

Synod 2018 Day 2

Synod treated the recommendations of Committee 1 through the morning. The following are some of the decisions made regarding our seminary.

- It was noted that Matt Kortus and Jacob Maatman are in their third year of study at the seminary and will begin their internships this summer. Josiah Tan, a student from Singapore, finished his second year of study.
- Synod admitted another student into our seminary, Mr. Marcus Wee, a young man from Singapore, beginning with the fall semester in 2018.
- Synod approved an addition and remodel to the seminary at an estimated cost of \$451,600.
- Our seminary has never been authorized to grant a degree to those who graduate. Synod approved the activity of the Theological School Committee to seek approval from the state of Michigan to be recognized as a degree-granting institution.
- Synod also noted that Mr. Jon Huisken has served as our archivist for over 30 years and gave thanks for his work now that he is retiring from this position.
- Synod expressed appreciation to Professors Cammenga, Dykstra, Gritters, and Kuiper, and to Charles Terpstra and Judi Doezema for all their work in our seminary.
- Noting the urgent need for pastors and missionaries in our churches, synod decided to “urge the churches and the pastors in particular in their public prayers to pray the Lord of the harvest for able, faithful, devoted pastors and teachers for us and our children, as well as for the gathering of the elect out of the nations (Matt. 28:19).”

Synod made the following decisions regarding Foreign Missions:

- Rev. Holstege, one of missionaries in the Philippines, addressed synod today, expressing the his joy and gratitude laboring as the Lord’s servant in the work of missions in the Philippines. He highlighted some of the recent developments on the field and thanked the synod and churches for their generous and willing support of the missionaries and their families.
- Synod expressed appreciation for the work of the Foreign Mission Committee, the Doon Council, and to the missionaries, Rev. Holstege, Rev. Kleyn, Rev. Smit and their families, for their work in the Philippines.
- Synod approved financial support for the Protestant Reformed Churches in the Philippines for 2019 in the amount of about \$15,000. Synod also approved a budget of about \$406,000 for mission work in the Philippines.
- At the request of the FMC, synod approved going Rev. and Sharon Kleyn a 4-6 month furlough in 2019, for the main purpose of missionary development, which would include taking a missions class, if possible, and reading in missions.
- Because of the many issues that have arisen with providing financial assistance in foreign lands, synod mandated the Foreign Mission Committee to come to Synod 2019 with guidelines for giving financial assistance in foreign lands.

Synod treated the legality of the protests and appeal in the agenda. The appeal and all of the protests were declared legally before synod.

Synod decided to recess for the rest of the day so that committees of pre-advice may continue to work. Synod will begin again at 8:00am Thursday morning.