

**Report to General Synod 2013
From the
Committee for the Official Website (CWEB)**

Esteemed brothers in the Lord,

With fraternal greetings in the name of our Saviour, we hereby submit our report to General Synod Carman 2013, as mandated by General Synod Burlington 2010.

Committee Mandate

Synod Burlington 2010 gave CWEB the following mandate:

1. To maintain the existing website and associated technical functions.
2. To revise the content of the website whenever necessary, in particular ensuring that the text of the Book of Praise is the same as that most recently adopted and revised by General Synod.
3. To make synod reports available on the web before synod also for all members of the churches.
4. To provide web services and email services to the churches and serve the churches with advice with regard to possibilities of setting up their own websites.
5. To work toward making all the Acts of all the general synods available on the website in searchable format.
6. To list the mission churches/preaching posts on the website.
7. To serve Synod 2013 with a report to be sent to the churches at least six months prior to the beginning of Synod, including a financial statement and a proposed budget, and any recommendations regarding new content to be added to the website.

Committee Composition and Functioning

Synod 2010 appointed two new members to the committee: Rev. Wes Bredenhof and br. Jeremy Koopmans. Rev. Bredenhof is the convener and he maintains the website content on a regular basis. Br. Jeremy Koopmans, br. Harold Sikkema, and sr. Cheryl Lane have looked after the more technical side of the website and e-mail functions.

Several meetings were held via Skype. Typically, CWEB has functioned by means of regular contact among the members via e-mail.

The terms of br. Harold Sikkema and sr. Cheryl Lane are completed. CWEB will be sending a list of nominees for potential consideration by Synod under separate cover to be held in confidence and presented to the committee appointed by Synod to deal with the matter.

With regard to the length of all terms, the committee suggests Synod consider six years rather than nine. In the world of information technology, a lot can change in nine years and those

who are qualified at the beginning of a term, may be less qualified towards the end. Consequentially, we suggest that the terms of Rev. Bredenhof and br. Koopmans be amended to six years, concluding in 2016. This would ensure that the committee does not face a complete turnover in 2019. In 2007, this was suggested for br. Sikkema and sr. Lane -- and Synod 2007 did agree to this request.

Committee Activities

As far as the technical set-up is concerned, nothing has changed in the last three years. We continue to have our website hosted by Dreamhost.com. For the most part, this has been satisfactory. There was a loss of some data in mid-2012 due to a server change, but it appears that everything has been recovered. For synod's information, we have attached an appendix with some statistics about the usage of the www.canrc.org website.

Little new content has been added to the website, besides the regular flow of news items, reports, press releases and new information about local churches or ministers. We did fulfill the mandate of the last Synod to add a list of the mission churches/preaching posts. It can be found here: <http://www.canrc.org/?page=21> . We also added the "Rules for Ecclesiastical Fellowship" – they can be found here: <http://www.canrc.org/?page=505> .

We also continue to provide e-mail services to the churches. The ministers are provided with permanent [canrc.org](http://www.canrc.org) e-mail addresses and a mailing list for discussions and so on. Some of the churches also use the [canrc.org](http://www.canrc.org) domain for their clerk's e-mail.

As part of our mandate, CWEB investigated the possibility of having all the Acts of all the general synods available on the website in searchable format. Our research has revealed that this is certainly feasible, but doing this professionally (with the specialized skills, software, and equipment) will require some expense – probably in the range of \$1250. Moreover, we would draw synod's attention to the fact that some of the Acts are already available in such a format. Others are available digitally, but need to be reformatted to be searchable.

With regard to other costs, the only expenses CWEB incurs have to do with the hosting plan at [Dreamhost.com](http://www.dreamhost.com). For the details, we refer synod to the financial report attached.

CWEB continues to receive comments from website visitors. Some of the e-mails that the committee receives are clearly spam and are treated as such. However, occasionally we do receive inquiries from serious parties and these are responded to in a timely and appropriate fashion, usually by the convener. Sometimes inquiries are directed to other synodically appointed committees. We also occasionally receive feedback from the churches – we value this interaction and often use it to improve our web presence.

Mandate

CWEB recommends that General Synod Carman 2013 give the committee the following mandate:

1. To maintain the existing website and associated technical functions.
2. To revise the content of the website whenever necessary, in particular ensuring that the text of the Book of Praise is the same as that most recently adopted and revised by General Synod.
3. To make synod reports available on the web before the next synod.
4. To provide web services and email services to the churches and serve the churches with advice with regard to possibilities of setting up their own websites.
5. To make all the Acts of all the general synods available on the website in searchable format.
6. To serve Synod 2016 with a report to be sent to the churches at least six months prior to the beginning of Synod, including a financial statement and a proposed budget, and any recommendations regarding new content to be added to the website.

CWEB also recommends that General Synod Carman 2013 decide:

1. To approve the budget of \$1750 for the period 2013-2015
2. To appoint two new members to the committee with six year terms
3. To amend the terms of Rev. Bredenhof and br. Koopmans to six years, ending in 2016.

Respectfully submitted by your committee,

W. Bredenhof (Hamilton, ON), convener
J. Koopmans (Edmonton, AB)
C. Lane (Winnipeg, MB)
H. Sikkema (Hamilton, ON)

Appendix: Financial Statement and Budget

The only expense in the years 2010-2012 was the cost of \$382.80 USD for the renewal of the hosting plan, which occurred twice in this time period. The next renewal date is in September of 2014. Going forward there will also be a cost of roughly \$9.95 USD (as of today's rate) per year for domain name registration as our promotion for this has ended. We are also including a budget line for a professional scanning service in order to include the remaining synod documents on the website.

Projected Budget (CDN \$):

Hosting plan renewal in 2014 (2 years)	\$450
Domain name registration (3 years)	\$50
Professional scanning of Synod documents	\$1250
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Total 2013-2015 Expenses	\$1750

Three year periods	CDN\$
Total 1998-2000	\$1,120.50
Total 2001-2003	\$2,940.11
Total 2004-2006	\$1,934
Total 2007-2009	\$382.80
Total 2010-2012	\$791.84

Visitors Overview

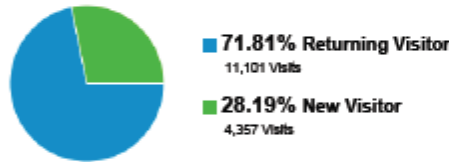
% of visits: 100.00%

Overview



4,349 people visited this site

- Visits: 15,458
- Unique Visitors: 4,349
- Pageviews: 38,199
- Pages / Visit: 2.47
- Avg. Visit Duration: 00:02:01
- Bounce Rate: 60.42%
- % New Visits: 28.12%



Language	Visits	% Visits
1. en-us	12,888	83.37%
2. en	1,958	12.67%
3. nl-nl	113	0.73%
4. en-gb	89	0.58%
5. de-de	70	0.45%
6. ko-kr	53	0.34%
7. pt-br	46	0.30%
8. nl	37	0.24%
9. en_ca	35	0.23%
10. en-ca	27	0.17%

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