.

—*Adopted*

#### **IV. Response to Overture 12: Provide the Churches with Guidance for Providing Pastoral Care for Same-sex Attracted Members and Their Families**

A. *Materials*: Overture 12, pp. 434-35

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 12.

*Grounds*:

1. Resources are currently available from *The Banner*, *The Network*, and past synodical reports (1973, 1999, 2016) for the pastoral care of those who are same-sex attracted and their families.
2. Asking the Board of Trustees (or Council of Delegates) to facilitate the provision of same-sex pastoral care resources in the short term seems impractical considering that Synod 2016 has mandated the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-Laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality to study all the pertinent issues involved—including the necessity of providing pastoral care guidelines—and report to Synod 2021 (see *Acts of Synod 2016*, pp. 919-21).

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: Woodrow P. Dixon (Niagara).

Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins (Hamilton) offers prayer regarding the important issue of pastoral care for same-sex attracted members and their families.

#### **V. Response to Communication 1: Classis Toronto**

A. *Materials*: Communication 1, p. 447

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive the communication as information.

—Adopted

#### **VI. Response to Communication 2: Classis Minnkota**

A. *Materials*: Communication 2, pp. 447-48

B. *Recommendation*

That synod receive the communication as information.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 36.)

#### **ARTICLE 26**

Mr. Colin Watson and Dr. Darren Roorda introduce the ministry priority exercise—a discussion regarding Synod 2016’s instruction “to evaluate and prioritize all existing programs and ministries with the goal of reducing the institutional footprint” (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 858). In particular, this exercise addresses the instruction to “seek input from the churches and classes in the prioritization and evaluation” (p. 858).

Synod 2016 also asked that the BOT, after completing “the ministry evaluation/prioritization, to reimagine ministry shares using the following guidelines and report to Synod 2019.

- Fund the prioritized ministries at agreed-upon levels.
- Simplify the calculations.
- Consider options other than the number of professing members over 18 as a basis of the calculations.”

Delegates take time to discuss the above; the outcome will be reported back to the Council of Delegates for consideration.

Dr. Roorda offers prayer regarding the outcome of this exercise and how best to carry out ministry in the future.

## ARTICLE 27

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Services II, Ms. Amy Vander Vliet reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees

#### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, B, 8, 11, a-b, d), pp. 37, 39-40
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections II, A, 1)

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Board of Trustees: Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### C. Recommendations

1. That synod commend the staff of *The Banner*, under the leadership of editor in chief Shiao Chong, on their production of a high-quality, readable, and interesting magazine. The creation of *The Banner* app and a forthcoming refreshed design are particularly commendable as part of the magazine’s effort to strengthen and expand its audience.

—Adopted

2. That synod recognize and express gratitude for Rev. Ronald A. Klimp, recently retired from service as director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry; Ms. Carol Sybenga, retiring from service as program manager of Service-Link; and Mr. Peter Vander Meulen, retiring from service as coordinator of the Office of Social Justice, for their years of service to the Lord and their contributions to the denomination.

—Adopted

### II. Congregational Services of the Christian Reformed Church

#### A. Faith Formation Ministries

1. Materials: Faith Formation Ministries Report, pp. 214-15
2. Recommendation

That synod give thanks to the Lord for the vision of Faith Formation Ministries and heartily congratulate Faith Formation Ministries on

its growing collaboration with Youth Unlimited, as well as continuing engagement with GEMS Girls' Clubs and the Calvinist Cadet Corps.

—Adopted

*B. Pastor Church Resources*

1. Materials: Pastor Church Resources Report, pp. 224-29

2. Recommendation

That synod express appreciation to the Office of Pastor Church Resources for its diligent attention to promoting healthy pastors, churches, and pastor-church relations, including work with regional pastors, vocational assessment and training, and classis renewal.

—Adopted

**III. Dynamic Youth Ministries**

*A. Calvinist Cadet Corps*

1. Materials: Calvinist Cadet Corps Report, p. 390

2. Recommendation

That synod commend the Calvinist Cadet Corps for their ministry, including their flexibility in using the name "Christian Cadet Club" as they reach out to new communities.

—Adopted

*B. GEMS Girls' Clubs*

1. Materials: GEMS Girls' Clubs Report, pp. 391-92

2. Recommendation

That synod commend GEMS Girls' Clubs for their ministry, particularly their outreach to unchurched girls and international work.

—Adopted

*C. Youth Unlimited*

1. Materials: Youth Unlimited Report, p. 392

2. Recommendation

That synod commend Youth Unlimited for their work, including their growing collaboration with the CRCNA's Faith Formation Ministries.

—Adopted

**IV. Response to Overture 5: Translate the Three Forms of Unity and Core Denominational Documents; Provide an Official Process of Denominational Recognition of the Translated Creeds and Confessions**

*A. Materials:* Overture 5, pp. 420-21

*B. Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 5, and that synod instruct the executive director to (1) communicate to classes and congregations about the denomination's translation work and the process for requesting translation; and (2) ensure that, when appropriate, translated documents undergo a thorough theological review process.



*Grounds:*

1. An administrative Translations Team exists within the office of the executive director, in collaboration with the denomination's Ministry Support Services.
2. The Translations Team has an established process for vetting translations, including theological review.
3. The overture does not address the financial implications of its request, as mandated in *Acts of Synod 2016*, pp. 857-58.
4. Many of the requested documents have already been translated and can be found at [www.crcna.org/languages](http://www.crcna.org/languages).

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued in Article 34.)

ARTICLE 28

Advisory Committee 7, Financial Matters, Mr. Henry Doorn reporting, presents the following:

**I. Board of Trustees**

*A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections I, C; II, C-D, including Appendix I), pp. 23, 41-42, 182-206
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section II, B, including Appendix T)

*B. Privilege of the floor:* Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

*C. Recommendations*

1. That synod receive as information the condensed financial statements of the agencies and educational institutions (Appendix I).  
—Adopted
2. That synod receive the agencies and institutional unified budget as information and approve a ministry share of \$339.48 for calendar year 2018 (BOT Supplement sections II, B, 1-2).  
—Adopted
3. That synod adopt the following recommendations with reference to agencies requesting to be placed on the recommended-for-offerings list:
  - a. That synod approve the list of above-ministry share and specially designated offerings for the agencies and institutions of the CRC and denominationally related ministries, and recommend these to the churches for consideration as presented in BOT Supplement section II, B, 3 with the understanding that the new mission agency formed through the joining of CR Home Missions and CR World Missions receive two or more offerings per year.  
—Adopted

- b. That synod receive as information the list of nondenominational agencies, previously accredited, that have been approved for calendar year 2018 (BOT Supplement section II, B, 4).

—Adopted

- c. That synod not approve the following organization for inclusion on the accredited agency list (BOT Supplement section II, B, 5):

*United States and Canada*

Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child endorsed the opportunity for congregations to pack shoebox gifts through the Operation Christmas Child Project. Though churches may certainly give financially, the organization's focus is much more on a practical, hands-on global missions opportunity. In addition to providing children with shoeboxes full of gifts, Samaritan's Purse is engaging those children in a 12-week discipleship program, "The Greatest Journey," with Bible teaching, and providing a Bible upon graduation.

*Ground:* Communication from the leadership of Christian Reformed World Missions, World Renew, and the Office of Social Justice highlighted the impact of the Operation Christmas Child program on community development work in the recipient locations as not consistent with the approach followed by the CRCNA agencies.

—Adopted

- d. That synod approve the following organization for inclusion on the accredited agency list (BOT Supplement section II, B, 5):

*Canada*

Dunamis Fellowship Canada helps equip people to experience and live in the reality of Jesus' promise by providing biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit and practical applications of the teaching. It also provides a community of Spirit-empowered believers who support each other in their spiritual development. Although the fellowship's historic roots are in the Presbyterian and Reformed stream of the Christian faith, it serves people from many denominations.

—Adopted

4. That synod adopt the 2017-2018 denominational salary grid for senior positions as proposed (BOT Supplement section II, B, 6).

—Adopted

5. That synod take note of the BOT's endorsement of the following action of the Pension Trustees (BOT Supplement section II, B, 7):

That the 2018 per-member assessment for the Canadian Plan remain \$42.96 and that the Canadian per-participant assessment remain \$9,840. Similarly, that the 2018 per-member assessment for the U.S. Plan remain \$37.20 and the U.S. per-participant assessment remain \$7,704.

—Adopted

## II. Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

A. *Materials*: Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S. Report, pp. 221-23

B. *Privilege of the floor*: The Loan Fund director or any members of the board of directors of the Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund, Inc., U.S.

### C. *Recommendation*

That synod encourage the churches in the United States to make use of the resources of the Loan Fund as needed to enhance ministry.

—*Adopted*

## III. Pensions and Insurance

A. *Materials*: Pensions and Insurance Report, pp. 230-34

B. *Privilege of the floor*: members of the Canadian Pension Trustees and the U.S. Board of Pensions, and Mr. John H. Bolt, director of finance and operations

### C. *Recommendation*

That synod designate up to 100 percent of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 2018 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*

Appreciation is expressed to Mr. John Bolt, director of finance and operations, and to his staff for the work done in finance.

## IV. Response to Overture 10: Limit Use of Disposable Serve Ware and Cease to Use Water Bottles at Meetings of Synod

A. *Materials*: Overture 10, pp. 428-29

### B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 10.

#### *Grounds*:

1. While we agree with many of the concerns expressed in the overture, we feel that synod is not the forum for dealing with matters at this level of specificity.
2. It is the responsibility of the synod host to serve synod with environmental stewardship in mind.
3. We trust that synod hosts and planning teams are already moving forward in facilitating environmentally favorable practices, and we encourage them and delegates to continue doing so.

—*Adopted*

## ARTICLE 29

The morning sessions adjourns at 11:40 a.m. Rev. Peter R. Byrna (Grand Rapids North) leads in a closing prayer based on Psalm 23.

**MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 12, 2017**  
**Fifth Session**

**ARTICLE 30**

The afternoon session convenes at 1:15 p.m., and Ms. Karen Knip (women adviser) leads in opening prayer.

**ARTICLE 31**

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Services I, Rev. James Poelman reporting, presents the following:

**I. Board of Trustees**

*A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (sections II, A, 5-6, 13; B, 7, 9, 11, c; 12, including Appendix D), pp. 25, 30, 36-38, 40-41, 135-37
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections II, A, 1, 3, 5, including Appendices Q and S)

*B. Privilege of the floor:* Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

*C. Recommendations*

1. That synod designate an Annual Day of Justice for the CRCNA, preferably on the third Sunday of August, for CR churches, classes, ministries, and educational institutions, beginning in August 2018. The Annual Day of Justice would be promoted by the Offices of Race Relations and Social Justice and by World Renew, coordinating responsibility with each other and with other interested CRC ministries and institutions (II, A, 13 and Appendix D).

*Grounds:*

- a. This day will serve as a designated time for congregations to consider the meaning of biblical justice, to lament injustices in the world, and to commit themselves to the transforming work of standing alongside people whom society oppresses and pushes to the margins. Scripture promises us a future of renewal and restoration, a righting of all broken relationships between people and God. Jesus calls us to stand up, be kingdom workers, and begin that renewal now in our context and beyond our churches' walls.
- b. The timing of the Annual Day of Justice would thereby align with the United Nations' designated World Humanitarian Day in its call "for global solidarity with the more than 130 million people around the world who need humanitarian assistance to survive."
- c. Synod 2016 directed the executive director, "working in conjunction with denominational agencies, to consider a denomination-wide annual Day of Justice for the purpose of coming together as a body of Christ to recognize the plight of those who are oppressed, marginalized, and suffering in a culture of discrimination" (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 923).

—Adopted

The following negative vote is registered: Liam Harrell (Rocky Mountain).

2. That synod encourage CR churches, classes, ministries, and educational institutions to annually sponsor events to celebrate Disability Awareness Week, preferably during the week preceding the third Sunday in October (II, B, 9).

*Grounds:*

- a. People with disabilities make up between 15 and 20 percent of the population in North America. Specific and intentional events that recognize the importance of breaking down barriers and including people with disabilities will remind God's people of the welcome our Lord gives to all of his people (Luke 14:15-24) and will encourage them to press on toward becoming a community in which every member knows that he or she is indispensable (1 Cor. 12:12-27).
- b. Since the late 1970s, synods have repeatedly affirmed the Bible's call for God's people to be a caring community as the covenant people of God. In 1985, the CRC committed itself as a denomination to eliminate barriers of architecture, communication, and attitude "in order to use the gifts of all people in our life together as God's family." Synods 1986 and 1987 created the Committee on Disability Concerns, provided for a full-time administrator, and expanded the committee's mandate "to assist the churches in identifying and eliminating those barriers which hinder the full participation in the life of the church of persons who have disabilities." Synod 1993 recommended "full compliance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act . . . and its accompanying regulations in all portions of the CRC located in the U.S. and Canada." Synod 2011 of the CRC and the RCA General Synod 2011 approved similar recommendations from the CRC and the RCA offices of Disability Concerns, promising that future meetings of the synods would provide reasonable accommodations to all participants, including but not limited to people with known hearing impairments, sight impairments, and mobility impairments. Various other decisions by our synods have affirmed the value and giftedness of all people, whether or not they have disabilities. Although our Lord Jesus calls all of his people to ministry in his church, the church has not always made it possible for people with disabilities to participate fully and sometimes has isolated them and their families. Churches should always engage all members in all aspects of church life, and an annual reminder of the particular importance and giftedness of people with disabilities will help everyone in the church remember that "God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be" (1 Cor. 12:18).
- c. This date coincides with the CRC denominational schedule for offerings, which assigns the third Sunday in October to Disability Concerns.
- d. The RCA celebrates Disability Sunday on the second Sunday in October. Having similar dates for this celebration facilitates and enhances deeper collaboration between the Disability Concerns offices of the RCA and the CRC. Further, this date aligns our

celebration with those of numerous organizations and agencies that highlight disability awareness in October. Both ministries offer many resources for Disability Awareness Week on their websites ([rca.org/disability](http://rca.org/disability) and [crna.org/disability](http://crna.org/disability)).

—*Adopted*

3. That synod adopt the following recommendations from the “Remembering, Reaffirming, and Reinvigorating Our Response to Global Humanitarian Challenges” document found in Appendix Q (BOT Supplement section II, A, 3):

a. That Synod 2017

1) Urge CRC members, congregations, and agencies to remember and renew our passion to serve God by serving the poor and oppressed in ministries of relief, development, proclamation, and advocacy for justice.

—*Adopted*

2) Reaffirm and recommend to members, churches, denominational agencies, and educational institutions the conclusions and recommendations contained in our 1978 and 1979 reports on hunger, as well as in the 1993 report “Freedom to Serve: Meeting the Needs of the World.”

—*Adopted*

3) Reaffirm and recommend to members, churches, denominational agencies, and educational institutions the conclusions and recommendations pertaining to root causes of suffering and oppression contained in the 2006 War and Peace report, the 2010 Migration of Workers report, and the 2012 report of the Task Force on Creation Stewardship.

—*Adopted*

4) Endorse and support a renewed and revised multiple agency, collaborative program that would build on our existing ministry capacities to exercise the following within a healthy biblical Reformed worldview:

a) Increase our efforts to educate CRC members, congregations, agencies, and educational institutions on how best to serve people who are poor and hungry.

b) Continue and increase our effective relief, development, and justice ministries with people who are suffering from drought, famine, war, climate change, trafficking, and persecution.

c) Increase our understanding of the root and systemic causes of hunger, poverty, oppression, and injustice.

d) Improve and broaden our ability to be active and engaged Christian citizens, standing with and advocating for the rights and welfare of those whom the world would disdain and discard.

—*Adopted*

e) Increase the financial support for World Renew’s yearly World Hunger Sunday.

—*Recommitted*

- f) Increase collaborative peace, justice, and reconciliation education and mobilization efforts of the Office of Social Justice, Canadian Ministries, Worship Ministries, Faith Formation, and other Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) ministries.

—*Recommitted*

- b. That synod (1) take note that the above proposal arises in response to a decision of Synod 2016 (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829) instructing “the executive director to encourage the Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) collaboration group to continue to prioritize goals and assign resources for all of our justice and mercy denominational issues,” and (2) instruct the executive director to pursue other possible priorities as well as to plan and implement the program described in recommendation a, 4 above and report the results to synod annually through 2020.

*Grounds:*

- 1) This proposal offers a timely and urgent response to the increase in suffering we see in a world where the recent progress made in alleviating poverty, hunger, and oppression at home and abroad is threatened by expanding violence, changing climate, and mass migrations.
- 2) This proposal recognizes the effective poverty response, educational, and advocacy resources our denomination has already developed and encourages CRC members to utilize those ministries and resources (e.g., World Hunger Campaign, *Live Justly*, Good Soil, Churches Between Borders, Dance of Racial Reconciliation, Journey with Me, Blanket Exercise, Social Justice Mobilizers in Canada and the United States).
- 3) This proposal strongly reaffirms the findings of previous study committees and ministries that demonstrate that an effective anti-hunger and antipoverty response must be holistic. To be effective, we must weave together direct ministry action, education on root causes, and advocacy. (This could include, for example, development and agricultural programs; immigration reform; combating racism and discrimination; responding to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; creation care, including adaptation and mitigation of climate change; and refugee resettlement.)
- 4) This proposal reaffirms that an effective response to poverty and hunger must include holding our governments and international bodies accountable so that they devote sufficient resources to ending violence, preventing famine, trading fairly, reducing the causes of climate change, improving refugee and immigration policy, and paying attention to racism and discrimination endemic to our societies.
- 5) This proposal has strong continuity with previous synodical actions on hunger, poverty, and their root causes, including the World Hunger recommendations passed by synod in 1978 and 1979, the Freedom to Serve recommendations of 1993, endorsement of the Micah Challenge in 2004, the Migration of Workers

report of 2010, and the Creation Stewardship climate recommendations in 2012.

- 6) This proposal responds to synod's instruction (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829) by providing significant and integrative prioritization, relying on synodical decisions of the past to chart a direction for current challenges, and to do so in a collaborative, multiple agency/ministry approach utilizing existing resources as much as possible.
- 7) This proposal is in sync with a recent request from Christian Churches Together (CCT) to call our churches to prayer for the U.S. Congress as it considers budget cuts to major antipoverty programs. In addition, it supports ongoing advocacy by coalitions of which we are a part: Bread for the World, Circle of Protection, Micah Challenge/Network, Alliance to End Hunger, and others.
- 8) This proposal implements and significantly prioritizes several ministry plan goals from Our Journey 2020, particularly in the area of Mercy and Justice:

*Step 4.4.1 Congregations identify and set goals to address local/national/global **justice** issues—discerning unique steps they can take to make an impact from their own communities.*

*4.4.4 Congregations engage in active citizenship and **advocacy** that encourages them and their leaders to be accountable for developing and implementing just policies.*

—*Tabled*

4. That synod take note of the efforts of CRCNA ministries toward peacemaking in the Middle East (Appendix S and BOT Supplement section II, A, 5).

—*Adopted*

## **II. Congregational Services of the Christian Reformed Church**

### *A. Aboriginal Ministries (Canada)*

1. Materials: Aboriginal Ministries (Canada) Report, pp. 259-60
2. Recommendation

That synod express appreciation for the work of Aboriginal Ministries through the Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Committee and through the Urban Aboriginal Centres.

—*Adopted*

### *B. Committee for Contact with the Government/Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue*

1. Materials: Committee for Contact with the Government/Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue, pp. 261-62



2. Recommendation

That synod express appreciation to the Committee for Contact with the Government/ Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue in Canada as they work binationally in cooperation with the Office of Social Justice.

—Adopted

C. *Disability Concerns*

1. Materials: Disability Concerns Report, pp. 263-66

2. Recommendation

That synod express its appreciation for the leadership of Rev. Mark Stephenson and the breadth of the ministry provided through the Office of Disability Concerns.

—Adopted

D. *Race Relations*

1. Materials: Race Relations Report, pp. 267-68

2. Observations

The advisory committee observes that the BOT's report on page 37 reads "a search was implemented for a leader of the new Office of Race Relations and Social Justice." The report should read "a new leader of both offices of. . ."

3. Recommendations

a. That synod recognize the BOT's effort to integrate the work of Race Relations and the Office of Social Justice while maintaining the distinct nature of each ministry.

—Adopted

b. That synod express appreciation for the work of Dr. Reginald Smith and acknowledge his appointment as director of the offices of Race Relations and Social Justice.

—Adopted

E. *Safe Church Ministry*

1. Materials: Safe Church Ministry Report, pp. 269-70

2. Recommendation

That synod

a. Remind the churches of their need to provide constant vigilance in protecting the vulnerable.

b. Remind classes to support churches by advocating for and providing safe church personnel, policies, and practices.

c. Express its appreciation to Ms. Bonnie Nicholas for her leadership in equipping individuals, congregations, classes, and agencies in matters concerning safe church practices.

—Adopted

*F. Social Justice and Hunger Action*

1. *Materials*: Social Justice and Hunger Action Report, pp. 271-74

2. *Recommendation*

That synod express its appreciation to Mr. Peter Vander Meulen for his twenty-one years of passionate service and leadership in the Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action.

—Adopted

**III. Friendship Ministries**

A. *Materials*: Friendship Ministries Report, p. 393

B. *Recommendation*

That synod express appreciation for the work of Friendship Ministries.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 33.)

ARTICLE 32

Rev. Sarah Roelofs shares background on her calling to become a chaplain. She also emphasizes chaplains' need for a firm theological basis in their work. Chaplains are called by their churches and have clinical pastoral training before they begin their work. This training helps chaplains to be better caregivers. Chaplaincy and Care Ministry currently has 154 endorsed chaplains and will continue to provide meaningful ministry through chaplains in many settings.

The president responds with thanks.

ARTICLE 33

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 31.)

Advisory Committee 4, Congregational Services I, Rev. James Poelman reporting, presents the following:

**Response to Overture 9: Establish Oversight of the Blog *Do Justice***

A. *Materials*: Overture 9, pp. 424-28

B. *Observations*

The background in the overture states that "a representative of one of our church councils emailed the Office of Social Justice with our concerns, but received no response" (*Agenda for Synod 2017*, p. 424). The Classis Interim Committee alerted the executive director that the editor of the *Do Justice* blog "did in fact reply to the officebearer's concerns by way of an email," but the email "either went into his spam folder or was inadvertently deleted." Therefore the response was not available to classis in its consideration of the overture. The Classis Interim Committee read the response and decided not to withdraw its overture.

We thank the leaders of Classis Minnkota for their desire to be faithful to Scripture and the Reformed confessions.

### C. Recommendations

#### 1. That synod not accede to Overture 9.

*Grounds:*

- a. There is sufficient oversight of the *Do Justice* blog.
- b. There are weekly binational peer review communications team meetings.
- c. There is binational supervision by the directors of the Centre for Public Dialogue and the Office of Social Justice, respectively.
- d. The *Do Justice* blog is a conversation space and is meant to encourage thought and discussion around issues related to the call to do justice (Mic. 6:8 and other texts). Consequently, it may not always reflect the official positions of the Christian Reformed Church.

—*Defeated*

*Note:* Overture 9 is referred back to the advisory committee to bring a new recommendation of response to the overture in a subsequent session.

#### 2. That synod commend the Office of Social Justice and the Centre for Public Dialogue for the following actions in response to this overture:

- a. In order to avoid communications breakdowns, they have reviewed and adapted their follow-up procedures appropriately, including the appointment of an ordained minister to the social justice communications team.
- b. They will deliberately refer to past synodical discussions where possible in editor's notes so that curious readers may become better acquainted with issues that have already been discussed by synod.
- c. They will indicate more clearly that the perspectives expressed on *Do Justice* are not necessarily the official positions of the Christian Reformed Church in North America or its ministries.

—*Adopted*

#### 3. That synod, in the spirit of Matthew 18, instruct the executive director to initiate a face-to-face visit between Classis Minnkota and representatives from the Centre for Public Dialogue and the Office of Social Justice to discuss the issues presented in the overture.

—*Adopted*

#### 4. That synod include in the *Acts of Synod 2017* an edited version of the response provided by the Office of Social Justice to this advisory committee about this overture for general readership. (See *Acts of Synod 2017*, pp. 583-87.)

—*Adopted*

#### 5. That synod recommend the documents *Hearts Exchanged* and *Discernment in Cross-Cultural Ministry* as resources from the Office of Social Justice to address the theological concerns of this overture.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 59.)

## ARTICLE 34

(The report of Advisory Committee 5 is continued from Article 27.)

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Services II, Ms. Amy Vander Vliet reporting, presents the following:

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

#### *A. Materials*

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, B, 6), p. 36
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (sections II, A, 4, including Appendix R)

*B. Privilege of the floor:* Chris Van Spronsen, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

#### *C. Recommendation*

That synod receive as information the newly adopted mission and vision statement and new mandate for CRC Worship Ministries (Appendix R and BOT Supplement section II, A, 4).

—Adopted

### **II. Congregational Services of the Christian Reformed Church**

#### *A. Chaplaincy and Care Ministry*

1. Materials: Chaplaincy and Care Ministry Report, pp. 217-20
2. Recommendation

That synod rejoice in the appointment of Rev. Sarah Roelofs as director of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry, and encourage the executive director and Council of Delegates to explore creative ways of providing additional support for Chaplaincy and Care Ministry.

—Adopted

#### *B. Worship Ministries*

1. Materials: Worship Ministries Report, pp. 304-308
2. Recommendation

That synod commend the work of Worship Ministries and encourage congregations to make use of the wide variety of resources they have available, including *Reformed Worship* and those commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (ReformationDay500.org).

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 35

(The report of Advisory Committee 1 is continued from Article 24.)

Advisory Committee 1, Synodical Services, Rev. Joel A. De Boer reporting, presents the following:

## I. Response to Overture 20: Allow Each Classis to Select Its Own Representative to the Council of Delegates

### A. Materials

1. Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 11, a, including Appendix A)
2. Overture 20, Supplement

### B. Observations

Overture 20 from Classis Hudson asks synod to modify the Council of Delegates Governance Handbook so that greater responsibility be given to each classis for selecting the person who would be the classical delegate to the COD.

### C. Recommendations

1. That synod make the following amendments to the proposed Council of Delegates Governance Handbook as presented in Appendix A (deletions are indicated by strikethrough, and insertions are indicated by underline).
  - a. Section 2.131: Classis. Each classis of the CRCNA shall, with the assistance of the COD's nominating committee, provide in a manner selected by the classis a ~~slate of nominees~~ nominee through the COD to synod. The total number of classis delegates shall be the same as the number of classes.
  - b. Appendix N, section B, second paragraph: *Note:* It would be premature to seek the interest or permission of any of these individuals to stand for nomination before being presented to classis. ~~After identifying the slate of nominees by the classis, the willingness of the potential nominees is sought by the stated clerk of the classis, who then communicates the recommended slate of nominees back to the board or committee that initiated the request.~~

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Individual classes can have a personal acquaintance with nominees to the Council of Delegates and are in a better position to judge the relative merits of each nominee than synod as a whole, which must frequently make its choice based only on a written biography.
- b. Allowing each classis to nominate its own representative to the Council of Delegates would foster a "direct and clear link between the [denominational] board and its constituents" (*Agenda for Synod 2016*, p. 688).

—Adopted

2. That synod make the following amendment to the second paragraph of section 1.0 of the Council of Delegates Governance Handbook (deletions are indicated by strikethrough, insertions by underline):

Significant policies and governance structures can be revised/ amended by action of the COD and, when so determined by precedent and any prior instruction provided by synod, then brought to synod for approval or ratification. ~~All other~~ Other aspects can be revised/ amended by action of the COD, but

ratification by synod is not required (other than initial synodical acceptance).

*Ground:* This clearly differentiates between significant policies and other matters.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod adopt the Council of Delegates Governance Handbook, including its appendices, as amended.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod express its thanks for the hard work of the members of the Board of Trustees and to the CRCNA staff involved in developing the Council of Delegates Governance Handbook and other policies related to the transition to the COD.

—*Adopted*

5. That this be synod's response to Overture 20.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Board of Trustees**

*A. Materials:* Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 11, b, including Appendix B), pp. 28, 130-134

### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the proposed changes to the Rules for Synodical Procedure, as presented in Appendix B, to reflect the transition from the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to the new Council of Delegates of the CRCNA (II, A, 11, b), with the understanding that the name of the new mission agency, once adopted by synod, will be inserted at the proper place in Section V, B, 10.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod adopt the proposed changes to the Church Order and Its Supplements, as presented in Appendix B, to reflect the transition from the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA to the new Council of Delegates of the CRCNA. The revisions adopted will be effective July 1, 2017 (II, A, 11, b).

—*Adopted*

## **III. Response to Overture 3: Remind Denominational Board Delegates to Report to the Classes**

*A. Materials:* Overture 3, pp. 418-19

### *B. Observations*

Overture 3 from Classis Yellowstone identifies a weakness in the system of regional board representation, which the new COD structure is designed to address by providing each classis with a delegate who can be a "key link" between the denomination and the classes (COD Governance Handbook, section 2.1352). The issues raised by the overture, therefore, have been addressed except for those denominational boards not governed through the COD (World Renew, Calvin College, and Calvin Theological Seminary).

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the COD to encourage its classical delegates to consult with the appropriate members of those denominational boards not governed through the COD (World Renew, Calvin College, and Calvin Theological Seminary) and in particular to confer with the nonvoting representatives of those agencies to the COD, in order to provide a link between those institutions and the classes in a region.

*Ground:* This will facilitate regular reporting to each classis in a region from those denominational agencies with regional board representation, as envisioned in the Council of Delegates Governance Handbook, 2.138.

—*Adopted*

2. That this be synod's response to Overture 3.

—*Adopted*

**IV. Response to Overture 4: Adopt a Rule That Synodical Reports Longer Than Ten Pages Must Include an Executive Summary**

A. *Materials:* Overture 4, pp. 419-20

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt a rule that synodical study committees and task forces which submit reports longer than ten pages include an executive summary.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod instruct the office of the executive director to include this rule in the appropriate place in the *Rules for Synodical Procedure*.

*Grounds:*

- a. An executive summary would help draw the attention of pastors, elders, and deacons to the essential elements of the report, increasing interest and encouraging further reading with greater comprehension.
- b. More church members may at least read the executive summary and inform themselves about the recommendations of study committees and task forces, increasing potential input from the church community as a whole.

—*Adopted*

3. That this be synod's response to Overture 4.

—*Adopted*

ARTICLE 36

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 25.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins reporting, presents the following:

## I. Ministerial retirements

*A. Synod has received notice of the following ministerial retirements:*

| Minister                | Classis             | Effective Date     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| J. George Auperlee      | Grand Rapids East   | December 31, 2016  |
| Leonard H. Batterink    | Alberta North       | July 1, 2017       |
| Jim R. Berry            | B.C. South-East     | December 31, 2016  |
| Gerrit J. Bomhof        | Alberta North       | June 30, 2017      |
| Mary L. Bosch           | Wisconsin           | May 31, 2017       |
| Timothy J. Brown        | Minnkota            | June 15, 2017      |
| John W. Cooper          | Grand Rapids East   | June 30, 2017      |
| Philip V. De Jonge      | Grand Rapids East   | June 30, 2017      |
| Robert De Moor          | Alberta North       | December 23, 2016  |
| David J. Deters         | Grand Rapids South  | February 1, 2018   |
| Stanley A. Drenth       | Georgetown          | June 25, 2017      |
| Albert A. Hamstra       | Grand Rapids North  | January 20, 2017   |
| Richard J. Hamstra      | Muskegon            | January 1, 2017    |
| Robert B. Harris        | Grand Rapids South  | June 1, 2016       |
| David Vance Hays        | Columbia            | April 5, 2017      |
| Evan P. Heerema         | Grand Rapids South  | September 10, 2017 |
| John Heidinga           | Niagara             | February 28, 2017  |
| Harold Kallemeyn        | Eastern Canada      | September 30, 2016 |
| Gilbert J. Kamps        | Central Plains      | February 1, 2017   |
| Man Sung Kim            | Northcentral Iowa   | August 31, 2016    |
| Ronald A. Klimp         | Northern Michigan   | April 11, 2017     |
| Koendert J. Koster      | B.C. South-East     | April 1, 2016      |
| Jae Kun Lee             | Greater Los Angeles | October 25, 2016   |
| Mark A. Minegar         | Grand Rapids North  | January 31, 2017   |
| Gui Je Park             | Pacific Northwest   | October 31, 2017   |
| James R. Poelman        | Chatham             | July 31, 2017      |
| Robert J. Price         | Chicago South       | May 26, 2017       |
| Jack Roeda              | Grand Rapids East   | August 31, 2016    |
| Lugene L. Schemper      | Northern Illinois   | September 16, 2016 |
| Terry L. Schram         | Grand Rapids East   | November 30, 2014  |
| Donald C. Sherow        | Hackensack          | June 28, 2016      |
| Dae Sun (David) S. Shin | Columbia            | October 30, 2017   |
| Bert Slofstra           | B.C. South-East     | September 13, 2017 |
| Thomas G. Soerens       | lakota              | June 30, 2017      |
| Elmer Tandayu           | Greater Los Angeles | September 1, 2016  |
| John Terpstra           | Rocky Mountain      | July 30, 2017      |
| Timothy B. Toeset       | Yellowstone         | December 31, 2016  |
| Viet H. Tran            | Georgetown          | November 16, 2016  |
| Jack J. Van Dyken, Jr.  | Central California  | January 1, 2017    |
| Raymond C. Van Leeuwen  | Hackensack          | August 31, 2014    |
| Jack Van Marion         | Lake Superior       | October 8, 2017    |
| Calvin P. Van Reken     | Grand Rapids East   | July 31, 2016      |
| William C. Veenstra     | B.C. South-East     | August 31, 2017    |
| Dale W. Visser          | Central Plains      | February 28, 2017  |
| James C. Wiersum        | Pacific Northwest   | October 6, 2016    |

*B. Synod has received notice of the following commissioned pastor retirements:*

| Commissioned Pastor | Classis             | Effective Date     |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Jose Balderas       | California South    | October 13, 2016   |
| Norman Chee         | Red Mesa            | June 30, 2016      |
| Ernst de Vries      | B.C. South-East     | September 13, 2017 |
| Jerry Kraesig       | Greater Los Angeles | November 2, 2016   |
| Verlyn Schaap       | Heartland           | December 31, 2016  |



### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod take note of the above list of ministerial and commissioned pastor retirements.

—*Noted*

2. That synod instruct the executive director to send a letter of appreciation to each of the retirees listed above.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod offer a prayer of gratitude for these servants of God, and for the many years of service they represent.

—*Adopted*

Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the retiring pastors and commissioned pastors.

## II. **Work of the synodical deputies**

### A. *Ministers from other denominations, Church Order Article 8*

1. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Ezra Jang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on September 21, 2016, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Yebon Korean CRC of Wheeling, Illinois.
2. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Teukkoon Timothy Jung**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 19, 2016, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Abundant Life Korean CRC of Los Angeles, California.
3. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Seong Guen Kang**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 19, 2016, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Vision CRC of Las Vegas, Nevada.
4. Synodical deputies M.E. Hofman (Central California), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Choung Woo**

**Kim**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am, in session on February 28, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Urim CRC of Irvine, California.

5. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Chudamani Koirala**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session on October 18, 2016, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Cascade Fellowship CRC of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
6. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Frank Lanting**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on March 10, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Nobleford CRC of Nobleford, Alberta.
7. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Sung Joo Lee**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on May 2, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Jesus' Heart CRC of Los Angeles, California.
8. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Sang Jung Park**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 19, 2016, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Dallas Woori Reformed CRC of Dallas, Texas.
9. Synodical deputies B.A. Penning (Atlantic Northeast), V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), and P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Hanyong Rhyu**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in

the decision of Classis Hudson, in session on May 11, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Calvary CRC of Livingston, New Jersey.

10. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Eric Sarwar**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 25, 2016, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Bethany CRC of Bellflower, California.
11. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) of **Reverend Todd Statham**, in accordance with Church Order Article 8, and having received the favorable recommendation of the Candidacy Committee, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on March 8, 2017, to declare him eligible for call to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The calling church is Kelowna CRC of Kelowna, British Columbia.

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

—Adopted

*Note:* Action on the following Church Order Article 10 synodical deputy reports section is tabled until later (see Article 46 for synod’s decision).

*B. Classical examination of candidates, Church Order Article 10*

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

—Tabled

*C. Ministers in specialized services, Church Order Article 12-c*

1. Synodical deputies S. Scripps (Holland), H.F. Vlaardingerbroek (Grandville), and J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church of Kentwood, 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 18, 2017, to approve the position of Chief Executive Officer of Timothy Leadership Training Institute as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Gary J. Bekker**.
2. Synodical deputies T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), D. Cheung (B.C. North-West), and J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Brooks Christian Reformed Church of Brooks, Alberta, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session

on October 28, 2016, to approve the position of Prayer Mobilizer with Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International (PRMI) as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Martin Boardman**.

3. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Woodlawn 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 15, 2016, to approve the position of Professor of Theology at the Reformed Evangelical Seminary of Indonesia as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Yohanes Budhi**.
4. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Woodlawn 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 November 17, 2016, to approve the position of Minister/Dean of the Chinese Language School with the Christian Leaders Institute as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Zhi Gang Chen**.
5. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), and L.P. Korf (Columbia), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Sanctuary Christian Reformed Church of Seattle, Washington, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on October 6, 2016, to approve the position of Missional Coach, Consultant, and Trainer as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Benjamin R.T. Katt**.
6. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Cascade Fellowship 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 Thornapple Valley, in session on October 18, 2016, to approve the position of Associate Pastor of Cascade Fellowship Church as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Chudamani Koirala**.
7. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Spirit and Truth Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to

Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 20, 2016, to approve the position of Doctor of Ministry Director at Biblical Theological Seminary as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Kyuboem Lee**.

8. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), P.V. De Jonge (Grand Rapids East), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Brookside 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 Thornapple Valley, in session on May 16, 2017, to approve the position of Chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Mrs. Dena Meyerink**.
9. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Vancouver, British Columbia, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on October 4, 2016, to approve the position of Christian High School Chaplain as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Julia Prins-Vanderveen**.
10. Synodical deputies H. Wildeboer (Quinte), B.J. Ponsen (Niagara), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Caledon, 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 July 14, 2016, to approve the position of English Language Training and Support Coordinator as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Ms. Hannah Smele**.
11. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Family in Christ Community Christian Reformed Church of Westminster, Colorado, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 14, 2016, to approve the position of President of Ocean Ministries as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Timothy A. Spykstra**.
12. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. De Vries (Thornapple Valley), 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 March 30, 2017, to approve the position of Chaplain Residency with Pine Rest Christian

Hospital as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Arianna Tolsma**.

13. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Ocean View Christian Reformed Church of Norfolk, Virginia, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 7, 2017, to approve the position of Chaplain in a Veterans Affairs Hospital as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Eric B. Verhulst**.
14. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having reviewed the evidence supplied by the council of Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having been satisfied that lines of accountability have been established, according to Church Order Article 12-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 15, 2016, to approve the position of Head of School, Living Stones Academy as consistent with the ministry of the Word. This position is to be filled by **Reverend Aaron S. Winkle**.

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

—*Adopted*

*D. Loaning a minister to another denomination according to Church Order Article 13-c*

1. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on September 15, 2016, to approve loaning **Reverend Daniel Jin Su Hwang** to serve LA Sa-Rang Community Church of Los Angeles, California.
2. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 25, 2016, to approve loaning **Reverend Sang Jin** to serve Woori Bit Church of Yeonggwang, South Korea.
3. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and C. Pool (California South), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 4, 2016, to approve loaning **Reverend Zeke R. Nelson** to serve Antwerp International Protestant Church of Antwerp, Belgium.
4. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), G.E. Wamala (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in



the decision of Classis Central Plains, in session on February 24, 2017, to approve loaning **Reverend Donald R. Ridder** to serve Escazu Christian Fellowship Church of San Jose, Costa Rica.

5. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 14, 2016, to approve loaning **Reverend Henry Serrano** to serve CrossWind Church of Denver, Colorado.
6. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), R.Y. Ryu (Hanmi), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 2, 2017, to approve loaning **Reverend Jay Song** to serve True North Church of Palo Alto, California.
7. Synodical deputies M.E. Hofman (Central California), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and C. Pool (California South), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am, in session on February 28, 2017, to approve loaning **Reverend Won Seok Song** to serve Alaska Oriental Mission Church of Anchorage, Alaska.
8. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), R.Y. Ryu (Hanmi), and P.N. Ryu (Ko-Am), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on October 13, 2016, to approve loaning **Reverend Mark D. Vermaire** to serve the American Protestant Church of the Hague (APCH) of The Hague, the Netherlands.
9. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and C. Pool (California South), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Central California, in session on October 4, 2016, to approve loaning **Reverend Randal K. Young** to serve Honolulu Christian Church of Honolulu, Hawaii.

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

—*Adopted*

*E. Extension of loan of a minister to another denomination according to Church Order Article 13-c*

1. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 14, 2016, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Andrew H. Chun** to serve Korean Christian Church of Denver, Colorado.
2. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), R.A. Ryu (Hanmi), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), satisfied that synodical regulations have been

followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 2, 2017, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Woo Song Chung** to serve Kwang Yum Community Church of Los Angeles, California.

3. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 20, 2016, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Charles L. Gescheire** to serve Vienna Presbyterian Church of Vienna, Virginia.
4. Synodical deputies R. Vander Kooij (Huron), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and H. Wildeboer (Quinte), satisfied that synodical regulations have been followed in accordance with Church Order Article 13-c, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on October 4, 2016, to approve the extension of loaning **Reverend Philip F. Reinders** to serve Knox Presbyterian Church of Toronto, Ontario.

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

—Adopted

*F. Release from office to enter a ministry outside the Christian Reformed Church under Church Order Article 14-b*

1. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Samuel S. Ahn** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am in session on September 27, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Samuel S. Ahn** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack), and S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Kooksung Kim** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Hudson in session on September 20, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Kooksung Kim** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Hyuk Soo Kwon** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles in session on October 25, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Hyuk Soo Kwon** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Samuel Ng** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Central California in session on October 4, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Samuel Ng** is released



from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

5. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Jong Bam Oh** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. South-East in session on March 8, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Jong Bam Oh** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Eun Woo Park** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain in session on October 14, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Eun Woo Park** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), L.P. Korf (Columbia), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Gregory S. Selmon** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest in session on October 6, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Gregory S. Selmon** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Yong Chae Shin** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am in session on September 27, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Yong Chae Shin** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Sungil Sohn** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am in session on September 27, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Sungil Sohn** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. WonJoon Sohng** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am in session on September 27, 2016, to declare that **Rev. WonJoon Sohng** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the

discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Stephan R. Van Eck** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Illiana in session on March 7, 2017, to declare that **Rev. Stephan R. Van Eck** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

12. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussions relating to the resignation of **Rev. Seongchul Youn** in accordance with Church Order Article 14-b, concur in the decision of Classis Ko-Am in session on September 27, 2016, to declare that **Rev. Seongchul Youn** 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

*G. Release from office to enter a nonministerial vocation under Church Order Article 14-c*

1. Synodical deputies H. Wildeboer (Quinte), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and S.D. Tammimg (Huron), having heard the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on April 22, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. John H. Noordhof** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
2. Synodical deputies P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), R.A. Blacketer (Grand Rapids South), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the discussion of Classis Lake Erie, in session on March 4, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Samuel L. Perry** is dismissed from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.
3. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), and M.E. Hofman (Central California), having heard the discussion of Classis Columbia, in session on October 25, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-c, that **Rev. Randall J. Simon** is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America to enter a nonministerial vocation.

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

—Adopted

*H. Release from office of one whose vocation is judged to be nonministerial under Church Order Article 14-d*

1. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), R.Y. Ryu (Hanmi), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the discussion of Classis California South, in session on March 2, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. David Yoon**

**Chong**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

2. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), R.Y. Ryu (Hanmi), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the discussion of Classis California South, in session on March 2, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Rick Kim**, having entered a vocation that is judged to be nonministerial, is honorably released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies M.E. Hofman (Central California), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the discussion of Classis Ko-Am, in session on February 28, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-d, that **Rev. Won Chei Kim**, 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

*I. Return to office of one who was released to enter a nonministerial vocation under Church Order Article 14-e*

Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), S.D. Tamming (Huron), and M.W. Bootsma (Quinte), having heard the interview of the applicant and the discussion of Classis Toronto, in session on April 29, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 14-e, that **Mr. Douglas J. VandeKamp** 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

*J. Release from ministry in a congregation under Church Order Article 17-a*

1. Synodical deputies R.L. Boersma (Grand Rapids South), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Georgetown, in session on May 18, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Joshua S. Benton** is released from ministerial service in Friendship Chapel Christian Reformed Church of Jenison, Michigan.
2. Synodical deputies J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 13, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Manny S. Bersach** is released from ministerial service in Iglesia Cristiana Piedras Vivas Christian Reformed Church of Miami, Florida.

3. Synodical deputies M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and S. Scripps (Holland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on January 19, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Dr. Raymond A. Blacketer** is released from ministerial service in First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church of Byron Center, Michigan.
4. Synodical deputies J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 14, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Hector Garcia** is released from ministerial service in Iglesia Buenas Nuevas (Good News) Christian Reformed Church of Miami, Florida.
5. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), and S. Scripps (Holland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on December 8, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. David G. Kroon** is released from ministerial service in Atwood Christian Reformed Church of Atwood, Michigan.
6. Synodical deputies B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), L.P. Korf (Columbia), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on June 29, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. John W. Luth** is released from ministerial service in St. Albert Christian Reformed Church of St. Albert, Alberta.
7. Synodical deputies M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), S. Scripps (Holland), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Zeeland, in session on March 16, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Leonard H. Meinema** is released from ministerial service in First Christian Reformed Church of Zeeland, Michigan.
8. Synodical deputies B. Slofstra (B.C. South-East), L.P. Korf (Columbia), and H.C. Kooger (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on June 29, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Martin T. Mobach** is released from ministerial service in Ottewell Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Alberta.
9. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 25, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Jonas T. Muljo**

is released from ministerial service in Indonesian Protestant Church of California Christian Reformed Church of Chino, California.

10. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 7, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Trevor Payton** is released from ministerial service in Covenant Christian Reformed Church of North Haledon, New Jersey.
11. Synodical deputies J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), G.D. Schuringa (Northern Illinois), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Wisconsin, in session on September 27, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Robert A. Sizemore** is released from ministerial service in Calvin Christian Reformed Church of Sheboygan, Wisconsin.
12. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), and S. Scripps (Holland), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on December 8, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Spencer M. Tuttle** is released from ministerial service in Aetna Christian Reformed Church of Falmouth, Michigan.
13. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 14, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Gerald W. Vander Hoek** is released from ministerial service in Jewel Christian Reformed Church of Denver, Colorado.
14. Synodical deputies T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session on May 24, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. John Van Sloten** is released from ministerial service in New Hope Hillside Christian Reformed Church of Calgary, Alberta.
15. Synodical deputies D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 13, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Arthur L. Verboon** is released from ministerial service in Maranatha Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Alberta.
16. Synodical deputies S. Starckenburg (Central Plains), R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the weighty

reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Iakota, in session on September 20, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Eric B. Verhulst** is released from ministerial service in Shalom Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

17. Synodical deputies D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 13, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Ferry Yang** is released from ministerial service in Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church of Neerlandia, Alberta.
18. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), and W. Verhoef (California South), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hanmi, in session on September 15, 2015, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Gak Chun Youn** is released from ministerial service in New Hope Christian Reformed Church of San Jose, California.
19. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having heard the weighty reasons provided and the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 7, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a, that **Rev. Hernan Zapata-Thomak** is released from ministerial service in The Good Shepherd Christian Reformed Church of Prospect Park, New Jersey.

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

—*Adopted*

*K. Extension of eligibility for call under Church Order Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 14, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Joy Engelsman's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
2. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the discussion of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 14, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Ruth Folkerts's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
3. Synodical deputies J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), having heard the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 13, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Paul G. Hackett's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.



4. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), W. Brouwer (B.C. South-East), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 2, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Ladan Jennings's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
5. Synodical deputies W. Verhoef (California South), M.E. Hofman (Central California), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having heard the discussion of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on May 2, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Hitomi Kornilov's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
6. Synodical deputies B.A. Pennings (Atlantic Northeast), V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), and P.J. Van Dyken (Hackensack), having heard the discussion of Classis Hudson, in session on May 11, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. John M. Kuperus's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
7. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), W.T. Koopmans (Chatham), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the discussion of Classis Niagara, in session on May 17, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Richard W. Loerop's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
8. Synodical deputies S. Scripps (Holland), H.F. Vlaardingebroek (Grandville), and J.L. Blom (Grand Rapids North), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids South, in session on January 19, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. John M. Matias's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
9. Synodical deputies J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), having heard the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 13, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Hector Raul Orlandi's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
10. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and J.C. Dekker (Niagara), having heard the discussion of Classis Huron, in session on May 24, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Christopher B. Pool's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
11. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), G.D. Schuringa (Northern Illinois), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having heard the discussion of Classis Illiana, in session on September 21, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Jesse E. Powell's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
12. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 15, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Katrina M. Schaafsma's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

13. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the discussion of Classis Eastern Canada, in session on October 21, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Siemen A. Speelman's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
14. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the discussion of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on September 15, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Bruce J. Vaandrager's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.
15. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and G.D. Schuringa (Northern Illinois), having heard the discussion of Classis Chicago South, in session on September 21, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Gerry G. Van Dam's** eligibility for call is extended for one year.

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

*L. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 17-c*

1. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), R. Howerzyl (Zeeland), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having heard the discussion of Classis Northern Michigan, in session on March 7, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Jaclyn D. Busch** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), and J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), having heard the discussion of Classis Southeast U.S., in session on September 13, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Charles Y. Jeon** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), having heard the discussion of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 20, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Sun Man Kang** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-East), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 13, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-c, that **Rev. Michael S. Van Boom** 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*

*M. Release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 17-d*

Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and D. Cheung (B.C. North-West), having heard the discussion of Classis Alberta North, in session on March 1, 2017, concur in the decision of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-d, that **Dr. Ferry Yang** is released from the office of minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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

—*Adopted*

*N. Declaration that a commissioned pastor position fits synodical guidelines under Church Order Article 23-a*

1. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Spirit and Truth Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 7, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Dr. Duane Belgrave Jr.** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Associate Minister of Education.
2. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), R.Y. Ryu (Hanmi), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrador Christian Reformed Church of Fontana, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 2, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Maritza Blanco** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
3. Synodical deputies R. Vander Kooij (Huron), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and H. Wildeboer (Quinte), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Rehoboth Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Toronto, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Toronto, in session on October 4, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Shiao C. Chong** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Editor in Chief of *The Banner*.
4. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church of Cambridge, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Huron, in session on February 14, 2017, that the commissioned pastor

position to be filled by **Mr. Rick De Graaf** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Pastor of Pastoral Care.

5. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), T. Howerzyl (Zeeland), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Kibbie Christian Reformed Church of South Haven, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Holland, in session on February 2, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Alfredo de la Rosa** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
6. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), and D. Cheung (B.C. Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Gateway Community Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on October 18, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Marcel deRegt** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Executive Pastor.
7. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Third Christian Reformed Church of Denver, Colorado, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 14, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. David R. De Ridder** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Minister of Pastoral Care.
8. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Sunshine Community Christian Reformed Church of El Paso, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on March 4, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Samuel Estala** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
9. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Spirit and Truth Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 7, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Frederick**

**Harvey** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Associate Pastor.

10. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), G.D. Schuringa (Northern Illinois), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Beacon Light Christian Reformed Church of Gary, Indiana, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 21, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. John Hoffmaster** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
11. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The Journey Christian Reformed Church of Longmont, Colorado, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 14, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mrs. Adie Johnson** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
12. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The Journey Christian Reformed Church of Longmont, Colorado, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 14, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Douglas Kennedy** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Neighborhood Pastor.
13. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Phoenix Christian Reformed Church of Phoenix, Arizona, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on March 4, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Nick Lang** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
14. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of New Horizon Christian Reformed Church of Paterson, New Jersey, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 20, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Carlos Lezameta** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.

15. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and R.L. Westenbroek (Rocky Mountain), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Phoenix Christian Reformed Church of Phoenix, Arizona, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Arizona, in session on March 4, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Andrew Littleton** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
16. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Munster Christian Reformed Church of Munster, Indiana, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on March 7, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. James Martin** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
17. Synodical deputies P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Seymour Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on April 18, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Shawn M. May** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Pastor of Youth Ministry and Congregational Life.
18. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Latin American Christian Reformed Church of Anaheim, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session on October 25, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Ernesto Mejia** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
19. Synodical deputies T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), R.J. De Ruitter (Pacific Northwest), and R.W. Ouweland (B.C. South-East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Vancouver, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session on March 9, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Dena Nicolai** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer.
20. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), D. Meinema (Eastern Canada), and D.H. Bratt (Hackensack), having examined the written

materials submitted by the council of The River Community Christian Reformed Church of Douglas, Massachusetts, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on October 6, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Joe Paravisini** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Church Planter.

21. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Madison Square Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on November 17, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Carol Petter** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Marketplace Chaplain.
22. Synodical deputies P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Byron Center, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on May 18, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Roland Rizallaraj** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Pastor for Muslim Ministry in West Michigan.
23. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), W. Brouwer (B.C. South-East), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Mill Creek Community Christian Reformed Church of Mill Creek, Washington, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session on March 2, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Kurtis Reardon** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Pastor of Youth Ministries.
24. Synodical deputies D.H. Bratt (Hackensack), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and D. Meinema (Eastern Canada), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of The River Community Christian Reformed Church of Douglas, Massachusetts, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session on March 9, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Justin Ruddy** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor of Church Plant.
25. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Spirit and Truth Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and having compared

them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 7, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jose A. Sanchez** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Associate Pastor of Spanish Speaking Ministries and Mission.

26. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hope Christian Reformed Church of Houston, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on March 14, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Danny Skelton** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
27. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Drayton Christian Reformed Church of Drayton, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Huron, in session on September 28, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Jake Snieder** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
28. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Christ Community Church of Plainfield Christian Reformed Church of Plainfield, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Northern Illinois, in session on March 1, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Ryan Stanley** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Senior Pastor.
29. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), and D. Cheung (B.C. Northwest), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Kelowna Christian Reformed Church of Kelowna, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on October 18, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Eldon M. Stephenson** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Evangelist.
30. Synodical deputies P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Dearborn Christian Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Dearborn, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session on September 1, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Brad**



**Stolman** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Director of Worship and Family Ministry.

31. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), and J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hyde Park Christian Reformed Church of Chicago, Illinois, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Chicago South, in session on February 25, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Deano Su** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
32. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Madison Square Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on November 17, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Ricardo R. Tavarez** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Planter, En Vivo Church.
33. Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), R.Y. Ryu (Hanmi), and J.J. Kim (Ko-Am), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrador Christian Reformed Church of Fontana, California, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis California South, in session on March 2, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Maritza Torres** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
34. Synodical deputies P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), and M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Byron Center, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grandville, in session on May 18, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Dr. Matthew Tuininga** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Assistant Professor of Moral Theology for Calvin Theological Seminary.
35. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), R. Vander Kooij (Toronto), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Good News Christian Reformed Church of London, Ontario, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Chatham, in session on May 23, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Ms. Alida C. van Dijk** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Staff Chaplain.

36. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Living Hope Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis B.C. South-East, in session on March 8, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Adam Van Dop** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Associate Pastor.
37. Synodical deputies D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of Red Deer, Alberta, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session on October 12, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Ken Vis** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
38. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Madison Square Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on March 30, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Colin Watson** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is CRCNA Director of Ministries and Administration.
39. Synodical deputies M. Den Bleyker (Arizona), C. Pool (California South), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Hope Christian Reformed Church of Houston, Texas, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Rocky Mountain, in session on October 14, 2016, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. David Wray** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is Commissioned Pastor.
40. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), having examined the written materials submitted by the council of Madison Square Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines re office and ordination, concur with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session on March 30, 2017, that the commissioned pastor position to be filled by **Mr. Steve Winkle** is in keeping with synodical guidelines for ministry associates. The position title is South Christian High School Bible Teacher/Chaplain.

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

—*Adopted*



O. *Article 23-a commissioned pastors, filling previously approved positions*

The following commissioned pastors have been examined by the classis indicated for positions previously approved by synodical deputies (in addition to those listed above in the synodical deputy reports for Church Order Article 23-a):

| Name                 | Classis            | Date               |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Byran Choyce         | Grand Rapids East  | September 14, 2016 |
| Robert J. Krueger    | Wisconsin          | February 28, 2017  |
| Taeil Nam            | Pacific Northwest  | October 15, 2016   |
| Joseph S. Paravisini | Atlantic Northeast | March 8, 2017      |
| Alphonso J. Santino  | Hackensack         | March 7, 2017      |
| Eldon M. Stephenson  | B.C. South-East    | October 19, 2016   |
| Deano Su             | Chicago South      | May 24, 2017       |
| Ethan van der Leek   | B.C. South-East    | October 19, 2016   |
| Eric Vander Wall     | Thornapple Valley  | May 16, 2017       |
| Zongseng Vang        | Lake Erie          | October 5, 2016    |
| George Zhao          | Quinte             | September 27, 2016 |

*Recommendation:* That synod take note of the above-named persons ordained as commissioned pastors within the classes indicated.

—Adopted

P. *Service of a commissioned pastor in an organized church as solo pastor under Church Order Article 23-b or -c*

1. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), R.D. Gorter (Hudson), and S.A. Vander Ploeg (Southeast U.S.), having examined the request submitted by the council of Unity Christian Reformed Church of Prospect Park, New Jersey, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on September 20, 2016, that **Mr. Alphonso J. Santino** (ministry associate) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.
2. Synodical deputies M. Winnowski (Wisconsin), G.D. Schuringa (Northern Illinois), and M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), having examined the request submitted by the council of First Christian Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois, concur with the decision of Classis Illiana, in session on September 21, 2016, that **Mr. Dan R. Svendsen** (ministry associate) may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

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

—Adopted

Q. *Calling a commissioned pastor to serve in an organized church as solo pastor under Church Order Article 23-d*

Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), V.G. Vander Zee (Southeast U.S.), and D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), having examined the materials submitted by the council of The Good Shepherd Christian Reformed Church of Prospect Park, New Jersey, and having compared them with the synodical guidelines for calling a commissioned pastor to an organized congregation, concur with the decision of Classis Hackensack, in session on March 7, 2017, that a commissioned pastor **Mr. Anthony Matias**, may serve the congregation as its solo pastor.

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

—Adopted

*R. Commissioned pastors concluding service under Church Order Article 23*

The following commissioned pastors have concluded service in the classes indicated in the positions to which they were appointed:

| Name                  | Classis           | Effective Date     |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Rob Braun             | Lake Superior     | September 30, 2016 |
| Anthony Hoek          | B.C. South-East   | October 19, 2016   |
| Janice McLean-Farrell | Hackensack        | December 31, 2014  |
| Amanda J. Roozeboom   | Grand Rapids East | December 18, 2016  |
| Stedford E. Sims      | Grand Rapids East | January 29, 2017   |
| Jake Snieder          | Chatham           | August 31, 2016    |

—Noted

*S. Deposition of a minister of the Word under Church Order Articles 82 and 83*

Synodical deputies E.D. Westra (Greater Los Angeles), J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), and C. Pool (California South), having heard the grounds submitted by the council of San Jose Christian Reformed Church of San Jose, California, and the discussion of Classis Central California, in session on October 4, 2016, concur in the decision of classis to approve, in accordance with Church Order Articles 82 and 83, the deposition of **Rev. Bradley J. Smith** 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

*T. Consideration for reinstatement of a deposed minister under Church Order Article 84*

Synodical deputies H. Wildeboer (Quinte), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the discussion of Classis Lake Superior, in session on September 20, 2016, concur in the judgment of classis to declare, in accordance with Church Order Article 84 and its Supplement, that **Mr. Calvin J. Friend** is *not 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

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 44.)

ARTICLE 37

The afternoon session adjourns at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Julius B. Umawing (Greater Los Angeles) leads in closing prayer.

**MONDAY EVENING, June 12, 2017**

**Sixth Session**

**ARTICLE 38**

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Onalee Sneller (young adult representative) leads in opening prayer.

The officers announce that Mr. Andrew Rylaarsdam, young adult representative, has left synod due to work commitments.

**ARTICLE 39**

Dr. Jim Payton, chair of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, introduces Rev. Kayla Fik, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Church in America, who addresses synod. Dr. Steven R. Timmermans responds.

**ARTICLE 40**

Delegates view a video presentation on the long history of relationships between the RCA and the CRCNA, which began in 1857. The video begins with a quote for reflection: “God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name” (Rom. 8:29, *The Message*).

The video also features Rev. Tom De Vries, general secretary of the RCA, and Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director of the CRCNA, encouraging delegates to give thanks and celebrate our relationship in this new decade of ministry and mission. Their discussion follows a time of reflection on this passage: “You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness” (Eph. 4:4-6, *The Message*).

Three scenarios for the future relations of the CRCNA and RCA are described: (1) Coordination—working together in ministry and gaining benefits from each other through church multiplication, church renewal, and congregational leadership; (2) Collaboration—creating entities that are new—neither RCA nor CRC—through a centralized service center; and (3) a New Creation—a totally new way of working together by rethinking the future of the church in North America that is a unified, diverse church where there is room for everyone within a missional diverse synodical structure.

Table discussions follow the video presentation to provide characterizations and give thoughts on affirmations, challenges, or suggestions to assist the CRCNA and RCA into further collaboration in the future.

**ARTICLE 41**

The evening session adjourns at 8:17 p.m. Rev. Phillip S. Leo (Chicago South) leads in closing prayer.

**TUESDAY MORNING, June 13, 2017**  
**Seventh Session**

**ARTICLE 42**

Delegates begin worship, singing “Come Away from Rush and Hurry,” “Speak, O Lord,” and “Tu Palabra, Señor/Far More Precious than Gold.”

Students from Elim Christian Services lead a responsive call to worship from Psalm 145:1-7, and delegates respond by singing “We Will Extol You, God and King” (a setting of Ps. 145).

Rev. Bobby Boyd (Red Mesa) greets delegates and guests. As the Lord greets us, we greet one another.

Elder delegate Mr. Robert A. Cooper, young adult adviser Ms. Joelle Wilhelm, and deacon delegate Ms. Carol Wynstra lead in a responsive confession and lament. Delegates respond, singing “Pelas dores deste mundo/For the Troubles” (a cry to God from Rom. 8:18-22), followed by a prayer of lament (based on Ps. 146) and by singing of the refrain of “Pelas dores deste mundo/For the Troubles.”

The assurance of pardon, based on Psalm 145:10, 13b-19, is followed by a reading of Psalm 19:1-10 (“Wisdom from God’s Word”). Delegates respond by singing the refrain of “Tu Palabra, Señor/Far More Precious than Gold.”

A responsive reading based on Psalm 119:97-105 (“God’s Word Directs Our Paths”) is followed by delegates singing “Thy Word.”

Elim students lead a reading of the Lord’s Prayer (“God’s Word Blesses Delegates”).

Rev. Bobby Boyd offers the blessing with a prayer in Navajo. Delegates and Elim students close the worship time by singing “My Friends, May You Grow in Grace.”

Participants from Elim include Darrell Bingham, Linda Kallemeyn, Jennifer Cataldo, Andy Swarthout, Michael Stuart, and Janis Brink, and they are led by director Kristin Young.

Roll call indicates that all delegates are present. Ms. Linda B. Rienstra (Grand Rapids North) will no longer be able to be present.

**ARTICLE 43**

Advisory Committee 3, Education and Candidacy, Rev. Pete R. Byma reporting, presents the following:

**I. Calvin College**

*A. Materials*

1. Calvin College Report, pp., 209-13
2. Calvin College Supplement

*B. Privilege of the floor:* Mr. Craig Lubben, chair, and Dr. Michael K. Le Roy, president

*C. Recommendation*

That synod ratify the following faculty promotions and reappointments with tenure, effective September 1, 2017:

- a. Kristen R. Alford, Ph.D., associate professor of social work
  - b. Thomas A. Betts, M.B.A., professor of business
  - c. Brian M. Kreisman, Ph.D., professor of speech pathology and audiology
  - d. James R. Skillen, Ph.D., associate professor of environmental studies
- Adopted

## II. Calvin Theological Seminary

### A. Materials

- 1. Calvin Theological Seminary Report, pp. 295-303
- 2. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr., chair, and Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president

### C. Recommendations

- 1. That synod, with gratitude to God, acknowledge the years of faithful service of Dr. John Bolt and note the new title conferred on him by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees: Jean and Kenneth Baker Professor of Systematic Theology, *emeritus*, effective January 1, 2018.
 

—Adopted
- 2. That synod, with gratitude to God, acknowledge the years of faithful service of Dr. John W. Cooper and note the new title conferred on him by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees: Professor of Philosophical Theology, *emeritus*, effective July 1, 2017.
 

—Adopted
- 3. That synod, with gratitude to God, acknowledge the years of faithful service of Dr. Dean B. Deppe and note the new title conferred on him by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees: Professor of New Testament, *emeritus*, effective July 1, 2017.
 

—Adopted

## III. Candidacy Committee

### A. Materials

- 1. Candidacy Committee Report (excluding section III, C and the Appendix), pp. 311-18
- 2. Candidacy Committee Supplement

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. David R. Koll, director of Candidacy, and an additional member of the Candidacy Committee, if one is present

### C. Recommendations

- 1. That synod take note of the various initiatives and challenges identified by the Candidacy Committee in its report.
 

—Adopted
- 2. That synod declare the following as candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church:

Patrick D. Anthony  
Josiah L. Bokma  
Laura M. de Jong  
Mark DeVos  
Bradley S. Diekema  
Brian Dunn  
Joshua K. Friend  
Cari C. Fydirchuck  
Ernesto J. Hernandez  
Ryan K. Hoekstra  
James C. Hollendonner  
Sarah K. Hoos  
Jeffrey M. Hoos  
Eunjun Jeong  
Rafik Kamel  
George C. Keulen  
JungSeong “Samuel” Kim  
Hope Guan Lee  
Hannah Ryou Lee  
Michael R. McGowan

Kyle J. Meyaard-Schaap  
Cory J. Nederveld  
Fikre H. Norcha  
Arek O’Connell  
Ryan T. Pedde  
Allen P. Pontarelli  
Margaret Rekman  
Janet A. Ryzebol  
Bailey B. Sarver  
Mark P. Van Andel  
Michelle R. VandenBerg  
Greg Vander Horn  
Nicole Veenkamp  
Jantje F. (Femke) Visser-Elenbaas  
Michael A. Westerveld  
Brian D. White  
Joanna L. Wigboldy  
Jianlou (John) Xu  
Cody J. Zuiderveen

—*Adopted*

3. That synod approve the following extensions of candidacy:

Yoon Chul (Daniel) Choi  
Elisabeth A. De Vries  
Darrell Delaney  
Kyle Dieleman  
Trent M. Elders  
Kendra R. Ettema  
Kendall A. Everett  
Tara K. Foreman  
Tyler Greenway  
Robert J. Gruessing  
Laura A. Guichelaar-DeRuiter  
Grant Hofman  
Ryan Hoogerbrugge  
Sarah J. Hoogendoorn  
Joseph Hwang  
Moses Kang  
Jonathan A. Kool

Sang Myung Lee  
Sheryl J. Leisman  
Katrina J. Olson  
Jennifer L. Palkowski  
Matthew A. Pearce  
Kristen J. Pikaart  
Kurt C. Schaefer  
Ivan K. Santoso  
Kelli K. Sexton  
Sharon R. Smith  
Juli Stuelpnagel  
Ricardo R. Tavarez  
Jason R. Terpstra  
David van Eyk  
Thomas J. Van Wyk  
Beverly Weeks  
Bradley R. Zwiers

—*Adopted*

4. That synod approve the reinstatement of candidacy to Mr. Eun Chong “David” Shin and Mr. Richard France-Coe, as described in section I, C.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee in declaration of *need* for the following for affiliation under Church Order Article 8:

| Date    | Name of applicant   | Classis             | Former denomination                   |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7-19-16 | Kang, Seong Guen    | Hanmi               | Evangelical Church Alliance           |
| 8-16-16 | Sarwar, Eric        | Greater Los Angeles | Presbyterian Church of Pakistan       |
| 9-09-16 | Park, Sang Jung     | Hanmi               | Presbyterian Church in Korea          |
| 9-10-16 | Jung, Teukkoon      | Hanmi               | Korean Assoc. of Independent Churches |
| 9-12-16 | Jang, Ezra          | Northern Illinois   | Christian and Missionary Alliance     |
| 9-20-16 | Koirala, Chuda Mani | Thornapple Valley   | Korean Assoc. of Independent Churches |
| 2-09-17 | Kim, Choung Woo     | Ko-Am               | Presbyterian Church in Korea          |
| 3-03-17 | Statham, Todd       | B.C South-East      | Presbyterian Church in Canada         |
| 3-03-17 | Lanting, Frank      | Alberta South/Sask. | Presbyterian Church in America        |
| 4-06-17 | Lee, Sung Joo       | Greater Los Angeles | Korean Presbyterian Church            |

—Adopted

6. That synod endorse the increased use of the accredited Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy coursework offered through Calvin Theological Seminary in the Article 8 learning plans in order that affiliating pastors receive an appropriate orientation to the CRCNA and that vacant congregations will recognize and benefit from pastors' receiving as deep an orientation as is feasible.

—Adopted

#### IV. Dordt College

A. *Materials*: Dordt College Report, pp. 375-76

B. *Recommendation*

That synod take note of the blessings Dordt College continues to see, having reached an all-time high enrollment of 1,523 students in 2016-2017 and opening a new two-year professional and technical program in the fall of 2017. We commend Dordt College for its continued kingdom efforts in educating students in a Reformed word-and-life view.

—Adopted

#### V. Institute for Christian Studies

A. *Materials*: Institute for Christian Studies Report, pp. 377-78

B. *Recommendation*

That synod note with gratitude to our Lord that this spring marks the 50th anniversary of the official opening of the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS). We give thanks that whether graduate students are exploring the implications of a Reformed Christian worldview for their work through the twelve-week vocational wayfinding course, a full master of arts in philosophy, a master of world-view studies, or a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary philosophy, ICS continues to train students to grow and adapt to new opportunities to share the gifts of the Reformed world-and-life view in higher education and in service in God's world.

—Adopted

#### VI. The King's University

A. *Materials*: The King's University Report, pp. 379-80

B. *Recommendation*

That synod note the work of God at The King's University, in their reflections on the past year and in their planning for the future. This is the fourth

year enrollment has increased at the university, and finalizing their campus master plan promises to ensure continued growth. We celebrate and continue to pray for plans of working with the Institute of Christian Studies and for fruitful efforts toward continual recognition as a member of Universities Canada.

—*Adopted*

## **VII. Kuyper College**

A. *Materials*: Kuyper College Report, p. 381

B. *Recommendation*

That synod note the blessings of a strong partnership between the CRC and Kuyper College. Under the leadership of interim president Dr. Carl Zylstra, Kuyper College continues to integrate a Reformed biblical perspective with a passion for missions. The college praises God for the provision of excellent leadership under the recently retired Dr. Nicholas Kroeze and covets prayer during this time of transition.

—*Adopted*

## **VIII. Redeemer University College**

A. *Materials*: Redeemer University College, pp. 382-83

B. *Recommendation*

That synod take note that Redeemer University College gives thanks for God's blessing of an increased enrollment this past year, even as the board is in the process of seeking Redeemer's next president. We rejoice with RUC as it has significantly reduced its debt, as it launches a center to prepare students for the future, and as it uses a new Christ-centered core curriculum to equip students for kingdom engagement in the world.

—*Adopted*

## **IX. Trinity Christian College**

A. *Materials*: Trinity Christian College Report, pp. 384-85

B. *Recommendation*

That synod note the ongoing strong partnership between the CRC and Trinity Christian College. Further, we give thanks with Trinity on the progress made this past year in curriculum changes and in the creation of three new majors offering students enhanced opportunities to make a kingdom impact. We commend Trinity for their faithful efforts and ongoing devotion to our Lord's service in the global metropolis of Chicago.

—*Adopted*

## **X. Task Force on Funding for Calvin Theological Seminary Students**

A. *Materials*: Task Force on Funding for Calvin Theological Seminary Students Report (including Appendices A-D), pp. 398-414

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Dr. Christopher Schoon, chair; Rev. Daniel Kinnas, reporter; and other members of the task force



### C. Recommendations

1. That synod urge classis student fund teams to conduct annual interviews with students they are supporting or considering supporting.

*Ground:* The main benefit of having our seminary students supported by their classes is the opportunity for an ongoing relationship between those students and the churches and leaders of their classes. Conducting annual interviews will foster a healthier environment for our students, the funding process, and our classes.

—Adopted

2. That synod remind classis student fund teams to give support preference to students attending Calvin Theological Seminary and to those who are pursuing a master of divinity degree.

*Ground:* The original intent of Church Order Article 43-a is for the support of students pursuing ordained ministry in the CRCNA. This is the primary support function of classis student fund teams, so it is fitting for these teams to give support preference to students in a master of divinity program, and to those pursuing this degree from CTS, since it is the theological seminary of the CRCNA.

—Adopted

3. That synod urge classis student fund teams to develop and put into practice a clear and workable set of guidelines for the process of student funding. This would include the following:
  - a. reviewing the forms being used for application in the student funding process
  - b. having an understanding of the timeline students are working with when it comes to scholarships received and payments being due
  - c. having an understanding of what is required by our Candidacy Committee of students pursuing candidacy in the CRCNA
  - d. being aware of the legal issues/requirements surrounding the type of agreement a classis enters into with a student (forgivable loan, grant, etc.)

*Ground:* There is a lot of changeover on classis student fund teams, so it is imperative that there be some clear and accessible guidelines, forms, and so on for the team to follow in each classis. This will be helpful for the students as they go through the funding process, but it will also be helpful in keeping our classes consistent and organized in this process, even as team members change.

—Adopted

4. That synod encourage, whenever possible, our classes and student fund teams to work together in the support of our students. These might be neighboring classes in a close geographical area or classes that share a relationship with a student.

*Ground:* Our classes and churches have a shared goal in this process of coming alongside students as they prepare for ministry in the CRCNA.

Since we are working together as one denomination and we have this shared goal for the training and support of students preparing for ministry, it makes sense for our classes to combine resources and work together in this endeavor whenever possible, particularly since classes have various amounts of resources available for the support of students, and the number of students who request classis support varies in a given year.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod ask classis student fund teams to provide annual updates to the Candidacy Committee and Calvin Theological Seminary regarding their respective sets of guidelines, levels of support, and sample forms used for student funding.

*Grounds:*

- a. This will assist with mutual learning and accountability among classes.
- b. It will also provide a mechanism to track data regarding student classical support.
- c. It will increase and improve consistent procedures as best practices are shared.

—*Adopted*

6. While recognizing the ongoing nature of these challenges and the need to continue to address these issues, that synod accept this report as fulfilling the mandate of the Task Force on Funding for Calvin Theological Seminary Students and dismiss the task force with gratitude.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 49.)

#### ARTICLE 44

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 36.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins reporting, presents the following:

#### **Response to Appeal**

A. *Materials:* Appeal (distributed to advisory committee only), p. 449

B. *Recommendation*

That synod not sustain the appeal of the consistories of First CRC, Lynden, Washington; Second CRC, Lynden, Washington; Bethel CRC, Lynden, Washington; Sumas CRC, Sumas, Washington; Mountain View CRC, Lynden, Washington; Anchor of Hope CRC, Silverdale, Washington; Cascade CRC, Marysville, Washington; and Pastor Mitchell R. Senti from a decision of Classis Pacific Northwest on October 6, 2016.

*Grounds:*

1. Sufficient evidence has not been provided to indicate that the classis and synodical deputies violated procedure during the meeting of Classis Pacific Northwest on October 6, 2016.

2. It is inappropriate for synod to interfere in an issue that is still an active matter in classis.

—*Adopted*

Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins offers prayer for Classis Pacific Northwest in a difficult and painful situation.

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued in Article 46.)

#### ARTICLE 45

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod urge the delegates of Synod 2017 to be encouraged to pray for classes in pain over the next year.

—*Adopted*

#### ARTICLE 46

(The report of Advisory Committee 2 is continued from Article 44.)

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Synodical Matters, Rev. Kenneth F. Benjamins reporting, presents the following:

#### Work of the Synodical Deputies

*Classical examination of candidates, Church Order Article 10*

1. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session July 14, 2016, to admit candidate **Christopher R. Allen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
2. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session October 21, 2016, to admit candidate **Andrea M. Baas** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Synodical deputies C.A. Fluit (Atlantic Northeast), H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), and S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Eastern Canada, in session October 21, 2016, to admit candidate **Nicholas C. Baas** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
4. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session September 15, 2016, to admit candidate **Yohanes Budhi** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

5. Synodical deputies R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), and L.P. Korf (Columbia), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session October 6, 2016, to admit candidate **Andrew W. Carlson** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
6. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session November 17, 2016, to admit candidate **Zhi Gang Chen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
7. Synodical deputies D.W. De Groot (Iakota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central Plains, in session September 17, 2016, to admit candidate **Scott Chiang** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
8. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), P.V. De Jonge (Grand Rapids East), and R.A. Blacketer (Grand Rapids South), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session August 16, 2016, to admit candidate **Daniel J. DeVries** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
9. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session January 17, 2017, to admit candidate **Willem de Vries** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
10. Synodical deputies J.C. Dekker (Niagara), S.D. Tamming (Huron), and H.P. Bruinsma (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session August 30, 2016, to admit candidate **Gareth Harker** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
11. Synodical deputies M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), C.J. De Vos (Holland), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Zeeland, in session November 17, 2016, to admit candidate **Lloyd Hemstreet** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
12. Synodical deputies S. Starckenburg (Central Plains), R.W. Sparks (Minnkota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Iakota, in session September 20, 2016, to admit

candidate **Drew Hoekema** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

13. Synodical deputies B.A. Meinders (Central Plains), D.W. De Groot (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Northcentral Iowa, in session September 13, 2016, to admit candidate **Brian M. Hofman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
14. Synodical deputies C. Pool (California South), J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), and J.J. Greydanus (Red Mesa), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Greater Los Angeles, in session October 25, 2016, to admit candidate **Sang Jin** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
15. Synodical deputies M.J. Kooy (Chicago South), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Southeast U.S., in session March 3, 2017, to admit candidate **Joshua (Kyong Won) Jung** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
16. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), W. Brouwer (B.C. South-East), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session March 2, 2017, to admit candidate **Matthew Kaemingk** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
17. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session November 17, 2016, to admit candidate **Eric Kas** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
18. Synodical deputies F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), G.E. Wamala (Iakota), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central Plains, in session February 24, 2017, to admit candidate **Nathan Klingenberg** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
19. Synodical deputies G.P. Timmer (Kalamazoo), J.W. Zuidema (Illiana), and J.R. Huizinga (Northern Illinois), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Wisconsin, in session February 28, 2017, to admit candidate **Timothy Kooiman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
20. Synodical deputies D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and R.W. Ouweland (B.C. South-East),

having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session October 12, 2016, to admit candidate **Michelle J. Kool** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

21. Synodical deputies P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), D.R. Fauble (Grandville), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session October 8, 2016, to admit candidate **Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
22. Synodical deputies S.A. Van Houten (Hamilton), J.C. Dekker (Niagara), and H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Huron, in session September 28, 2016, to admit candidate **Victor Laarman** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
23. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), M.D. Bennink (Georgetown), and P.V. De Jonge (Grand Rapids East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids North, in session May 30, 2017, to admit candidate **Benjamin McKnight** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
24. Synodical deputies H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and P.J. DeVries (Yellowstone), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Pacific Northwest, in session July 14, 2016, to admit candidate **Jacob Meadows** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
25. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), P.V. De Jonge (Grand Rapids East), and M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Thornapple Valley, in session May 16, 2017, to admit candidate **Dena Meyerink** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
26. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), and T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session October 4, 2016, to admit candidate **Jesse M. Pals** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
27. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and T.D. Slachter (Grand Rapids North), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session September 15, 2016, to admit candidate **Joella Ranaivoson** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

28. Synodical deputies D. Melenberg (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta North, in session October 12, 2016, to admit candidate **Peter Rockhold** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
29. Synodical deputies J.P. Groenewold (Columbia), T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), and H. Jonker (B.C. North-West), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, in session March 10, 2017, to admit candidate **Hendrick Roeda** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
30. Synodical deputies H. Admiraal (Grand Rapids North), M.A. Palsrok (Georgetown), and P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grandville, in session September 15, 2016, to admit candidate **Barbara Sanders** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
31. Synodical deputies H. Wildeboer (Quinte), B.J. Ponsen (Niagara), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Toronto, in session July 14, 2016, to admit candidate **Hannah Smele** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
32. Synodical deputies R.D. Gorter (Hudson), D. Meinema (Eastern Canada), and D.H. Bratt (Hackensack), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Atlantic Northeast, in session October 6, 2016, to admit candidate **Samuel Sutter** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
33. Synodical deputies D.W. De Groot (Iakota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and T.M. Zuidema (Heartland), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Central Plains, in session September 17, 2016, to admit candidate **Brian Tarp** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
34. Synodical deputies D.R. Fauble (Grandville), D.L. Spoelma (Lake Erie), and P.R. DeVries (Thornapple Valley), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, in session March 30, 2017, to admit candidate **Arianna Tolsma** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
35. Synodical deputies R.J. DeRuiter (Pacific Northwest), T.J. Oosterhuis (Alberta North), and R.W. Ouwehand (B.C. South-East), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis B.C. North-West, in session October



4, 2016, to admit candidate **Charles Van Hoffen** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

36. Synodical deputies H.D. Praamsma (Toronto), W.T. Koopmans (Chatham), and R. Vander Kooij (Huron), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Hamilton, in session October 25, 2016, to admit candidate **Adam Veenstra** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
37. Synodical deputies D.W. De Groot (Iakota), F.E. Pott (Northcentral Iowa), and J. Van Marion (Lake Superior), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Heartland, in session March 4, 2017, to admit candidate **Jesse L. Walhof** to the ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
38. Synodical deputies P. Borgdorff (Grand Rapids East), R.A. Blacketer (Grand Rapids South), and D.R. Fauble (Grandville), having heard the examination for ordination in accordance with Church Order Article 10, concur in the decision of Classis Lake Erie, in session March 4, 2017, to admit candidate **Rhonda S. Workman** 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*

#### ARTICLE 47

Rev. Donald E. Byker (Muskegon) offers prayer for healing and restoration for the ministers of the Word named in many of the synodical deputy reports. The delegates also pray silently for friends and acquaintances who are in need of healing in their relationships in ministry.

#### ARTICLE 48

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Phillip S. Leo reporting, presents the following:

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

*A. Materials:* Board of Trustees Report (section II, A, 2), pp. 23-24

*B. Privilege of the floor:* Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

*C. Note:* The Program Committee of Synod 2017 has scheduled the showing of a video describing three options related to the collaboration between the CRC and RCA. This will be followed by a guided discussion for small groups of delegates. (This took place earlier in the week—see p. 670).



## II. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

### A. Materials

1. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report (including Appendices A-E) pp. 329-64
2. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Dr. Jim Payton, chair; and Dr. Steven R. Timmermans

### C. Recommendations

1. That synod express its gratitude to Ms. Sharon Jim and Dr. Jay Shim for serving the cause of ecumenicity for the CRC.

—Adopted

2. That synod designate the Christian Reformed Church in Sierra Leone as a church in dialogue with the CRC (Appendix A).

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The CRC in Sierra Leone made this request to the CRCNA.
- b. The CRC in Sierra Leone is a child of the World Renew and Christian Reformed World Missions evangelism efforts that began in 1980 and gave birth to a growing church in 2005.
- c. This action would be a fitting response to a story of great plans, tremendous obstacles, and, through it all, God's faithfulness.

—Adopted

3. That synod adopt the following revised mandate of the ad hoc group considering the new category of affiliation, assigned by Synod 2016 (addition provided in bold):

To consider creation of a new category of affiliation **and/or a revision to current ecumenical categories** by which a (non-Canadian and United States) congregation or groups of congregations could associate with the CRCNA.

*Ground:* Initial work by an ad hoc group has indicated the need to reconsider current categories before consideration of an additional category because our current categories

- a. fail to capture the full range of interactions of CRCNA churches and ministries with ecumenical partners.
- b. are not always responsive to missional initiatives and needs that arise in the ministry of CRCNA congregations and agencies.
- c. are not always immediately meaningful to other denominations.

—Adopted

4. That synod take note of the fulfillment of the instruction to the executive director by Synod 2016 regarding "areas of collaborative partnership in ministry with Koreans in Korea" (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 839).

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 63.)

## ARTICLE 49

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 43.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education and Candidacy, Rev. Peter R. Byma reporting, presents the following:

### Office of Commissioned Pastor

#### A. *Materials*

1. Candidacy Committee Report (section III, C only, including Appendix), pp. 312-13, 318-28
2. Overture 8, pp. 423-24

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. David R. Koll, directory of Candidacy, and an additional member of the Candidacy Committee, if one is present

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod propose to Synod 2018 the following additions to Church Order Article 24 (signified by new lettered sections):

- c. A commissioned pastor who has reached retirement age may, upon the judgment of classis, be given the title of *commissioned pastor emeritus*.
- d. A commissioned pastor emeritus may, upon the judgment of classis, retain the authority to perform official acts of ministry. Supervision of a commissioned pastor emeritus shall remain with the church last served unless transferred to another congregation under the authority of the classis involved.

—Adopted

2. That synod declare the above to be its response to Overture 8.

—Adopted

3. That synod adopt the following statement to be added to Church Order Supplement, Article 23:

A commissioned pastor who is released from a calling church may, upon the request of the commissioned pastor or the calling church, and with the approval of the classis, be assisted by the classis with a system of evaluation and assistance analogous to that described in Church Order Article 17 for ministers of the Word.

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued in Article 57.)

## ARTICLE 50

Dr. James Payton, Jr., chair of the Ecumenical Interfaith Relations Committee, introduces fraternal delegate Rev. Peter Sinia from the Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken (church in ecclesiastical fellowship), who addresses synod.

The president responds, and Rev. Andrew E. Beunk (B.C. Northwest) offers prayer for Rev. Sinia.

Rev. Shannon J. Jammal-Hollemans introduces a panel discussion of churches in dialogue represented by various ecumenical guests: Rev. Jean-Bosco Nsaimana from the Christian Reformed Church in Burundi; Rev. Marius Ndabazaniye general secretary from the Evangelical Reformed Church in Burundi; Rev. Jonah Lagat, general secretary from the Reformed Church of East Africa; and Rev. Martin Wanjala, general secretary from the Christian Reformed Church in Eastern Africa. Rev. Jammal-Hollemans and Mr. Peter Vander Meulen moderate the discussion.

The vice president of synod, Rev. Thea Leunk, responds and offers prayers for the ecumenical guests and their churches.

#### ARTICLE 51

The morning session adjourns at 12:05 p.m. Rev. David Cheung (ethnic adviser) leads in closing prayer.

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 13, 2017**

#### **Eighth Session**

#### ARTICLE 52

The afternoon session convenes at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Izhar Alvarez (young adult representative) leads in opening prayer.

#### ARTICLE 53

Dr. Jim Payton, chair of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, introduces fraternal delegate Rev. Nate Dreesmann from the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, who addresses synod.

The president responds and offers prayer for Rev. Dreesmann.

Dr. Mwaya Wa Kitavi introduces the following ecumenical guests participating in a churches-in-dialogue panel discussion: Rev. Kabaongo Kalala Malebongo Athanase from the United Reformed Church in Congo, Rev. Fikre Norcha from the Presbyterian Church in Ethiopia, Rev. Dr. Woyita Olla from the Kale Heywet Church in Ethiopia, and Rev. Patrick Jok Ding Wic from the Sudanese Reformed Church. Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett and Dr. Wa Kitavi moderate the discussion.

The president responds. Rev. David H. Beelen (Grand Rapids East) offers prayer for these ecumenical guests.

#### ARTICLE 54

Dr. Jim Payton introduces Rev. Dr. Risimati Hobyane and Rev. Dr. Henk Stoker from the Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid Afrika. Rev. Dr. Risimati Hobyane addresses synod.

The president responds and offers prayer for Rev. Dr. Hobyane and Rev. Dr. Stoker.

#### ARTICLE 55

The president of synod welcomes the candidates to Synod 2017. Rev. David Koll, director of Candidacy, presents the 2017 candidates for ministry

of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. (Names in **bold print** indicate those present at Synod 2017.)

Patrick D. Anthony

Josiah L. Bokma

**Laura M. de Jong**

Mark DeVos

Bradley Scott Diekema

Brian Dunn

Joshua K. Friend

Cari C. Fydirchuck

Ernesto J. Hernandez

Ryan K. Hoekstra

**James C. Hollendonner**

**Sarah K. Hoos**

**Jeffrey M. Hoos**

**Eunjun Jeong**

Rafik Kamel

George C. Keulen

**JungSeong “Samuel” Kim**

**Hope Guan Lee**

**Hannah Ryou Lee**

**Michael R. McGowan**

Kyle J. Meyaard-Schaap

**Cory J. Nederveld**

**Fikre H. Norcha**

**Arek O’Connell**

Ryan T. Pedde

Allen P. Pontarelli

**Margaret Rekman**

Janet A. Ryzebol

Bailey B. Sarver

**Mark P. Van Anandel**

**Michelle R. Vandenberg**

**Greg Vander Horn**

**Nicole Veenkamp**

**Jantje F. (Femke) Visser-Elenbaas**

**Michael A. Westerveld**

**Brian D. White**

**Joanna L. Wigboldy**

Jianlou (John) Xu

**Cody J. Zuiderveen**

Rev. Julius T. Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary, addresses delegates and candidates, sharing that this day marks the transition for the candidates from the seminary to the church. Addressing the candidates, he shares, “You will carry the faith of God who has been working ahead of you,” and he thanks the candidates for taking the step of faith. He adds that synod will continue to pray for the candidates as they move forward. Rev. Medenblik encourages each candidate to bring the message of unity in Christ, unity in the purpose of the mission of Christ, and unity in the body of Christ, the church.

Rev. Koll acknowledges guests and delegates who are related to the candidates.

Delegates and candidates sing “No hay dios tan grande/There’s No God as Great.” Rev. Koll leads a responsive litany of celebration and dedication.

Delegates and candidates sing “Day by Day.” The president responds, and candidates proceed to their respective classes on the floor of synod for prayer. The president of synod, Rev. Pool, leads in a closing prayer of blessing. Delegates and candidates conclude the time of celebration by singing, “Go, My Children, with My Blessing.”

#### ARTICLE 56

Dr. Jim Payton introduces Rev. Dr. David Han from the Global Christian Forum (ecumenical organization of which the CRC is a member), who addresses synod.

The first clerk of synod, Mr. Rudy Gonzalez, responds and offers prayer for Rev. Dr. Han.

## ARTICLE 57

(The report of Advisory Committee 3 is continued from Article 49.)

Advisory Committee 3, Education and Candidacy, Rev. Pete R. Byma reporting, presents the following:

### **Candidacy Committee**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Candidacy Committee Report (section III, C only, including Appendix), pp. 312-13, 318-28
2. Overture 8, pp. 423-24

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the Candidacy Committee to include the following guideline in the handbook of synodical decisions related to the office of commissioned pastor:

Protocol for Transferring Credentials of a Commissioned Pastor from One Calling Church to Another

- 1) A commissioned pastor who serves in an approved ministry not lodged in a local church may request transfer of their church membership and transfer of their call from one congregation to another.
- 2) Both the “sending church” and the “receiving church” must agree to the transfer with the understanding that the receiving church agrees to extend such a call and take over the supervision of the doctrine and life of the commissioned pastor.
- 3) The call must be approved by the classis and duly noted as part of the history of the approval of the related job description.
- 4) The job description must remain unchanged, since alteration of the job description would require the approval of classis and the concurrence of synodical deputies.
- 5) If the “receiving church” is in a classis other than that of the “sending church,” the “receiving church” classis must approve the transfer and job description, with the concurrence of the synodical deputies, and the receiving classis will have the option of conducting an interview or examination or neither of the commissioned pastor.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod approve for insertion in the commissioned pastor handbook the following statements of guidance for churches and classes as they deal with persons who are ordained as commissioned pastors and are experiencing a transition of ministry assignment and vocation:

- 1) The Church Order articles on transitions for ministers of the Word offer some helpful principles for grace-filled treatment

of commissioned pastors who are in transition (Church Order Articles 14 and 17).

- 2) The report of the Candidacy Committee to Synod 2016 reflects on various options that a classis and church council can consider as they deal with individual cases of transition (*Agenda for Synod 2016*, pp. 268-71).
- 3) It is extremely important for the proper maintenance of records by the classis clerks, and by the synodical office, that classes note in their minutes, with clarity, any action taken regarding a transition of a commissioned pastor. The official transition cannot be recognized until classis declares it to have happened, and delinquency in reporting transitions can create numerous problems.
- 4) Because the offices of minister of the Word and commissioned pastor differ from one another with regard to “automatic portability” (since a minister of the Word is ordained for ministry denomination-wide, and a commissioned pastor is ordained only for a specific ministry task), it is wise for the classis to be deliberative and discerning in the process of acknowledging the transition of a commissioned pastor. Approval of the new ministry position, as well as a thoughtful practice for a contextualized examination for the new position, needs to be taken into account (see Appendix A, section 8 of the Candidacy Committee report, *Agenda for Synod 2016*, pp. 270-71).

—Adopted

3. That synod propose to Synod 2018 the following addition to Church Order Article 23-f:

Commissioned pastors may be called to a position in which the call is for a specified term contingent upon accountable progress toward completion of the requirements for ordination as a minister of the Word. Approval of the classis, with the concurrence of synodical deputies, is required as to the terms of such a call and the accountability of progress in the proposed learning plan.

—Adopted

4. That synod adopt the following statement to be added to the Church Order Supplement, Article 23-a:

At some point prior to any examination for ordination of a commissioned pastor being considered for a solo pastor position in an emerging or organized church, the classis must ascertain that a learning plan has been approved by the classis and agreed to by the Candidacy Committee, and synodical deputies must affirm through a written report that such approvals have taken place.

—Adopted

5. That synod instruct the Candidacy Committee to propose to a future synod a reformatting of and potential changes to Church Order Articles 8, 23, and 24 and their Supplements, also making appropriate use and

mention of a document called the Commissioned Pastor Handbook, in order to enhance the clarity and brevity of the Church Order.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 58

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 2018

#### A. Officers

1. Executive director: Dr. Steven R. Timmermans
2. Canadian ministries director: Rev. Dr. Darren C. Roorda
3. Director of ministries and administration: Mr. Colin P. Watson, Sr.
4. Director of finance and operations: Mr. John H. Bolt
5. Director of synodical services: Ms. Diane S. Recker

#### B. Functionaries

Arrangements for Synod 2018: Ms. Connie Porte, senior event planner, Calvin College Conference and Events Services.

#### C. Convening church

Convening church for Synod 2018: Pillar Church, Holland, Michigan.

### II. Synodical deputies

| Classis                        | Deputy                     | Alternate                      | Term Expires |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Alberta North                  | Dr. Thomas J. Oosterhuis   | Rev. Kornelis (Neil) De Koning | 2018(1)      |
| Alberta South/<br>Saskatchewan | Rev. H. Charles Kooger     | Rev. David J. Swinney          | 2020(1)      |
| Arizona                        | Rev. Merle Den Bleyker     | Rev. Robert Walter, Jr.        | 2020(2)      |
| Atlantic Northeast             | Rev. Christopher A. Fluit  | Rev. Brent A. Pennings         | 2018(2)      |
| B.C. North-West                | Rev. David Cheung          | Rev. Henry Jonker              | 2018(2)      |
| B.C. South-East                | Rev. Rudy W. Ouwehand      | Rev. Walt Brouwer              | 2019(1)      |
| California South               | Rev. Cornelius Pool        | Rev. William Verhoef           | 2019(1)      |
| Central California             | Rev. Mark E. Hofman        | Rev. Kenneth D. Boonstra       | 2018(1)      |
| Central Plains                 | Rev. Sheldon Starkenburg   | Rev. Bradley A. Meinders       | 2018(1)      |
| Chatham                        | Rev. Dirk Miedema          | Vacant                         | 2020(1)      |
| Chicago South                  | Rev. Michael J. Kooy       | Rev. Daniel J. Roeda           | 2019(1)      |
| Columbia                       | Rev. Louis P. Korf         | Rev. Robert J. Toornstra       | 2020(1)      |
| Eastern Canada                 | Rev. Daniel Meinema        | Rev. Jacob M. Van de Hoef      | 2018(1)      |
| Georgetown                     | Rev. Mark D. Bennink       | Rev. Matthew A. Palsrok        | 2019(1)      |
| Grand Rapids East              | Rev. Philip V. De Jonge    | Dr. Peter Borgdorff            | 2018(1)      |
| Grand Rapids North             | Rev. Henry Admiraal        | Rev. Jerry L. Blom             | 2019(1)      |
| Grand Rapids South             | Dr. Raymond A. Blacketer   | Rev. Robert L. Boersma         | 2019(2)      |
| Grandville                     | Rev. Douglas R. Fauble     | Rev. Hank F. Vlaardingbroek    | 2019(2)      |
| Greater Los Angeles            | Rev. Erick D. Westra       | Rev. Paul A. Hansen            | 2018(2)      |
| Hackensack                     | Rev. Paul J. Van Dyken     | Rev. Douglas H. Bratt          | 2018(1)      |
| Hamilton                       | Rev. Siebert A. Van Houten | Rev. Ed W. Visser              | 2019(1)      |
| Hanmi                          | Rev. Roger Y. Ryu          | Rev. Tong Kun Park             | 2020(2)      |
| Heartland                      | Rev. Todd M. Zuidema       | Rev. David L. Heilman          | 2018(2)      |
| Holland                        | Rev. Stanley Scripps       | Rev. Christopher J. De Vos     | 2017(1)      |
| Hudson                         | Rev. Rod D. Gorter         | Rev. Norman F. Brown           | 2019(2)      |
| Huron                          | Rev. Ray Vander Kooij      | Rev. Stephen D. Tamming        | 2019(1)      |
| lakota                         | Rev. Daniel W. De Groot    | Rev. Gideon E. Wamala          | 2018(1)      |
| Illiana                        | Rev. Joel W. Zuidema       | Rev. Joel J. Sheeres           | 2019(1)      |
| Kalamazoo                      | Rev. Gregory P. Timmer     | Rev. Timothy L. Raakman        | 2017(1)      |

|                   |                            |                           |         |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Ko-Am             | Rev. Jonathan J. Kim       | Rev. Teakuk Ko            | 2019(1) |
| Lake Erie         | Rev. David L. Spoelma      | Rev. Randall D. Engle     | 2020(2) |
| Lake Superior     | Rev. Jack Van Marion       | Rev. Henry G. Gunnink     | 2018(2) |
| Minnkota          | Rev. Timothy J. Ouwinga    | Rev. Roger W. Sparks      | 2019(1) |
| Muskegon          | Rev. Fred M. Bultman       | Rev. Gerald D. Postema    | 2018(1) |
| Niagara           | Rev. James C. Dekker       | Rev. Robert J. Loerts     | 2020(2) |
| Northcentral Iowa | Rev. Frank E. Pott         | Rev. Joel A. De Boer      | 2018(1) |
| Northern Illinois | Rev. Timothy H. Douma      | Rev. Gregory D. Schuringa | 2020(1) |
| Northern Michigan | Rev. Chris A. Kostelansky  | Rev. Alex D. Snider       | 2018(1) |
| Pacific Northwest | Rev. Richard J. DeRuijter  | Rev. Kenneth D. Koeman    | 2019(2) |
| Quinte            | Rev. Henry Wildeboer       | Rev. Michael W. Bootsma   | 2019(1) |
| Red Mesa          | Rev. John J. Greydanus     | Rev. John W. Dykhuis      | 2018(2) |
| Rocky Mountain    | Rev. Robert L. Westenbroek | Vacant                    | 2019(2) |
| Southeast U.S.    | Rev. Scott A. Vander Ploeg | Rev. Vernon G. Vander Zee | 2019(2) |
| Thornapple Valley | Rev. Paul R. De Vries      | Rev. Ronald D. Goudzwaard | 2019(1) |
| Toronto           | Rev. Herman D. Praamsma    | Rev. Hendrik P. Bruinsma  | 2019(2) |
| Wisconsin         | Rev. Douglas H. Van Essen  | Vacant                    | 2020(1) |
| Yellowstone       | Rev. Peter J. DeVries      | Rev. Jack Huttinga        | 2019(1) |
| Zeeland           | Rev. Stephen F. Terpstra   | Rev. Terry D. Slachter    | 2020(1) |

### III. Denominational boards

*Note:* Members of the regional boards (Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary) are elected from the following twelve regions:

*Region 1*—Classes B.C. North-West and B.C. South-East

*Region 2*—Classes Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, and Lake Superior (Canadian congregations)

*Region 3*—Classes Eastern Canada, Quinte, and Toronto

*Region 4*—Classes Chatham, Hamilton, Huron, and Niagara

*Region 5*—Classes Columbia, Pacific Northwest, and Yellowstone

*Region 6*—Classes California South, Central California, Greater Los Angeles, Hanmi, and Ko-Am

*Region 7*—Classes Arizona, Red Mesa, and Rocky Mountain

*Region 8*—Classes Central Plains, Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior (U.S. congregations), Minnkota, and Northcentral Iowa

*Region 9*—Classes Chicago South, Illiana, Northern Illinois, and Wisconsin

*Region 10*—Classes Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, and Zeeland

*Region 11*—Classes 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. Council of Delegates of the Christian Reformed Church in North America*

| District                       | Member                      | Term Expires (TBD) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Alberta North                  | Rev. Michelle J. Kool       |                    |
| Alberta South/<br>Saskatchewan | Ms. Cora Rempel             |                    |
| Arizona                        | Rev. Jose A. Lara           |                    |
| Atlantic Northeast             | Rev. Samuel Sutter          |                    |
| B.C. North-West                | Mr. Andy de Ruyter          |                    |
| B.C. South-East                | Ms. Bev Bandstra            |                    |
| California South               | Rev. John H. Caicedo        |                    |
| Central California             | Mr. Fernando L. del Rosario |                    |
| Central Plains                 | Rev. Brian Ochsner          |                    |
| Chatham                        | Ms. Beth Fellingner         |                    |



|                        |                                                                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chicago South          | Mr. Jei Wilson                                                             |
| Columbia               | Dr. Gary D. Bos                                                            |
| Eastern Canada         | Rev. B. Bernard Bakker                                                     |
| Georgetown             | Rev. David Den Haan                                                        |
| Grand Rapids East      | Rev. Emmett A. Harrison                                                    |
| Grand Rapids North     | Mr. Daudi Mutisya Mbuta                                                    |
| Grand Rapids South     | Rev. David A. Struyk                                                       |
| Grandville             | Mr. Timothy Bosscher                                                       |
| Greater Los Angeles    | Rev. Melvin O. Jackson                                                     |
| Hackensack             | Rev. Sheila Holmes                                                         |
| Hamilton               | Mr. Garry H. Sytsma                                                        |
| Hanmi                  | Rev. Tong K. Park                                                          |
| Heartland              | Mr. Mark Volkers                                                           |
| Holland                | Rev. Scott A. DeVries                                                      |
| Hudson                 | Rev. Joel D. Vande Werken                                                  |
| Huron                  | Rev. Darrell J. Bierman                                                    |
| Iakota                 | Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn                                                    |
| Illiana                | Ms. Sally Haywood                                                          |
| Kalamazoo              | Mr. Kevin TenBrink                                                         |
| Ko-Am                  | Rev. Theodore Lim                                                          |
| Lake Erie              | Mrs. Laurie Harkema                                                        |
| Lake Superior          | Dr. Donald G. Draayer                                                      |
| Minnkota               | Mr. Leland Vanderaa                                                        |
| Muskegon               | Ms. Susan B. Hoekema                                                       |
| Niagara                | Rev. Christopher W. deWinter                                               |
| Northcentral Iowa      | Rev. Wendell Davelaar                                                      |
| Northern Illinois      | Mr. Arnie J. Stolte                                                        |
| Northern Michigan      | Mr. Bruce DeKam                                                            |
| Pacific Northwest      | Rev. Bomsu Kim                                                             |
| Quinte                 | Ms. Cori Christiaanse                                                      |
| Red Mesa               | Rev. Stanley Jim                                                           |
| Rocky Mountain         | Rev. John O. Eigege                                                        |
| Southeast U.S.         | Rev. Stanley J. Workman                                                    |
| Thornapple Valley      | Rev. Paul R. De Vries                                                      |
| Toronto                | Rev. Samuel Cooper                                                         |
| Wisconsin              | Mr. Bruce McMurry                                                          |
| Yellowstone            | Rev. Peter DeVries                                                         |
| Zeeland                | Rev. Ronald J. Meyer                                                       |
| Canada at-large        | Ms. Ashley Bootsma<br>Mrs. Verney Kho<br>Ms. Aaltje (Aalie) Van Grootheest |
| United States at-large | Mrs. Elsa Fennema                                                          |
| <i>Ex officio</i>      | Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director                               |

### *B. Calvin College Board of Trustees*

| Region            | Member                       | Term Expires |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Regions 1 and 2   | Mr. Richard P. Mast          | 2020(1)      |
| Region 3          | Ms. Marsha Vander gaast      | 2018(1)      |
| Region 4          | Dr. Albert M. Wolters        | 2019(1)      |
| Region 5          | Mr. Thomas J. Wybenga        | 2018(1)      |
| Region 6          | Mr. Fernando del Rosario     | 2018(1)      |
| Region 7          | Mr. Michael J. DenBleyker    | 2019(2)      |
| Region 8          | Mr. Jonathan Kuyers          | 2019(1)      |
| Region 9          | Mr. Timothy (Tim) Goudzwaard | 2020(1)      |
| Region 10         | Rev. Michael D. Koetje       | 2018         |
| Region 11         | Mr. Ray Vander Kooi          | 2020(2)      |
| Region 12         | Dr. David Cok                | 2020(2)      |
| Regional at-large |                              |              |
| Region 9          | Ms. Janice Buikema           | 2018(1)      |
| Region 10         | Mr. Christopher (CJ) Grier   | 2018(1)      |
|                   | Mr. Bruce Los                | 2019(1)      |

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Region 11 | Ms. Pearl Banks<br>Mr. Thomas A. Geelhoed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2018(1)<br>2018(2)                                                                                                    |
| Alumni    | Ms. Mary C. Bonnema<br>Mr. Jeff DeNooyer<br>Ms. Rhonda M. Roorda                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2019(2)<br>2018(1)<br>2020(1)                                                                                         |
| At-large  | Mr. William J. Boer<br>Mr. Bradley Haverkamp<br>Mr. Allan E. Hoekstra<br>Ms. Wendy Hofman<br>Ms. Marjorie Hoogeboom<br>Mr. Lambert H. Kamp<br>Mr. Craig H. Lubben<br>Mr. Scott A. Spoelhof<br>Mr. Carl B. Triemstra<br>Dr. Steven J. Triezenberg<br>Ms. Rachel Vander Veen | 2020(2)<br>2018(3)<br>2018(2)<br>2018(2)<br>2018(2)<br>2020(1)<br>2020(3)<br>2020(1)<br>2020(1)<br>2018(1)<br>2019(1) |

### *C. Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees*

| Region            | Member                                                               | Term Expires                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Region 1          | Mr. Victor Chen                                                      | 2019(1)                       |
| Region 2          | Mr. Frank Zee                                                        | 2020(1)                       |
| Region 3          | Rev. Daniel G. Brown                                                 | 2019(1)                       |
| Region 4          | Rev. Allen Kleine Deters<br>Mr. Keith Oosthoek                       | 2020(1)<br>2018(1)            |
| Region 5          | Pastor Sergio Castillo                                               | 2018(1)                       |
| Region 6          | Rev. Scott Elgersma                                                  | 2018(1)                       |
| Region 7          | Rev. John Dykhuis                                                    | 2018(2)                       |
| Region 8          | Rev. Timothy Ouwinga                                                 | 2018(2)                       |
| Region 9          | Rev. William Sytsma                                                  | 2018                          |
| Region 10         | Vacant                                                               |                               |
| Region 11         | Rev. Curtis A. Walters                                               | 2020(2)                       |
| Region 12         | Mr. Henry Lane                                                       | 2019(1)                       |
| Regional at-large |                                                                      |                               |
| Region 8          | Dr. Karen De Mol                                                     | 2018(2)                       |
| Region 10         | Dr. Susan Beving Strikwerda                                          | 2020(1)                       |
| Region 11         | Mrs. Teresa Renkema                                                  | 2018(2)                       |
| At-large          | Ms. Heather Garretson<br>Mr. Sidney Jansma, Jr.<br>Dr. Yudha Thianto | 2019(1)<br>2019(3)<br>2019(2) |

### *D. World Renew Board*

| Classis                        | Member                  | Term Expires |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Alberta North                  | Mr. Ray Prins*          | 2020(2)      |
| Alberta South/<br>Saskatchewan | Ms. George Lubberts     | 2018(1)      |
| Arizona                        | Mr. Dennis Preston      | 2018(2)      |
| Atlantic Northeast             | Mr. Mike Hendrikse      | 2019(1)      |
| B.C. North-West                | Mr. David Mayer         | 2019(1)      |
| B.C. South-East                | Mr. Rob Aukema          | 2020(2)      |
| California South               | Ms. Trena Boonstra      | 2018(1)      |
| Central California             | Ms. Monika Grasley*     | 2019(1)      |
| Central Plains                 | Ms. Marilyn Harms       | 2018(2)      |
| Chatham                        | Mr. John DeGroot*       | 2018(2)      |
| Chicago South                  | Ms. Abbie Schrottenboer | 2020(1)      |
| Columbia                       | Ms. Joy Anema           | 2018(2)      |
| Eastern Canada                 | Mr. Richard Smit        | 2018(1)      |
| Georgetown                     | Ms. Lynrae Frens        | 2020(1)      |
| Grand Rapids East              | Mr. William Haverkamp   | 2019(1)      |

|                              |                                                   |         |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Grand Rapids North           | Mr. Barry Haven*                                  | 2018(1) |
| Grand Rapids South           | Mr. Harry Kuipers                                 | 2020(1) |
| Grandville                   | Mr. Marc Faasse                                   | 2019(1) |
| Greater Los Angeles          | Ms. Rebekah Vanderzee                             | 2019(1) |
| Hackensack                   | Ms. Karen J. Walker                               | 2019(1) |
| Hanmi                        | Vacant                                            |         |
| Hamilton                     | Mr. Jason DeBoer*                                 | 2018(1) |
| Heartland                    | Mr. Rod De Boer                                   | 2020(1) |
| Holland                      | Ms. Rachel Brink                                  | 2020(2) |
| Hudson                       | Mr. Roy Heerema*                                  | 2019(2) |
| Huron                        | Ms. Eve Mazereeuw                                 | 2020(2) |
| lakota                       | Rev. Dr. Clifford D. Hoekstra                     | 2020(1) |
| Illiana                      | Mr. Keith Bruxvoort                               | 2020(1) |
| Kalamazoo                    | Ms. Cheri Dykstra                                 | 2019(2) |
| Ko-Arn                       | Vacant                                            |         |
| Lake Erie                    | Ms. Mary Rupke                                    | 2019(2) |
| Lake Superior (Canada)       | Ms. Marlene Vanderburgh                           | 2020(1) |
| Lake Superior (U.S.)         | Ms. Linda Markus                                  | 2018(1) |
| Minnkota                     | Mr. Richard Vander Ziel                           | 2018(1) |
| Muskegon                     | Mr. Daniel L. Pell                                | 2019(1) |
| Niagara                      | Mr. Lawrence DeGraaf                              | 2020(2) |
| Northcentral Iowa            | Vacant                                            |         |
| Northern Illinois            | Ms. Sara Swanson                                  | 2018(1) |
| Northern Michigan            | Mr. Larry Stahl                                   | 2020(1) |
| Pacific Northwest            | Mr. Jay A. DeBoer                                 | 2019(1) |
| Quinte                       | Mr. Hans Vink                                     | 2020(2) |
| Red Mesa                     | Ms. Debra Chee                                    | 2020(1) |
| Rocky Mountain               | Ms. Shirley Van Heukelem                          | 2018(1) |
| Southeast U.S.               | Ms. Erika Izquierdo*                              | 2019(2) |
| Thornapple Valley            | Vacant                                            |         |
| Toronto                      | Ms. Suzanne Christie                              | 2018(2) |
| Wisconsin                    | Mr. Chuck Adams*                                  | 2019(1) |
| Yellowstone                  | Mr. Howard Walhof                                 | 2020(2) |
| Zeeland                      | Mr. Dale Compagner                                | 2020(1) |
| Pastoral adviser (U.S.)      | Rev. Ramon Orstizaga*                             | 2019(1) |
| Pastoral adviser (Can.)      | Rev. Rita S. Klein-Geltink*                       | 2018(2) |
| At-large Canada              | Mr. Jerry Aydalla*                                | 2019(1) |
|                              | Mr. Ariel De Jong*                                | 2020(1) |
|                              | Mr. Thomas Gnanayudam                             | 2018(1) |
|                              | Rev. Joseph Hamilton                              | 2019(1) |
|                              | Mr. Al Hummel                                     | 2018(2) |
|                              | Mr. Daniel Muthui                                 | 2019(1) |
|                              | Ms. Marguerite Ridder*                            | 2019(2) |
|                              | Ms. Jacoba (Ko) Spyksma                           | 2018(1) |
|                              | Ms. Rebecca Warren*                               | 2020(2) |
| At-large U.S.                | Ms. Hyacinth Douglas Bailey*                      | 2019(2) |
|                              | Mrs. Nasreen Fynewever                            | 2019(1) |
|                              | Mr. Lyman Howell                                  | 2018(2) |
|                              | Ms. LaVonne Koedam                                | 2020(1) |
|                              | Ms. Sarah B. Rinsema-Sybenga                      | 2019(2) |
|                              | Mr. Gregg Alan Robbert                            | 2018(1) |
|                              | Ms. Kelli Sexton                                  | 2020(1) |
| Young Adult at-large: U.S.   | Ms. Morgan Trotter (Calvin College)               | 2018(1) |
|                              | Ms. Brianna Enerson (Dordt College)               | 2018(1) |
|                              | Vacant (Trinity Christian College)                |         |
| Young Adult at-large: Canada | Mr. David Schuurman (Redeemer University College) | 2018(1) |
|                              | Vacant (The King's University)                    |         |

\* Also a member of the Board of Directors

Joint Ministry Council = 7 members from U.S. Board, 8 members from Canada Board

#### **IV. Service committees**

##### *A. Candidacy Committee*

Mr. James Jones (2018/1), Rev. Joel Kok (2018/2), Rev. Susan LaClear (2018/1), Rev. Mark W. Hilbelink (2019/1), Dr. LaVerne Jordan (2019/2), Rev. Fernando Valencia (2019/2), Rev. Andrew G. Vander Leek (2019/1), Rev. Ashley Bonnes (2020/1), Rev. Chang Guk (Joseph) Byun (2020/2), Rev. David R. Koll (staff), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (*ex officio* as ED), Rev. Julius T. Medenblik (*ex officio* as Calvin Theological Seminary representative).

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

Mr. James Brewer (2018/1), Mr. Scott K. Ritsema (2018/2), Ms. Chery De Boer (2019/2), Mr. Kenneth J. Stienstra (2019/2), Mr. Brad Bruinsma (2020/1), Mr. Jack Meyer (2020/1), Mr. David E. Veen (*ex officio* member).

##### *C. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee*

Rev. Karen Norris (2018/2), Dr. Jim Payton (2018/2), Rev. Kathleen Smith (2018/1), Rev. John Tenyenhuis (2018/1), Rev. Anthony Elenbaas (2019/2), Rev. Emmett Harrison (2019/2), Ms. Lenore Maine (2019/1), Rev. Andrew E. Beunk (2020/2), Rev. InSoon Hoagland (2020/1), Ms. Ruth Palma (2020/1), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (*ex officio* member), Dr. Darren C. Roorda (*ex officio* member).

##### *D. Historical Committee*

Dr. Robert Schoone-Jongen (2018/2), Rev. Paul Bremer (2019/2), Dr. Kristin Kobes DuMez (2019/2), Dr. John Bolt (2020/1), CRC archivist—pending appointment, secretary (*ex officio*).

##### *E. Judicial Code Committee*

Mr. Orlan Gulker (2018/1), Rev. Aldon L. Kuiper (2018/1), Mr. Calvin Rozenboom (2018/1), Ms. Roberta Vriesema (2018/1), Rev. Henry Wildeboer (2018/1), Dr. Duane Bajema (2019/1), Ms. Rita Buitendorp (2019/2), Rev. Henry Jonker (2019/1), Mr. Joel D. Vos (2019/2), Mr. John Koot (2020/1), Rev. Henry P. Kranenburg (2020/2), Mr. Doug Vande Griend (2020/1), Dr. Steven R. Timmermans (adviser).

##### *F. Ministers' Pension Funds committees*

###### *Canadian Pension Trustees*

Mr. Henry Eygenraam (2018/2), Ms. MaryAnn Kokan-Nyhof (2018/2), Rev. Kevin te Brake (2018/3), Mr. Keith Oosthoek (2019/3), Ms. Kathy Wassink (2019/1).

###### *U.S. Board of Pensions*

Mr. Thomas Dykhouse (2018/2), Mr. Kurt Knoll (2018/3), Rev. Joel J. Sheeres (2019/2), Mr. Howard Van Mersbergen (2019/3), Mr. Lloyd Bierma (2020/1).

#### **V. Synodical study committees and task forces**

##### *A. Synod Review Task Force (scheduled to report in 2019)*

Rev. Ronald Chu, Ms. Nelly Eyk, Rev. Sheila Holmes, Mrs. Karen Knip, Dr. William Koopmans, Rev. Thea Leunk, Ms. Dee Recker, Ms. Jeanette Romkema, Rev. Kathy Smith, Mr. José Tagle, Mr. Kraig Van Houten, and Dr. Steve Timmermans, *ex officio*.

B. *Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality* (scheduled to report in 2021)

Rev. Mary-Lee Bouma, Pastor Charles Kim, Rev. Jose Rayas, Rev. Paula Seales, Dr. Matthew Tuininga, Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen (*promotor fidei*), Dr. Mary VandenBerg, Dr. William VanderWoerd, Pastor Richard VanManen, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weima, and Dr. Albert Wolters.

## VI. Recommendation

That synod approve the list of boards and committees.

—*Adopted*

### ARTICLE 59

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 33.)

Advisory Committee 4 (Recommitted), Congregational Services I, Rev. James R. Poelman reporting, presents the following:

#### Board of Trustees

A. *Materials*: Board of Trustees Supplement – Appendix Q

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod encourage our local churches to increase their financial support for World Renew’s yearly World Hunger Sunday.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod instruct the executive director to oversee an increase of collaborative peace, justice, and reconciliation education and mobilization efforts by the Office of Social Justice, Canadian Ministries, Worship Ministries, Faith Formation Ministries, and other Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) ministries.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod (1) take note that the above proposal arises in response to a decision of Synod 2016 (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829), instructing “the executive director to encourage the Justice, Inclusion, Mercy, and Advocacy (JIMA) collaboration group to continue to prioritize goals and assign resources for all of our justice and mercy denominational issues,” and (2) instruct the executive director to pursue other possible priorities as well as to plan and implement the program described in recommendation I, C, 3, a, 4 adopted by synod (see Article 31) and report the results to synod annually through 2020.

*Grounds*:

a. This proposal offers a timely and urgent response to the increase in suffering we see in a world where the recent progress made in alleviating poverty, hunger, and oppression at home and abroad

is threatened by expanding violence, changing climate, and mass migrations.

- b. This proposal recognizes the effective poverty response, educational, and advocacy resources our denomination has already developed and encourages CRC members to utilize those ministries and resources (e.g., World Hunger Campaign, *Live Justly*, Good Soil, Churches Between Borders, Dance of Racial Reconciliation, Journey with Me, Blanket Exercise, social justice mobilizers in Canada and the United States).
- c. This proposal strongly reaffirms the findings of previous study committees and ministries that demonstrate that an effective anti-hunger and antipoverty response must be holistic. To be effective, we must weave together direct ministry action, education on root causes, and advocacy. (This could include, for example, development and agricultural programs; immigration reform; combating racism and discrimination; responding to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; creation care, including adaptation and mitigation of climate change; and refugee resettlement.)
- d. This proposal reaffirms that an effective response to poverty and hunger must include holding our governments and international bodies accountable so that they devote sufficient resources to ending violence, preventing famine, trading fairly, reducing the causes of climate change, improving refugee and immigration policy, and paying attention to racism and discrimination endemic to our societies.
- e. This proposal has strong continuity with previous synodical actions on hunger, poverty, and their root causes, including the World Hunger recommendations passed by Synods 1978 and 1979, the Freedom to Serve recommendations of 1993, endorsement of the Micah Challenge in 2004, the Migration of Workers report of 2010, and the Creation Stewardship climate recommendations in 2012.
- f. This proposal responds to synod's instruction (*Acts of Synod 2016*, p. 829) by providing significant and integrative prioritization, relying on synodical decisions of the past to chart a direction for current challenges, and to do so in a collaborative, multiple agency/ministry approach utilizing existing resources as much as possible.
- g. This proposal is in sync with a recent request from Christian Churches Together (CCT) to call our churches to prayer for the U.S. Congress as it considers budget cuts to major antipoverty programs. In addition, it supports ongoing advocacy by coalitions of which we are a part: Bread for the World, Circle of Protection, Micah Challenge/Network, Alliance to End Hunger, and others.
- h. This proposal implements and significantly prioritizes several ministry plan goals from *Our Journey 2020*, particularly in the area of Mercy and Justice:

*Step 4.4.1 Congregations identify and set goals to address local/national/global justice issues—discerning unique steps they can take to make an impact from their own communities.*

*Step 4.4.4 Congregations engage in active citizenship and advocacy that encourages them and their leaders to be accountable for developing and implementing just policies.*

—Adopted

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued in Article 62.)

#### ARTICLE 60

The afternoon session adjourns at 5:07 p.m. Ms. Karen D. Vander Meulen (Grand Rapids North) leads in closing prayer.

### TUESDAY EVENING, June 13, 2017

#### Ninth Session

#### ARTICLE 61

Synod reconvenes at 7:00 p.m. The Day of Justice team leads in a time of worship. Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett, U.S. codirector of World Renew, welcomes delegates, and Rev. Dr. Reggie Smith, director of the offices of Race Relations and Social Justice, begins with the singing of “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me.”

Stories of struggle are shared by Ms. Bremer-Bennett, Rev. Jose Rayas, Ms. Shannon Jammal-Hollemans (representing the voice of Sheila Brooks, a student in 1967 from Lawndale CRC, near Timothy Christian School), and Rev. Dr. Smith (representing the voice of Eugene Callendar, who, working with the Back to God Hour, planted a church in Harlem, New York City, in 1952). Delegates participate in a responsive litany and sing “God of Justice, God of Mercy.”

Ms. Bremer-Bennett offers a prayer for social justice and the building of Christ’s kingdom, followed by the singing of “Here I Am Lord.”

Musicians contributing to this special service are Rev. Kelly I. Vander Woude (Northcentral Iowa), Mr. Matthew A.T. Smith (Kalamazoo), Ms. Gail DeYoung (women adviser), and Ms. Onalee Sneller (young adult representative).

#### ARTICLE 62

(The report of Advisory Committee 4 is continued from Article 59.)

Advisory Committee 4 (Recommitted), Congregational Services I, Rev. James R. Poelman reporting, presents the following:

#### **Response to Overture 9: Establish Oversight of the Blog *Do Justice***

A. *Materials*: Overture 9, pp. 424-28

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the executive director to direct those who have oversight of the *Do Justice* blog to ensure that the articles are written in such a way that they encourage a Reformed understanding of Scripture.

Mr. Richard J. Smit (Eastern Canada) offers prayer to listen to the Spirit of the Lord before the vote.

—Adopted

2. That this be synod's response to Overture 9.

—Adopted

## ARTICLE 63

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 48.)

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Phillip S. Leo reporting, presents the following:

### **Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report (including Appendices A-E) pp. 329-64
2. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod receive the report on the Ecumenical Faith Declaration category provided by the EIRC (Appendix C).  
—Adopted
2. That synod receive the report on the Contemporary Testimony category provided by the EIRC (Appendix D) and adopt the following recommendations:
  - a. That synod adopt the following definition for the category of contemporary testimony:

*A contemporary testimony* is a dynamic statement of faith that serves the CRCNA—its congregations and members—as an important statement that speaks to essential matters in a given time period. It is useful for study, faith formation, teaching, and worship. As such, it must periodically be reviewed if it is to speak contemporaneously and perhaps (1) be revised if authorship belongs to the CRCNA or (2) be provided newly revised accompanying explanatory material if authorship belongs elsewhere.

#### *Grounds:*

- 1) This definition comports with previous synodically approved descriptions of a *contemporary testimony*.
- 2) This definition clearly differentiates a *contemporary testimony* from a *confession*.

—Adopted

- b. That synod place Our World Belongs to God in the newly defined category of contemporary testimony.



*Grounds:*

- 1) This action is consistent with the role Our World Belongs to God has served in the Christian Reformed Church since its adoption.
- 2) This action would provide needed clarity when considering the Belhar Confession's recategorization as a contemporary testimony.

—*Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 71.)

**ARTICLE 64**

The evening session adjourns at 9:02 p.m. Rev. Benjamin W. Van Arragon (Lake Erie) leads in closing prayer.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 14, 2017**  
**Tenth Session**

**ARTICLE 65**

Worship leaders Rev. Joy Engelsman, women adviser Ms. Gail DeYoung, deacon delegate Ms. Mary Kortman, Rev. Daryl J. Meijer, elder delegate Mr. Matthew A.T. Smith, and ethnic adviser Mr. Jei Wilson lead delegates in singing.

Rev. Sung Ho Jung (Hanmi) sings the first stanza of "To My Precious Lord" in Korean, and delegates join in to sing the remaining stanzas. Delegates also sing "Cornerstone" and "Reformation Hymn."

Rev. Joyce Borger gives the call to worship from Psalm 66:1-4, the greeting from Revelation 1:4-5, and leads in an opening prayer of adoration. Delegates respond by singing "Lord Most High."

Rev. Daryl Meijer (Chatham) and Rev. Borger lead in a responsive litany from Psalm 47, and delegates conclude with singing "In Christ Alone."

Rev. Zachary J. King reads from Philippians 2:5-11 and meditates on "What 'Christ Alone' Means for Mission." Christ is the ground and goal of a God-honoring mission because he humbled himself—so we also need to be God-honoring to make mission successful. Our attitude needs to be that of Christ Jesus. By faith alone in Christ Jesus we are saved. One day every knee will bow and acknowledge him as Lord. Some of the pitfalls we need to avoid in order to be Christ-honoring in mission: (1) not caring, and (2) focusing on ourselves and on doing what makes us feel better. Christ alone is the only ground and goal for mission. The transformation of hurting lives will happen only in encountering Jesus Christ alone—the Christ of love.

Rev. King leads in closing prayer, and delegates sing "He Is Lord" and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." He closes worship with a blessing.

The vice president assumes the chair.

Roll call indicates all delegates are present.

**ARTICLE 66**

Rev. Amy Schenkel and Mr. Joel Huyser share exciting ministry stories that have happened over the years through Christian Reformed Home

Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions—lives are being changed. For this we give thanks.

The world needs Jesus. Are you ready to go? We need to help a broken and hurting world. We want to be the community that God wants us to be, but we need to develop missionary habits with our neighbors and communities.

God has been faithful through the years. We want to continue living in and sharing this world-and-life view by sending Spirit-filled men and women into the world; we want to be the salt of a Reformed life view; we want to partner with others and to be a platform to connect members of the CRC with our mission to the world.

Our neighbors are not just next door—they are around the world. Are we ready to accept the challenge to adopt the practice and posture of a missionary? Everywhere we go in the world, people are on the move, and God is working. We are at our best when we learn from each other.

Through a video presentation the delegates observe the challenges and opportunities of the new mission agency as it moves into this future. Working together, we will *resonate* with a *global mission* around the world.

## ARTICLE 67

Advisory Committee 6, Global Mission and Ministry, Rev. John W. Dykhuis reporting, presents the following:

### I. Board of Trustees and New Mission Agency

#### A. *Materials*

1. Board of Trustees (sections II, B, 5, 10, including Appendix H), pp. 36, 38-39, 180-81
2. Board of Trustees Supplement (section II, A, 2, including Appendix P)
3. New Mission Agency Report, pp. 243-55

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Chris Van Spronsen, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; members of the executive staff as needed; Rev. Joy Engelsman, board president of new mission agency-U.S.; Rev. Carel Geleynse, board president of new mission agency-Canada; Mr. Colin P. Watson, director of ministries and administration; Dr. Moses Chung, Christian Reformed Home Missions director; and Dr. Gary J. Bekker, Christian Reformed World Missions director

#### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod ratify the appointment of Dr. Zachary J. King as the director of the new mission agency, tentatively effective July 6, 2017, and that he be introduced to the delegates of synod (II, B, 5 and Appendix H).

—*Adopted*

Dr. King responds by sharing background to his calling to this position. He gives thanks for passionate staff who pray, share the good news, and want to work with, alongside, and be a catalyst for everyone in the Christian Reformed Church.

He asks the synod delegates for prayers for the ongoing tasks of staff, which at times can be difficult, asking humbly for support. The ministry is

here to listen and learn but also to be a mission agency to the world, wanting to encourage leaders to consider missions.

2. That synod, following a brief reflection on the beginnings of the journey toward the new mission agency, (a) thank Dr. Moses Chung and Dr. Gary J. Bekker for pursuing the vision of the Holy Spirit, and for giving courageous leadership to CRHM, CRWM, and NMA during this season of transition, and (b) express its appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Gary J. Bekker for his years of faithful service to the denomination in his role as director of Christian Reformed World Missions, and to Dr. Moses Chung for his years of faithful service to the denomination in his role as director of Christian Reformed Home Missions (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2, a).

—Adopted

3. That synod give opportunity for Dr. Moses Chung and Dr. Gary J. Bekker to offer a prayer of blessing and empowerment for Dr. Zachary King to mark this time of transition.

—Adopted

4. That synod acknowledge and thank CRHM and CRWM staff and their joint boards for their perseverance and exceptional work in accomplishing this challenging transition.

—Adopted

5. That synod approve the name *Resonate Global Mission* for the new mission agency (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2, b).

—Adopted

6. That synod adopt the following authorizing statements, should such authorization be needed (BOT Supplement section II, A, 2, b):

*Authorizing statements from the boards of Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions in the USA and Canada*

a) CANADA: That synod approve *Resonate Global Mission* as the name for the new mission agency (NMA) and instruct the executive director of the CRCNA and the NMA director to accomplish needed revisions in the Articles of Incorporation and charitable registrations for Christian Reformed Home Missions of Canada and Christian Reformed World Missions of Canada, both of which are Canadian incorporated charities. That the president or other elected officer of the corporations be authorized to sign any documents as are required to implement the name change, including an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

b) MICHIGAN: That synod approve *Resonate Global Mission* as the name for the new mission agency (NMA) and instruct the executive director of the CRCNA and the NMA director to accomplish needed revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and not-for-profit registrations for Christian Reformed Home Missions of the United States of America and Christian Reformed World Missions of the United States of America, both of which are incorporated not-for-profit organizations in the State of Michigan. That the president or other elected officer of the corporations be authorized to sign any

documents as are required to implement the name change, including an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

—Adopted

## II. Back to God Ministries International

A. *Materials*: Back to God Ministries International Report, pp. 235-42

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Kurt Selles, director of Back to God Ministries International, and Rev. Reginald Smith, board president

C. *Recommendation*

That synod commend the work of Back to God Ministries International and instruct the executive director to encourage churches and individual members throughout the CRC in North America to use resources provided by ReFrame Media, the English outreach of Back to God Ministries International, to assist in spiritual growth and encouraging outreach in their local communities.

—Adopted

## III. Timothy Leadership Training Institute

A. *Materials*: Timothy Leadership Training Institute Report, pp. 256-57

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend the Timothy Leadership Training Institute for their work of training church leaders in partnership with the CRCNA.

—Adopted

## IV. World Renew

A. *Materials*

1. World Renew Report, pp. 275-94
2. World Renew Supplement

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Mr. Lyman Howell, president of World Renew-U.S.; Mr. John DeGroot, president of World Renew-Canada; Ms. Carol Bremer-Bennett, director of World Renew-U.S.; and Ms. Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, director of World Renew-Canada

C. *Recommendation*

That synod commend the work of World Renew and give thanks for the ways that God is making an impact on lives worldwide through World Renew's focus on community development, disaster response, and rehabilitation, peace, and justice.

—Adopted

## V. Communities First Association

A. *Materials*: Communities First Association Report, pp. 386-87

B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Communities First Association for their work of equipping and networking community development leaders to build community strength and seek just and sustainable transformation.

—Adopted

## VI. Diaconal Ministries Canada

A. *Materials:* Diaconal Ministries Canada Report, pp. 388-89

### B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend the work of diaconal resourcing and training carried out by Diaconal Ministries Canada and instruct the executive director to promote its diaconal vision and its website resources (diaconalministries.com) to further equip deacons and strengthen congregational renewal and engagement with their communities/neighborhoods.

#### *Grounds:*

- a. Local diaconates often find it challenging to train and equip new deacons to minister out of a robust, biblically rooted vision of mercy and justice.
- b. Although Diaconal Ministries Canada primarily serves deacons in Canada, the website is a useful resource for all North American deacons.

—*Adopted*

## VII. Partners Worldwide

A. *Materials:* Christian Reformed Partners Worldwide Report, p. 394

### B. *Recommendation*

That synod commend Partners Worldwide in their work of engaging businesspeople in partnerships that create jobs, transform lives, and build healthy communities around the globe.

—*Adopted*

## VIII. Response to Overture 11: Discover Cause for CRC Membership Decline; Develop Strategy to Reverse the Trend of Decline through Church Renewal and Planting; Require Annual Reporting of Progress

A. *Materials:* Overture 11, pp. 429-34

### B. *Observations*

In Overture 11, Classis Southeast U.S. highlights the shared concern that, based on reported membership statistics, many Christian Reformed Churches are struggling with membership decline. The basic questions raised by this overture are “Why?” and “What can be done about it?”

The committee affirms the heartfelt desire of this overture that the Christian Reformed Church, compelled by the love of Christ, take seriously these declines for the sake of our kingdom impact and our missional calling. We share the common vision of flourishing congregations carrying out Jesus’ great commandment to love God and neighbor and the Great Commission to make disciples of all people. In light of this vision, we have been encouraged to learn of the ways that the shared concern of membership decline is already being addressed.

The “alarming” statistics shared in Overture 11 are not new. The 2014 report referred to by the acronym SPACT identifies and explores nineteen key ministry challenges, many of which may well result in membership decline. The awareness and insights generated by this extensive survey based on listening groups across the denomination has motivated the development of

our strategic plans. *Our Journey 2020*, the strategic ministry plan of the CRC, is a response to the concerns raised by individual churches and classes of the CRC. We find this responsiveness to be an encouraging step in the right direction—both in seeking to find reasons for the cause of membership decline and in developing a comprehensive denominational strategy that will address concerns and promote growth.

In summary, our committee has concluded that the denominational leadership of the CRC has made a good start in beginning to address the concerns raised in this overture with strategies for growth and renewal. We see hopeful possibilities also emerging from our new unified global mission agency and the structural changes of our new Council of Delegates. In light of this hopeful momentum emerging from the past research in the churches and classes of the CRC, and the hopeful potential promised by the latest structural changes, we do not see the benefit of initiating another detailed research process. However, we do see the benefit of a more focused and effective application of what has been learned and will be learned, especially with regard to the specific challenge of church renewal. Facilitating renewal includes the responsibility of the leadership and agencies of the CRC to provide useful resources, and it includes the responsibility of congregations and individuals to admit their need for renewal and to actively embrace and utilize those resources.

### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the executive director to make available a list of current denominational resources related to church renewal, including church planting.

—*Tabled*

*Note:* The above recommendation was discussed and tabled until later in the day.

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued in Article 70.)

## ARTICLE 68

The morning session adjourns at 11:45 a.m. Mr. Liam Harrell (Rocky Mountain) leads in closing prayer, including prayers regarding the shooting incident at a baseball practice of U.S. Congress members, and regarding other shootings in which eight people were wounded or killed in Chicago.

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 14, 2017 Eleventh Session

## ARTICLE 69

The afternoon session convenes at 2:15 p.m. Rev. Chris A. Kostelansky (Northern Michigan) leads in opening prayer.

## ARTICLE 70

(The report of Advisory Committee 6 is continued from Article 67.)

Advisory Committee 6, Global Mission and Ministry, Rev. John W. Dykhuis, reporting presents the following:

### **Response to Overture 11: Discover Cause for CRC Membership Decline; Develop Strategy to Reverse the Trend of Decline through Church Renewal and Planting; Require Annual Reporting of Progress**

A. *Materials*: Overture 11: pp. 429-34

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct the executive director to make available a list of current denominational resources related to church renewal, including church planting with emphasis on training for evangelism.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod instruct the executive director to work with each agency and educational institution to seek out best practices and resources related to church renewal in the CRC and similar denominations and share these with classes and congregations in order to more faithfully carry out our commitment to Church Order Articles 74-76.

—*Adopted*

3. That synod instruct the executive director to work with each agency and educational institution to collaborate in finding areas of convergence related to church renewal and to develop effective strategies for implementation by classes and churches.

—*Adopted*

4. That synod instruct the executive director to keep the call to prayer for church renewal, church planting, and evangelism continually before God's people.

—*Adopted*

5. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 11.

—*Adopted*

Delegates stand and offer choral (simultaneous, spoken aloud) prayers for church renewal, church planting, and evangelism.

## ARTICLE 71

The president of synod resumes the chair.

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 63.)

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Phillip S. Leo reporting, presents the following:

## **Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee**

*A. Materials:* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report (including Appendices A-E) pp. 329-64

*B. Recommendation*

That synod place the Belhar Confession in the newly defined category of contemporary testimony. Adherence to the Belhar Confession shall not be included in the Covenant for Officebearers.

*Grounds:*

1. This is consistent with Synod 2016's recommendation to recategorize the Belhar Confession as a contemporary testimony in the CRCNA.
2. The Belhar Confession is a gift from the churches in the global south and is "useful for study, faith formation, teaching, and worship" (*Agenda for Synod 2017*, p. 338). We receive it as a contemporary testimony, not as a confession.

—*Adopted*

The following negative votes are registered: Drew Hoekema (Iakota), Lee Khang (Holland), George Koopmans (Alberta South/Saskatchewan), Jose Rayas (Arizona), Scott Stark (Zeeland), and Greg Talsma (Minnkota).

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued in Article 74.)

### **ARTICLE 72**

The afternoon session adjourns at 5:02 p.m. Mr. Mina Meliky (ethnic adviser) leads in closing prayer.

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 14, 2017 Twelfth Session**

### **ARTICLE 73**

The evening session convenes at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Woodrow P. Dixon (Niagara) leads in opening prayer.

### **ARTICLE 74**

(The report of Advisory Committee 8 is continued from Article 71.)

Advisory Committee 8, Interdenominational Matters, Rev. Philip S. Leo reporting, presents the following:

## **I. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee**

*A. Materials:* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report (including Appendices A-E) pp. 329-64

*B. Recommendation*

That synod approve discontinuance of the Ecumenical Faith Declaration category.



*Grounds:*

- a. The category is confusing to our ecumenical partners; “ecumenical” does not fit if no denomination other than the CRCNA embraces it.
- b. Based upon the Belhar Confession’s being placed in the category of contemporary testimony, the Ecumenical Faith Declaration category is no longer in active use.

—*Adopted*

A delegate presents the following motion:

That synod instruct the ED, with the assistance of appropriate individuals, to include footnoted comments with the Belhar Confession to provide biblical and confessionally grounded clarity to the parts of the Belhar that are widely recognized to cause disagreement and alarm.

*Ground:* Including the concerns of previous synods about the Belhar Confession will be beneficial.

—*Adopted*

## **II. Response to Overtures 13-19**

A. *Materials:* Overtures 13-19: pp. 435-46 and Supplement

B. *Recommendations*

1. That the preceding actions regarding the Belhar Confession and the Ecumenical Faith Declaration category constitute synod’s answer to Overtures 13-17, 18 (items 1-3), and 19.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod not accede to Overture 18, item 4, to amend the Rules for Synodical Procedure related to confessional revision.

*Ground:* Church Order Supplement, Article 5, C, 6 states: “A revision of the confessions shall not be adopted by synod until the whole church membership has had adequate opportunity to consider it.”

—*Adopted*

### **ARTICLE 75**

The evening session adjourns at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Candace Burnett (Huron) leads in closing prayer.

### **THURSDAY MORNING, June 15, 2017 Thirteenth Session**

### **ARTICLE 76**

Delegates begin the morning by stilling their hearts. Then all sing “Be Still, for the Presence,” “Solus,” and “Holy God, We Praise Your Name.”

Mr. Dennis R. Jurjens (Toronto) opens the morning session with prayer.

Roll call indicates the following delegates are absent: Rev. David H. Beelen (Grand Rapids East), Rev. Matthew C. McClure (Central Plains), Rev.

Daniel R. Wolters (Grand Rapids North), Rev. Lee Khang (Holland), Rev. Nathan D. Gritter (Lake Erie), Rev. Pedro Avilas (Northern Illinois), and Rev. John T. Wildeboer (Quinte).

#### ARTICLE 77

The president of synod, Rev. Cornelius Pool, expresses thanks to his fellow officers of synod: Rev. Thea N. Leunk (vice president), Mr. Rudy Gonzalez (first clerk), and Rev. Ed W. Visser (second clerk). He thanks Trinity Christian College staff for the arrangements and hospitality and the convening church (Crossroads Community CRC, Schererville, Ind.) for their planning and participation, including provision of volunteers in the Prayer Corner.

The president of synod expresses gratitude to the director of synodical services for organizing synod, and to the synod office staff for all the “behind the scenes” work that takes place for the smooth running of synod. He also thanks the transportation coordinator and *so many* volunteers who helped in providing transportation throughout the week. He expresses thanks to the IT helpdesk staff, news office staff, and *Banner* staff.

The president offers thanks and appreciation to the Korean interpreters and recognizes the members of the synodical Worship Planning Committee, Minutes Review Committee, Testimonial Banquet Committee, and Hospitality Committee, as well as the Sergeant at Arms. He expresses appreciation for the faculty advisers, ethnic advisers, women advisers, and young adult representatives. He gives recognition to the fraternal delegates and ecumenical guests to synod, as well as the presidents of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary and the staff consultants.

President Pool expresses gratitude and special thanks to the delegates for taking time out of their busy schedules to be of service to the church. He also expresses thanks to the executive director, Dr. Steven R. Timmermans.

The vice president expresses appreciation and thanks to the president on behalf of synod.

The executive director expresses the gratitude of synod to the four officers and presents them with gifts.

#### ARTICLE 78

Synod 2017 concludes its business and spends time in closing worship. The Worship Committee leads delegates in singing “Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón/Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart” and “We Gather in Your Presence,” followed by a responsive prayer led by 2017 candidate for ministry Ms. Laura De Jong. All then respond by singing “Our God Is Greater.”

The president of synod, Rev. Pool, reads Philippians 3:1-14 and emphasizes the importance of looking forward. Determination and focus are necessary to reach the highest goal: to bring honor and glory to God. To grow as Christians, we must be focused as Christians. The two most important things are to know Christ and to win the prize. God looks at what is inside our hearts more than anything else. We must keep pressing on so that we may bring glory to our God and Father. Rev. Pool encourages delegates to keep moving forward with God’s saving grace, with humble hearts, and with listening ears. He leads in prayer.

Delegates respond by singing “Glory Be to You Alone,” and Mr. Robert A. Cooper (Chicago South) leads in the closing prayer.

Synod concludes with the singing of "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow."

ARTICLE 79

Synod 2017 is adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2018



# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES AND RECOMMENDED AGENCIES FOR 2018

## I. Denominational Ministry Shares for 2018

| AGENCY                                  | Area 1        | Area 2        | Area 3        | Area 4        | Area 5        | Area 6        | Area 7        | Area 8        |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Base amount per member                  | 307.56        | 307.56        | 307.56        | 307.56        | 307.56        | 307.56        | 307.56        | 307.56        |
| Calvin College*                         | 90.30         | 59.50         | 26.70         | 7.20          | 52.30         | 15.30         | 4.40          | 3.00          |
| <b>Total ministry shares per member</b> | <b>397.86</b> | <b>367.06</b> | <b>334.26</b> | <b>314.76</b> | <b>359.86</b> | <b>322.86</b> | <b>311.96</b> | <b>310.56</b> |

\*Areas which benefit from a ministry shares reduction should employ the following monies saved to finance their area colleges:

|                       |   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Per professing member | - | 11.95 | 44.75 | 64.25 | 19.15 | 56.15 | 67.05 | 68.45 |
|-----------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

**Classis Area Table  
for Calvin College amount:**

|               |                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AREA 1</b> | Grand Rapids East; Grand Rapids North; Grand Rapids South; Grandville; Thornapple Valley                                                             |
| <b>AREA 2</b> | Georgetown; Holland; Kalamazoo; Lake Erie; Muskegon; Northern Michigan; Zeeland                                                                      |
| <b>AREA 3</b> | Chicago South; Illiana; Northern Illinois; Southeast U.S.; Wisconsin                                                                                 |
| <b>AREA 4</b> | Central Plains; Heartland; Iakota; Lake Superior; Minnkota; Northcentral Iowa                                                                        |
| <b>AREA 5</b> | Atlantic Northeast; Hackensack; Hudson                                                                                                               |
| <b>AREA 6</b> | Arizona; Columbia; California South; Central California; Greater Los Angeles; Hanmi; Ko-Am; Pacific Northwest; Red Mesa; Rocky Mountain; Yellowstone |
| <b>AREA 7</b> | Chatham; Eastern Canada; Hamilton; Huron; Niagara; Quinte; Toronto                                                                                   |
| <b>AREA 8</b> | Alberta North; Alberta South/Saskatchewan; B.C. North-West; B.C. South-East                                                                          |

## Denominational Ministry Shares Allocation

|                                      | 2017<br>ministry shares<br>allocation<br>eff. 1/01/2017 | 2018<br>ministry shares<br>allocation<br>eff. 1/01/2018 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL | \$ 44.41                                                | \$ 44.41                                                |
| CALVIN COLLEGE*                      | 31.92                                                   | 31.92                                                   |
| CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY          | 36.27                                                   | 36.27                                                   |
| HOME MISSIONS                        | 47.35                                                   | -                                                       |
| RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION              | -                                                       | 108.52                                                  |
| WORLD MISSIONS                       | 61.17                                                   | -                                                       |
| WORLD RENEW                          | -                                                       | -                                                       |
| SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:   | 35.68                                                   | 35.68                                                   |
| General Administration               |                                                         |                                                         |
| Synodical Services                   |                                                         |                                                         |
| Council of Delegates                 |                                                         |                                                         |
| CHURCH SUPPORT MINISTRIES:           | 78.95                                                   | 78.95                                                   |
| Aboriginal Ministries (Canada)       |                                                         |                                                         |
| <i>The Banner</i>                    |                                                         |                                                         |
| Centre for Public Dialogue           |                                                         |                                                         |
| Chaplaincy and Care Ministry         |                                                         |                                                         |
| Disability Concerns                  |                                                         |                                                         |
| Faith Formation Ministries           |                                                         |                                                         |
| Pastor Church Resources              |                                                         |                                                         |
| Race Relations                       |                                                         |                                                         |
| Safe Church Ministry                 |                                                         |                                                         |
| ServiceLink                          |                                                         |                                                         |
| Social Justice and Hunger Action     |                                                         |                                                         |
| Worship Ministries                   |                                                         |                                                         |
| SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND              | 3.73                                                    | 3.73                                                    |
|                                      | <u>\$ 339.48</u>                                        | <u>\$ 339.48</u>                                        |

\*Represents the composite rate. Actual rate varies by area.

## II. Agencies recommended for financial support in 2018

### A. Denominational agencies and ministries recommended for one or more offerings

Canadian Business Number

1. Back to God Ministries International—  
above-ministry-share needs . . . . . 13240 2090 RR0001
2. Calvin College—above-ministry-share needs . . . . . (per Schedule VIII)
3. Calvin Theological Seminary . . . . . (per Schedule VIII)
4. Christian Reformed Church Foundation . . . . . 883678708 RR0001
5. Congregational Services—above-ministry-share needs
  - a. Aboriginal Ministries (Canada) . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - b. *The Banner* . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - c. Centre for Public Dialogue . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - d. Chaplaincy and Care Ministry . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - e. Disability Concerns . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - f. Faith Formation Ministries . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - g. Pastor Church Resources . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - h. Race Relations . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - i. Safe Church Ministry . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - j. ServiceLink . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - k. Social Justice and Hunger Action . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
  - l. Worship Ministries . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
6. Resonate Global Mission—two offerings per year . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
7. Timothy Leadership Training Institute . . . . . 856901285 RR0002
8. World Renew—four offerings per year because World Renew  
receives no ministry-share support . . . . . 118857366 RR0001

### B. Denominationally related or affiliated agencies recommended for one or more offerings

1. Communities First Association . . . . . NA
2. Diaconal Ministries Canada . . . . . 89309 3377 RR0001
3. Dynamic Youth Ministries
  - a. GEMS . . . . . 88992 0799 RR0001
  - b. Calvinist Cadet Corps . . . . . 88992 0799 RR0001
  - c. Youth Unlimited . . . . . 88992 0799 RR0001
4. Friendship Ministries (Friendship Ministries - Canada) . . . . . 11893 2375 RR0001
5. Partners Worldwide . . . . . 83675 7807 RR0001

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

Note should be made of the action of Synod 1992 related to the financial support provided by Christian Reformed churches relative to these agencies:

... in light of the growing number of agencies seeking recommendation for financial support, [synod] remind[s] the congregations of the synodical decision of 1970 wherein "synod urge[d] all the classes to request their churches to pay denominational causes before making gifts to nondenominational causes on the synod-approved accredited list.

Grounds: Our denominational causes should have priority in our giving. . . ."  
(*Acts of Synod 1970*, p. 81)



**United States agencies**

*A. Benevolent agencies*

- 1. Bethany Christian Services
- 2. Hope Haven
- 3. The Luke Society
- 4. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
- 5. Quiet Waters Ministries

*B. Educational agencies*

- 1. Ascending Leaders
- 2. Christian Learning Center (CLC)
- 3. Christian Schools International
- 4. Christian Schools International Foundation
- 5. Dordt College
- 6. Elim Christian Services
- 7. Friends of ICS (U.S. Foundation of Institute for Christian Studies)
- 8. Kids Hope USA
- 9. The King’s University (through the U.S. Foundation)
- 10. Kuyper College
- 11. Langham Partnership
- 12. Redeemer University College (through the U.S. Foundation)
- 13. Rehoboth Christian School
- 14. Tent Schools International (formerly Worldwide Christian Schools)
- 15. Trinity Christian College
- 16. Zuni Christian Mission School

*C. Miscellaneous agencies*

- 1. Association for a More Just Society
- 2. Audio Scripture Ministries
- 3. Bible League International
- 4. Care of Creation
- 5. Center for Public Justice
- 6. Crossroads Prison Ministries (formerly Crossroad Bible Institute)
- 7. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- 8. Mission India
- 9. Mississippi Christian Family Services
- 10. Talking Bibles
- 11. The Tract League
- 12. World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)
- 13. Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.

**Canadian agencies**

*A. Benevolent agencies*

Canadian Business Number

- 1. Beginnings Family Services ..... 11880 2388 RR0001
- 2. Indwell (formerly Homestead Christian Care) ..... 13129 5198 RR0001

*B. Educational agencies*

- 1. Dordt College ..... (per Schedule VIII)
- 2. EduDeo ..... 88945 9970 RR0001
- 3. Institute for Christian Studies..... 10750 8434 RR0001
- 4. The King’s University ..... 10808 5911 RR0001
- 5. Kuyper College ..... (per Schedule VIII)
- 6. Redeemer University College..... 12331 3660 RR0001
- 7. Trinity Christian College..... (per Schedule VIII)

C. *Miscellaneous agencies*

|                                                           |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A Rocha Canada . . . . .                               | 86663 8943 RR0001 |
| 2. Bible League – Canada . . . . .                        | 10822 2084 RR0001 |
| 3. Canadian Council of Churches . . . . .                 | 11883 0512 RR0001 |
| 4. Cardus (Work Research o/a Cardus) . . . . .            | 11892 9207 RR0001 |
| 5. Citizens for Public Justice (CJL Foundation) . . . . . | 89438 3512 RR0001 |
| 6. Dunamis Fellowship Canada . . . . .                    | 85540 0966 RR0001 |
| 7. Evangelical Fellowship of Canada . . . . .             | 10735 3922 RR0001 |
| 8. Gideons International – Canada . . . . .               | 10808 2991 RR0001 |
| 9. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Canada . . . . .  | 10751 3160 RR0001 |
| 10. OneBook . . . . .                                     | 81317 5957 RR0001 |
| 11. Shalem Mental Health Network . . . . .                | 13056 6011 RR0001 |
| 12. World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) . . . . . | 13056 6011 RR0001 |
| 13. 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 the agenda and supplementary materials.)

Abbreviations and acronyms in the *Agenda* and *Acts of Synod 2017*

ABCD – Asset-Based Community Development  
 BOT – Board of Trustees  
 BTGMI – Back to God Ministries International  
 CAMC – Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee  
 CC – Calvin College  
 CCG – Committee for Contact with the Government  
 CCRCC – Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada  
 CCT-USA – Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.  
 CDN – Canadian  
 CEO – Chief Executive Officer  
 CFA – Communities First Association  
 CFGB – Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
 CJM – Congregation Justice Mobilization  
 CMD – Canadian Ministries Director  
 CMEP – Churches for Middle East Peace  
 CMI – Church Multiplication Initiative  
 CMLT – Classical Ministerial Leadership Team  
 CMT – Canadian Ministries Team  
 COD – Council of Delegates  
 COP 21 – Conference of Parties 21 (held in Paris, Nov.-Dec. 2015)  
 CPD – Centre for Public Dialogue  
 CRC – Christian Reformed Church  
 CRCNA – Christian Reformed Church in North America  
 CRHM – Christian Reformed Home Missions  
 CRWM – Christian Reformed World Missions  
 CRWRC – Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (now World Renew)  
 CSI – Christian Schools International  
 CTS – Calvin Theological Seminary  
 DC – Disability Concerns  
 DFO – Director of Finance and Operations  
 DMA – Director of Ministries and Administration  
 DMC – Diaconal Ministries Canada  
 DORR – Dance of Racial Reconciliation  
 DRC – Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa  
 DRS – Disaster Response Services  
 DSS – Director of Synodical Services  
 ED – Executive Director

EFC – Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
EFD – Ecumenical Faith Declaration  
EIRC – Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee  
EPMC – Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy  
FFM – Faith Formation Ministries  
FLSA – Fair Labor Standards Act  
FTE – Full-time equivalent  
GCF – Global Christian Forum  
GEMS – Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior  
GVP – Global Volunteer Program  
HR – Human Resources  
IGCPR – Institute for Global Church Planting and Renewal  
JCC – Judicial Code Committee  
JDDJ – Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification  
JMC – Joint Ministry Council  
KIM – Korean Institute in Ministry  
KJV – King James Version  
MEPMC – Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy  
MLC – Ministries Leadership Council  
MSS – Ministry Support Services  
MTS – Master of Theological Studies  
NAE – National Association of Evangelicals  
NMA – new mission agency  
OSJ – Office of Social Justice and Hunger Action  
PCR – Pastor Church Resources  
RBA – Reformed Benefits Association  
RCA – Reformed Church in America  
RCJ – Reformed Church in Japan  
*RW – Reformed Worship* (magazine)  
SCE – Sustaining Congregational Excellence  
SCORR – Synodical Committee on Race Relations  
SMCC – Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee  
SPACT – Strategic Planning and Adaptive Change Team  
SPE – Sustaining Pastoral Excellence  
SRTF – Synod Review Task Force  
STM – Specialized Transitional Minister  
TFRSC – Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture  
TLT – Timothy Leadership Training  
TLTI – Timothy Leadership Training Institute  
VSL – Village Savings and Loan  
WCRC – World Communion of Reformed Churches  
WR – World Renew

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Young adult representatives, 26, 453, **612**, **614-15**, **670**, **686**, **698**. *See also*  
    Advisers to synod.  
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