

## Day 2 Report of Synod 2014

Today Synod enjoyed the privilege of witnessing the beginning of the oral examination of Seminarian Joshua Engelsma. Seven sections of the examination were covered today, including: 20 minutes for Introduction to Dogmatics and 30 minutes for Theology, Anthropology, Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology. All of the examinations were administered by Prof. Ronald Cammenga. Before the delegates and many visitors Sem. Engelsma demonstrated a knowledge and love for the truths of Scripture and the Reformed faith. The examination also gave evidence that God has gifted our churches with faithful and capable professors who are laboring faithfully in our seminary in the training of men for the ministry.

**Prof. Cammenga**



**Sem. Engelsma**



After the examination was completed for the day, Synod treated the recommendations of some of its committees of pre-advice. Following the order of the day, Synod treated Committee I's recommendations concerning the work of Domestic missions. Synod enjoyed the presence of Rev. Wilbur Bruinsma, our Eastern Home Missionary. On behalf of Synod the chairman, Rev. K.Koole, thanked Rev. Bruinsma for his labors in Pittsburgh. Synod approved budgets for supporting the work in Pittsburgh, for the development of new fields, for the maintenance of the [prca.org](http://prca.org) website, and for the Reformed Witness Hour.

Synod then turned to the advice of Committee III concerning the work of the Contact Committee (CC). Opportunity was given to elder Lee Kong Wee to address synod on behalf of the Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church of Singapore. He thanked the PRCA for helping the CERC in many ways, especially for loaning Rev. Andrew Lanning to serve as their pastor. Synod made the significant decision of approving the CERC's plan to call Rev. Lanning to be their pastor later this year.

Synod approved the CC's plan to send Prof. R. Dykstra and Rev. N. Decker to Australia to participate in a conference with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia on the covenant and to meet with the EPCA's Contact Committee.

Synod had the privilege of hearing from Rev. Martyn McGeown on behalf of the Covenant Protestant Reformed Church in Northern Ireland. Rev. McGeown expressed appreciation for the close unity between the PRCA and the CPRCNI and explained many of the benefits of that unity. Synod approved of the CC's work with the CPRCNI and of the plan to provide financial assistance to the Limerick Reformed Fellowship, a mission effort of the CPRCNI.

Synod heard about contact with the BERG of Giessen, Germany (Confessing Protestant-Reformed Congregation) and the CC's plan to send a delegation to carry on theological discussions with the men of the BERG. Synod approved of the CC's work with the BERG and instructed the CC to report to next year's synod about the differences between the BERG and the PRCA.

Synod finished its work today by beginning to treat the recommendations of Committee IV regarding the Theological School Committee. Approval was given to the appointment of Prof. R. Dykstra to a three-year term as the rector of the seminary. Synod then recessed for the day.

There is much to anticipate about the work Synod will take up tomorrow. Synod will complete the oral examination of Seminarian Engelsma beginning at **8:00am**. Those who want to watch or listen to the examination can tune in [here](#) tomorrow. Once you are at Hope PRC's Sermonaudio page, you will have to click on the live webcast symbol. Synod will also treat Committee II's recommendations regarding foreign missions and have opportunity to enjoy the presence of Rev. Daniel Kleyn, one of our missionaries to the Philippines.

May God continue to guide synod in all of its deliberations and use the decisions for the good of our churches and the glory of His name.

*Rev. Spronk*

2<sup>nd</sup> Clerk of Synod 2014