

Day 4 Report of Synod 2014

Today synod made several significant decisions regarding its Contact Committee. Approval was given to the CC's plan to study and recommend guidelines for participating in ecumenical councils. The CC was instructed:

- to study the constitution and by-laws of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) in order to determine what levels of participation are available in this Council and to study how this Council views the sending of observers to its meetings.
- to accept NAPARC's invitation to send observers to its 2014 meeting.
- to stay in contact with the Publication Committee of the Free Reformed Churches with a view to a possible revision of the *Psalter*.

Finally synod adopted a budget of \$62,500 for the CC in 2015.

Synod instructed its Catechism Book Committee to report back to Synod 2015 to explain what would be involved in pursuing uniform publishing standards for our catechism materials. Synod also approved a motion to allow the CBC to manage the publication and distribution of electronic versions of *The Confessions and Church Order of the Protestant Reformed Churches* in formats that are convenient for use on e-readers.

Synod received a report about the Seminary from the Rector, Prof. Ronald Cammenga. This report indicated that all of the students are doing well in seminary. In response to this report synod expressed gratitude to the professors and support staff of seminary for their work.

Synod approved budgets for the care of seminary students as follows:

- \$21,325 for Student Aid
- \$9,000 for internship expenses
- \$21,372 for health insurance

Synod made the decision, based on a recommendation from the Board of Trustees, to change the target for the emeritus fund from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000. Synod also thanked all of the members of the BOT for their faithful labors.

Synod made a decision to remind the churches of previous synodical decisions directing churches to ensure that provision is made for the retirement years of their ministers.

Synod thanked its treasurer, Mr. David Ondersma, and its bookkeeper, Mrs. Pamela Bos, for their faithful labors.

The emeritus requests of 13 ministers or ministers' wives were approved by synod.

Subsidy requests of 7 churches were approved.

Synod received a report from its stated clerk, Mr. Don Doezema. Mr. Doezema informed synod that next year will be the last year of his term and that he does not intend to serve another term. In response to this report synod expressed gratitude to Mr. Doezema for his *tireless* service and instructed the Board of Trustees to present Synod 2015 with suitable nominees to take Mr. Doezema's place as stated clerk.

Approval was given for the 2015 synodical budget in the amount of \$1,573,880 and for synodical assessments in the amount of \$770 for each family in the denomination.

The expenses of Synod totaled \$4,941.55.

Synod completed the work on its agenda by voting for people to fill positions on various synodical decisions.

Synod adjourned at around 3:20pm ET. The chairman, Rev. Koole, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the unity that prevailed during the deliberations of synod and asked God to use the decisions for the good of the church of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Spronk

2nd Clerk of Synod 2014