

ACTS

GENERAL SYNOD ORANGEVILLE

1968

Canadian Reformed Churches



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ACTS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
of the
CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

held at Orangeville in 1968

FIRST SESSION – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7TH, 1968

ARTICLE I

On behalf of the Canadian Reformed Church at Orangeville, the convening Church, Rev. M. van Beveren calls the assembly to order. He requests to sing Psalm 89:1,5, reads Revelation 19:6-16, and leads in prayer.

He addresses the delegates as follows:

Esteemed Brethren:

On behalf of the Church at Orangeville I extend a cordial welcome to you as delegates to this fifth General Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches. Many of you have made a long trip. We are thankful to the Lord that you arrived safely. We hope that you will enjoy your stay here. It will benefit you and the work to be done.

It is a great task to which you are called. You are to deal with matters pertaining to the churches in general, which also means each church in particular. You have to decide on matters in which, as appears from the list of overtures and requests, the churches are keenly interested, matters of great and decisive importance for the future course of our churches.

There is always progress in the church of Jesus Christ. Since the General Synod of Edmonton, the Lord has relieved of his office one of the ministers of the first hour, the Rev. G. Ph. Pieffers, the first of our ministers to die in Canada. About the same time, however, He has provided the churches with other, younger ministers, mainly from the Netherlands, to take up the duties of the ministry, the ministry of reconciliation, in order that his building might grow to a holy temple of the Lord. It is a sign of Christ's coming with haste, which, though often against our flesh, brings about the progress of the church. We live in the time in which the church is preparing for the marriage-supper of the Lamb. This preparation of which Revelation 19 speaks, cannot be called a period of rest and inertia. It is a time of struggle and development, caused by Him who sits on a white horse, followed by his mounted armies, ready to smite his enemies. It is clear that his course and progress should be the course and progress of the church.

Keep this in mind while making decisions which will have an impact upon the churches for many years to come. Changing circumstances, developments of thoughts may not prevent you from following Him who is seated on the white horse. For his name is the Word of God. Among the many attacks upon this Word are the present devaluation of the standards of the church and the world-wide relaxation of creed subscription. More than ever you need to take your stand on the old foundations.

Seeing the agenda and the several different opinions laid down in the reports and overtures, it is to be expected that days of hard work are ahead. If the Word of God is a lamp to your feet and a light to your paths, you surely will see the progress and course of the Lord and of the church.

May the Lord bless you.

ARTICLE 2

The Chairman *pro tempore* requests the two clerks of the convening Church, Mr. A. Lodder and Mr. J. VanBodegom, to examine the credentials:

The following delegates are duly present:

from the Regional Synod of Ontario held September 18th and 23rd, 1968:

Revs H. Scholten, Smithville, Ont., L. Selles, Chatham, Ont., M. van Beveren, Fergus, Ont., G. VanDooren, Burlington, Ont., the elders H. Bouwman, Grand Rapids, Mich., J. Medemblik, Guelph, Ont., H. Oosterveld, Burlington, Ont., J. VanderVeen, Bothwell, Ont.,

from the Particular Synod in Western Canada held June 12th, 1968:

Revs L. Moes, Abbotsford, B.C., J. Mulder, Coaldale, Alta., H. A. Stel, Winnipeg, Man., W. W. J. VanOene, New Westminster, B.C., the elders J. Bareman, Barnwell, Alta., J. Kuik, Carman, Man., K. Stam, New Westminster, B.C., S. Tuininga, Neerlandia, Alta.

The Rev. W. W. J. VanOene is alternate delegate for the Rev. J. T. VanPopta who is prevented from being present because of illness.

ARTICLE 3

The following officers are elected by ballot:

Chairman: Rev. W. W. J. VanOene;
First Clerk: Rev. M. van Beveren;
Second Clerk: Rev. J. Mulder;
Assessor: Rev. H. Scholten.

Synod is declared constituted.

ARTICLE 4

The Rev. VanOene thanks Synod for the confidence placed in the officers. He expresses appreciation to the convening church for the preparatory work. With a view to the arrangement of procedure and time schedule the Chairman adjourns the meeting.

ARTICLE 5

The following agenda is adopted:

1. Opening on behalf of the convening church.
2. Examination of the credentials.
3. Election of Officers.

4. Constitution of Synod.
5. Information from the convening church.
6. Adoption of the agenda.
7. Arrangement of procedure and time schedule.
 - a. Request Foundation for Superannuation.
 - b. Request League of the Canadian Reformed Young People's Societies in Ontario.
 - c. Request Deputies for Contact with Representatives of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
 - d. Copy part of letter from Rev. LeRoy B. Oliver to Rev. A. B. Roukema re 7c.
8. Incoming Mail:

I REPORTS

1. Deputies for Contact with Representatives of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
2. Deputies ad Article 19 Church Order.
- 2b. Supplement to this report.
3. Deputies for Contact with the Christian Reformed Church.
- 3b. Supplement to this report.
4. Deputies to examine Forms for Excommunication "Baptized Members".
5. Deputies for a Calvinistic Psalter.
6. Deputies for translation of the Church Order.
7. Deputies to examine the desirability of a central address of the Canadian Reformed Churches.
8. Financial Committee General Synod 1965.
9. Deputies Translation Heidelberg Catechism.
10. Deputy-Governors Theological Seminary.
11. Library Theological Seminary ("Appendix").
12. Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches, minority report of Mr. P. VanderSchaaf.
- 12a. Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches, majority report of Mr. C. Ouwersloot and Rev. H. Scholten.
- 12b. Communication of Mr. P. VanderSchaaf re Report 12a (see Art. 36).
13. Treasurer Training for the Ministry.
14. Church at Chatham, Ont., re audit books of General Synod 1965 (see Art. 28).
15. Deputies English Calvinistic Psalter re finances (see Art. 87).
16. Church at Brampton, Ont., re audit finances Deputies English Calvinistic Psalter (see Art. 87).

II PROTESTS AND/OR APPEALS

1. Suspension Rev. C. DeHaan (Mr. T. VandeBrink and Mr. W. Vogelzang).
2. Decision Deputies General Fund ad Art. 19 C.O. (Mr. R. F. Boersema).
3. Decision Regional Synod of Ontario September 1968 (Mr. R. F. Boersema).
4. Decisions General Synod 1965 re suspension Rev. C. DeHaan (Rev. C. DeHaan).

III OVERTURES

1. Time-limit for reports (Church at Chatham, Ont.).
2. Mandate Deputies Calvinistic Psalter (Church at Smithers, B.C.).

3. Declaration of Agreement with the Three Forms of Unity (Church at Smithers, B.C.).
- 3b. Grounds for Overture 3 (Church at Smithers, B.C.).
4. Report Deputies ad Art. 19 C.O. (Church at Coaldale, Alta).
5. Mandate Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Church at Edmonton, Alta).
6. Mandate Deputies for Contact with the Christian Reformed Church (Church at Edmonton, Alta).
7. Publication Acts (Church at Cloverdale, B.C.).
8. Forms Excommunication "Baptized Members" (Church at Coaldale, Alta).
9. Forms Excommunication "Baptized Members" (Church at Carman, Man.).
10. Translation Church Order (Church at Carman, Man.).
11. Acts Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 39B, 46 (Church at Cloverdale, B.C.).
12. Mandate Deputies for a Calvinistic Psalter (Church at Coaldale, Alta).
13. Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Church at Fergus - Guelph, Ont.).
14. English Calvinistic Psalter (Church at Toronto, Ont.).
15. Central Address Canadian Reformed Churches (Church at Barrhead, Alta).
16. Acts Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 39B,46 (Church at Barrhead, Alta).
17. Report Deputies ad Article 19 C.O. (Church at Barrhead, Alta).
18. Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Church at Barrhead, Alta).
19. English Calvinistic Psalter (Church at Barrhead, Alta).
20. Report Deputies ad Article 19 C.O. (Church at Edmonton, Alta).
21. Central Address Canadian Reformed Churches (Church at Edmonton, Alta).
22. Contact with the Christian Reformed Church (Church at Winnipeg, Man.).
23. Acts Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 199, sub 8 (Church at Orangeville, Ont.).
24. Acts Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 142, (Church at Chatham, Ont.).
25. Acts Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 199, sub 8 (Church at Burlington, Ont.).
26. Central Address Canadian Reformed Churches (Church at Smithers, B.C.).
27. Overtures of Regional Synod of Ontario 1968:
 1. Contact with the Christian Reformed Church.
 2. Use of English language in Acts and Reports.
 3. Mandate Deputies English Calvinistic Psalter (with "Appendix").
 4. Article 19 C.O.
 5. Appointment Deputies ad Article 19 C.O.
 6. Mandate Deputies ad Article 19 C.O.
 7. Restriction support ad Article 19 C.O.
 8. Publication Yearbook.
 9. Revision Church Order (with "Appendix").
28. Translation Church Order (Church at Orangeville, Ont.).
29. Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Church at Winnipeg, Man.).
30. Acts Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 39B (Church at Winnipeg, Man.).
31. Report Deputies English translation Heidelberg Catechism (Church at Orangeville, Ont.).
32. Revision Church Order (Church at Edmonton, Alta).
33. Contact with the Christian Reformed Church (Church at Brampton, Ont.).

34. Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Church at Brampton, Ont.).
35. Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Church at Hamilton, Ont.).
36. Report Deputy-Governors (Church at Hamilton, Ont.).
37. Training for the Ministry (Church at Burlington, Ont.).
38. Revised Standard Version (Church at Burlington, Ont.).
39. Report Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches (Church at Smithers, B.C.). See Art. 36.

IV REQUESTS

1. Relief of duties as Teacher (Rev. L. Selles).
2. Abbreviated Form for the Lord's Supper (Mr. M. Hoogerdijk).
3. Revised Standard Version (Rev. D. DeJong).
4. Support ad Article 19 C.O. (Classis Ontario North of September 4th, 1968).
5. Privilege of the floor (Deputies English Calvinistic Psalter).
6. Mandate Board of Governors (Revs F. Kouwenhoven, W. Loopstra, D. VanderBoom).
7. Contact with the Christian Reformed Church (Mr. E. Witten).
8. Expression of opinion on Rules for Church Correspondence (Deputies "Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland").
9. Communication to "De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland" (Mr. K. Blokhuis, Mr. J. Ferkranus, Mr. S. J. Vanderkooy).
10. Calvinistic Psalter (Mr. W. Griffioen).
11. Bible Translations (Mr. H. Stassen).
12. Training for the Ministry (Church at London, Ont.).
13. Training for the Ministry (Church at Edmonton, Alta). See Art. 20.

V MISCELLANEOUS

1. Mandate Deputies ad Article 19 C.O. (Classis Ontario North of December 6th, 1967).
2. Nomination Governors (Particular Synod Western Canada 1968).
3. Declaration re Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Church at Smithers, B.C.).
4. Information re auditing books Synod 1965 (Church at Barrhead, Alta).
5. Declaration concerning Overture Nr 3 (Church at Barrhead, Alta).
6. Contact with the Christian Reformed Church (Church at Burlington, Ont.).
7. Nomination Governors (Regional Synod of Ontario 1968).
8. Support Request Nr 3 (Church at Calgary, Alta).
9. Information re Calvinistic Psalter (Church at Edmonton, Alta).
10. Decisions General Synod 1965 re suspension Rev. C. DeHaan ("Canadian Reformed Church, c/o C. DeHaan").
11. Communication (Messrs John M. Boersema, Ralph F. Boersema, Wietze Huizinga, Cornelis Van Dam).
12. Communication (Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches of "Die Vrye Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika). See Art. 52.

9. **Appointments.**
10. **Question Period ad Art. 43 C.O.**
11. **Publication of Acts.**
12. **Synodical financial matters.**
13. **Preparation of the next General Synod.**
14. **Approval of the Acts.**
15. **Approval of the Press Release.**
16. **Closing.**

ARTICLE 6

The Chairman proposes the following arrangements:

- a. **Mail received after the first postal delivery on Monday November 11th, 1968, will not be dealt with by Synod.**

ADOPTED

(See also Article 21)

- b. **Synod will meet: in morning sessions, 9.00 - 12.00; afternoon sessions, 1.30 - 4.30; evening sessions, 7.00 - 9.30; morning sessions on Saturdays, 9.00 - 12.30. This schedule also applies to the advisory committees. If possible, the evening sessions will be used for plenary sessions to enable churchmembers to be present as visitors.**

ADOPTED

- c. **The Press Release will not be published before Synod closes.**

ADOPTED

- d. **The Church at Orangeville will be informed that it will be highly appreciated if its Financial Committee completes its arrangements.**

ADOPTED

- e. **The advisory committees shall provide each delegate with a copy of their reports.**

ADOPTED

- f. **Even if only the advisory committees meet, the meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer and thanksgiving in a plenary session.**

ADOPTED

- g. **The following advisory committees be appointed:**

Committee I: Mr. J. Kuik, Rev. J. Mulder (convener), Mr. H. Oosterveld, Rev. M. van Beveren.

Committee II: Mr. J. Bareman, Mr. J. Medemblik, Rev. H. Scholten (convener), Rev. W. W. J. VanOene.

Committee III: Rev. H. A. Stel (convener), Mr. S. Tuininga, Mr. J. VanderVeen, Rev. G. VanDooren.

Committee IV: Mr. H. Bouwman, Rev. L. Moes, Rev. L. Selles (convener), Mr. K. Stam.

Committee I is to deal with: Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Time-Limit of reports, Printing of the Acts and Yearbook.

Committee II is to deal with: Implementation of Article 19 C.O., Training for the Ministry, Colloquium Doctum, Revision and Translation of the Church Order, Central Address, Declaration of Agreement Three Forms of Unity.

Committee III is to deal with: Contact with the Christian Reformed Church, Correspondence with Churches abroad, Revised Standard Version, Decision re Address Death Penalty.

Committee IV is to deal with: Forms for Excommunication "Baptized Members", Calvinistic Psalter, Suspension Rev. C. DeHaan, Request re abbreviated Form for the Lord's Supper, Finances of General Synod 1965.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 7

The Assessor, Rev. H. Scholten, extends the cordial congratulations of Synod to Rev. W. W. J. VanOene who recently celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary, and who today commemorates that he has been a minister of the Word for 25 years. He expresses the hope that the Lord may grant him many years in this service.

Rev. VanOene answers in well chosen words.

ARTICLE 8

A communication (V,11) of Messrs John M. Boersema, Ralph F. Boersema, Wietze Huizinga, Cornelis Van Dam, students at Philadelphia, Pa, is gratefully received.

Receipt of this letter will be acknowledged.

ARTICLE 9

The Foundation for Super-annuation of the Canadian Reformed Churches (Communication 7a) informs Synod that it plans to have members' meeting Friday November 8th, 1968, at 2.00 p.m., and requests to arrange that some delegates to Synod can attend the meeting.

Synod decides that at least Friday afternoon no synodical meetings will be held.

ARTICLE 10

On behalf of the League of the Canadian Reformed Young People's Societies in Ontario, the Consistory of the Church at Orangeville, Ont., (Communication 7b) requests Synod to reserve Saturday November 16th for a "General Synod Convention" to be organized by this League.

Synod decides not to meet Saturday morning November 16th.

ARTICLE 11

Synod deals with a communication (7c) dated September 12, 1968, of Rev. A. B. Roukema on behalf of the Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, suggesting to allow Prof. Norman Shephard, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, to visit the sessions of Synod in which the contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church will be discussed; and part of a letter of September 30, 1968, (7d) from Rev. A. B. Roukema concerning the same matter.

After discussion the matter is referred to Committee I for advice. (See Article 23).

ARTICLE 12

Committee I on *Printing of the Acts* presents:

Material:

Overture of Regional Synod of Ontario 1968 (III, 27, sub 2).

Information:

The Regional Synod informs Synod that it decided that the Acts and reports of the Regional Synod be published in the English language on the grounds that an increasing number of our Church members are able to read the English language only, and it is advisable for the future of the Church that these members also can take notice of the synodical decisions. The Regional Synod requests General Synod to make a similar decision.

Recommendation:

Synod decide that the Acts and the Press Release will be published in the English language.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 13

Synod decides that reimbursement for the travelling expenses for General Synod will be 10c per mile.

ARTICLE 14

Elder J. Bareman requests Synod to sing Psalm 119: 1,2, and leads in thanksgiving.

SECOND SESSION – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8TH, 1968

ARTICLE 15

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 93. He reads of God's Word Psalm 93, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 16

Deputies for the Correspondence with Foreign Churches appointed by "de Generale Synode van Amersfoort-West 1967 der Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland" have sent a communication (IV, 8) in which they send their wishes for a blessed and fruitful General Synod.

Synod expresses its appreciation for the good wishes. A request coming with this communication is referred to Committee III for advice.

ARTICLE 17

At the end of the morning session the Chairman announces that at 4.30 p.m. the delegates will be informed whether Synod will meet this evening or not (See Art. 9).

Elder H. Bouwman leads in thanksgiving.

THIRD SESSION – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH, 1968

ARTICLE 18

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 46:1, leads in prayer, and reads Psalm 46.

ARTICLE 19

The Acts of the First and Second Sessions are read and adopted.

ARTICLE 20

A communication from the Church at Edmonton, Alta, re the Training for the Ministry is added to the Agenda (sub IV,13).

ARTICLE 21

It is decided to extend the date mentioned in Article 6a to Tuesday November 12th, 1968, because of Remembrance Day.

ARTICLE 22

Synod decides to contact Mrs. J. T. VanPopta by telephone to inquire after Rev. J. T. VanPopta's illness and to express the heartfelt sympathy of Synod.

ARTICLE 23

Synod reads a letter dated September 12, 1968 (7c) of Rev. A. B. Roukema on behalf of the Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to allow Prof. Norman Shephard, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, to visit the sessions of Synod in which the contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church will be discussed, and a copy (7d) of part of a letter of the Committee on Ecumenicity and Inter-Church Relations of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to the Rev. A. B. Roukema concerning the same matter.

Synod decides to answer Rev. A. B. Roukema that it has no objections to Prof. Norman Shephard's presence at these sessions as a visitor. At this moment Synod can not yet say at what day the matter will be ready for discussion in a plenary session, but at a later date it will inform the Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

ARTICLE 24

The Chairman reports on the telephone conversation mentioned under Art. 22. He was informed that there is a slight improvement in Rev. J. T. VanPopta's condition. Synod receives this information with gratitude.

ARTICLE 25

Elder J. Kuik leads in thanksgiving. Synod adjourns until 9.00 a.m. Monday November 11th.

FOURTH SESSION – MONDAY NOVEMBER 11TH, 1968

ARTICLE 26

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 76:1,3, reads Psalm 76, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 27

The Acts of the Third Session are read and approved.

ARTICLE 28

A communication of the Church at Chatham, Ont., dated November 4, 1968, re the audit of the accounts of General Synod Edmonton 1965 is added to the Agenda (I,14) and referred to Committee IV.

ARTICLE 29

Synod decides, at the request of the consistory of the Church at Chatham, Ont., (III,24) to rescind the decision of the General Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 142, re *Address Death Penalty*.

Ground:

When Synod 1965 decided that on the ground of Art. 30 C.O. it was not allowed to act upon the request of the Rev. G. VanDooren, the burden of proof rested upon Synod.

The Rev. G. VanDooren will be informed of this decision.

ARTICLE 30

Advisory Committee I on *Printing of the Acts* presents the following:

Materials:

a. an overture of the Church at Cloverdale, B.C. (III,7) to decide that data of the Churches not be included in the publication of the Acts, in order that the Acts may be forwarded to the Churches as soon as possible;

b. an overture of the Regional Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches in Ontario 1968 (III,27 sub 8), to have a questionnaire for the Yearbook, which is to be included in the Acts, sent out during Synod and to decide that no data of Churches will be published in the Yearbook which have not been received at a date set by Synod.

Recommendation:

Synod decide

1. not to include a "yearbook" in the publication of the Acts of Synod;
2. to include in this publication a summary of the essential data about the churches: name, address, membership, name of minister;
3. to send to the churches a questionnaire regarding these data, which should be returned before January 15, 1969;
4. not to publish data which have not been received by this date.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 31

Elder J. Medemblik requests Synod to sing Psalm 87:1,2, and closes the session with thanksgiving.

FIFTH SESSION – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH, 1968

ARTICLE 32

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 6:1,2,3, reads Isaiah 38:1-8, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 33

The Acts of the Fourth Session are read and approved.

ARTICLE 34

Part of the Press Release is read and approved.

ARTICLE 35

The afternoon roll call reveals that Rev. D. VanderBoom of Burlington, Ont., is taking the place of Rev. G. VanDooren.

ARTICLE 36

The following incoming mail is added to the Agenda and referred to Committee III:

- a. a communication dated November 10th, 1968, from Mr. P. VanderSchaaf (Willowdale, Ont.) as a Deputy for Correspondence with Foreign Churches (I,12b);
- b. an overture of the Church at Smithers, B.C., dated November 7th, 1968, re one of the reports on Correspondence with Foreign Churches (III,39).

ARTICLE 37

Synod decides that a communication dated October 29th, 1968, from "Canadian Reformed Church, c/o Rev. C. de Haan" (V,10) is admissible on the ground that it is a request for revision of the decisions of Synod Edmonton 1965 in reply to an appeal received from the same group.

ARTICLE 38

The Chairman calls the roll at 7.00 p.m. Rev. G. VanDooren is again present.

ARTICLE 39

The following decisions are made re a communication of Rev. C. de Haan, Winnipeg, Man., dated November 5th, 1968 (II,4):

- a. Synod does not have the right to deal with the substance of the letter of Mr. C. de Haan at Winnipeg, Man., because it is not a request for revision of the decision of Synod Edmonton 1965, but a terrible accusation without any proof, which Synod can only reject with utter indignation.
- b. Mr. C. de Haan shall be informed of this decision.

ARTICLE 40

Regarding overture III,39 of the Church at Smithers, B.C., requesting not to deal with a report re *Correspondence with Foreign Churches* because of its unofficial character and its lateness of arrival, Synod decides to deal with the report referred to in the letter of the Church at Smithers because it has been submitted by one of the Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches and received by Synod before the adoption of the Agenda (I,12). (Art. 66)

ARTICLE 41

Re Overture III,1, Committee I presents the following recommendation:

Synod having taken note of the overture of the Church at Chatham, Ont., "to decide that the reports for Synod of which copies are sent to the churches, should be in on or before February 1 of the year wherein a General Synod is held",

decide that copies of reports which are to be sent to the churches, shall be in nine months before the opening of Synod.

Ground: The consistories should have the opportunity to study these reports and, if they wish to do so, to overture major assemblies.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 42

Regarding the *Finances of Synod Edmonton 1965* Committee IV presents:

Materials:

- a. Report I,8, of the Financial Committee General Synod 1965; (See Supplement I)
- b. Letter of the Church at Barrhead, Alta, (V,4) informing Synod that it requested the Church at Chatham, Ont., to which the treasurer of Synod 1965 moved, to audit the books;
- c. Letter of the Church at Chatham, Ont., (I,14) informing Synod that the books of the treasurer of Synod 1965 were audited and found in good order.

Information:

The receipts of Synod 1965 were \$5,659.70; the expenses \$4,286.91; the expenses of Deputies appointed by Synod \$1,341.04. Cash on hand \$31.75.

The committee was informed that of the \$713.64 advanced to Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church approximately \$260.00 is still in the account of the treasurer of Deputies.

Recommendations:

Synod decide:

1. to express its thanks for the extensive and excellent work of the Financial Committee 1965 in general and of the treasurer in particular;
2. to request the treasurer of the Financial Committee to transfer the balance of \$31.75 to the Financial Committee of this Synod;
3. to discharge Mr. H. Van Spronsen as treasurer of the Financial Committee of Synod 1965, on the basis of the auditors' report of the Church at Chatham;
4. to notify Mr. H. Van Spronsen of this decision;
5. to request Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to transfer the balance of their accounts to the Financial Committee of this Synod.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 43

Rev. L. Moes requests Synod to sing Hymn 15, and leads in thanksgiving.

SIXTH SESSION – WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13TH, 1968

ARTICLE 44

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 66:5,8, reads Psalm 66, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 45

Regarding *Revised Standard Version*, Committee III presents: (See Supplement 2)

1. *Materials:*

- a. Overture of the Consistory of the Church at Burlington, Ont., to appoint a Committee with the mandate to study the desirability of corrections of the Revised Standard Version, and to contact the "Standard Bible Committee", publisher of this translation, in order to bring our wishes to their attention; III,38;
- b. Request of Rev. D. DeJong, Edmonton, Alta, IV,3;
- c. Request of Mr. H. Stassen, Willowdale, Ont., IV,11;
- d. Letter of support for b. from the Church at Calgary, Alta, V,8.

2. *Recommendations:*

- I. That from the several later versions of the Bible the Revised Standard Version be chosen.

Grounds

- a. The Revised Standard Version has the merit of not being a completely new, a "revolutionary" translation, but is meant as a "revision" of the King James Version. It "is not a new translation in the language of today. It is a revision which seeks to preserve all that is best in the English Bible as it has been known and used through the years". (Preface R.S.V.)

- b. It does not have the weakness of a strongly personal translation like others, e.g. Phillips.
- c. Its English will for many years to come remain sufficiently modern to meet the needs expressed in the overture and requests mentioned above.
- d. The editors of the Revised Standard Version are in the process of preparing an improved edition of the Revised Standard Version, which will be published in the near future.

ADOPTED

- II. The Committee therefore advises Synod not to follow the suggestion of Mr. H. Stassen, to give “clear directions as to . . . other available modern translations of the Bible”, and to advise our Churches “to strongly advocate to its members the use of approved, modern language Bible versions”.

Grounds:

- a. The Churches should, if at all possible, use only one translation, in order that it becomes possible for believers to learn part of God’s Word by heart.
- b. It is not in the jurisdiction of this Synod to advise the Churches to give leadership in the evaluation and comparison of different modern translations.

ADOPTED

- III. Synod should not at this time “declare that with a view to the testing of the Revised Standard Version it is desirable that, besides the recommended King James Version also the Revised Standard Version be used in our Churches” (Rev. DeJong’s request, sub 3).

Grounds:

- a. Synod does not have available any grounds to justify such a declaration;
- b. An improved edition of the Revised Standard Version is planned; the Churches should await its publication.

ADOPTED

- IV. That Synod decide to appoint a committee to study the question whether the Revised Standard Version can be recommended for use by the Churches.

The following mandate be given to such a committee:

- 1. to study the Revised Standard Version as to faithfulness to the original text and “Schriftgelovig karakter” (Acts Synod 1954);
- 2. to evaluate the criticism voiced against the Revised Standard Version;
- 3. to contact the Standard Bible Committee which is preparing an improved edition of the Revised Standard Version and who welcomes all worthwhile contributions;
- 4. to solicit any help that it needs from persons who are considered competent in this field;
- 5. to report to the Churches at the proper time so that there is sufficient time to study the results and to make proposals to Synod.

ADOPTED

- V. The Committee finally recommends that:
1. the results of Rev. DeJong's study be passed on to the committee mentioned in recommendation IV;
 2. members of the Churches, especially the ministers, be requested to take part in testing the Revised Standard Version and to submit their remarks in time to the committee appointed (Rev. DeJong's second request);
 3. Rev. D. DeJong and Mr. H. Stassen be informed of the decisions.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 46

Committee IV presents:

Material:

Agenda IV, 2: Request of Mr. M. Hoogerdijk, Taber, Alta, "dat in elke dienst waar het Heilig Avondmaal wordt bediend, het formulier tot het houden van het Heilig Avondmaal wordt voorgelezen en het niet aan de vrijheid der kerken wordt overgelaten".

Recommendation:

Synod decide to inform Mr. M. Hoogerdijk that he was mistaken in his assumption that a proposal for a short Form for the Administration of the Lord's Supper would be on Synod's agenda, and that as far as his request is concerned, Synod is not allowed to comply with it, since the address of such a request is not the General Synod but the Church(es) concerned, Art. 30 C.O.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 47

The Chairman recalls the fact that today it is 350 years ago that the National Synod of Dort 1618 - 1619 began its sessions. We are bound to be grateful to the Lord that it has pleased Him to protect His Church and to bring her back to the truth.

ARTICLE 48

Rev. J. Mulder requests Synod to sing Hymn 31:1,2,3,4, and leads in thanksgiving.

SEVENTH SESSION – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14TH, 1968

ARTICLE 49

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 30:1,2, reads Psalm 30, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 50

Committee IV presents:

Material:

Request II, 1, from Mr. T. VandeBrink and Mr. W. Vogelzang at Barrhead.

A. *Information:*

Blijkens hun schrijven verzoeken de broeders de Synode “de schorsing van ds C.de Haan aan een revisie te onderwerpen” (pag.3, laatste alinea). Als zodanig is hun brief onontvankelijk, omdat dit niet de taak is van deze Synode. Uit de brief blijkt echter dat zij bezwaren inbrengen tegen de besluiten van Edmonton 1965. Daarom stelt de commissie voor:

(Recommendation:)

De Synode besluit de brief van Mr. T. VandeBrink en Mr. W. Vogelzang te aanvaarden als een verzoek om revisie van de besluiten van de Synode van Edmonton 1965 inzake de schorsing van ds C.de Haan.

ADOPTED

B. *Information:*

De broeders voeren aan tegen de besluiten van de Synode van Edmonton 1965:

1. Artikel 53 K.O eist ondertekening van de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid, maar dit artikel zegt niet welke instantie die ondertekening zal vragen, terwijl bovendien naar Art. 30 K.O dat wat afgehandeld is op een mindere vergadering niet op een meerdere zal komen. Ds de Haan heeft bij de aanvaarding van zijn ambt als predikant te Winnipeg de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid ondertekend. Met deze ondertekening heeft ds de Haan ruimschoots voldaan aan wat Art. 53 K.O. vraagt, en daarom kan dit artikel niet worden aangevoerd als een grond voor zijn schorsing.

Considerations:

De Synode overweegt

- a. dat inderdaad Art. 53 K.O. niet zegt ten overstaan van welke instantie de ondertekening der Drie Formulieren zal geschieden, maar dat het noemen van Kerkeraad en Classis in dit artikel impliceert dat het ten overstaan van deze kerkelijke vergaderingen zal worden gedaan;
- b. dat de broeders ten onrechte Art. 30 K.O. in dit verband aanvoeren, omdat de ondertekening ten overstaan van de kerkeraad de trouw aan Schrift en Belijdenis van de predikant in de plaatselijke kerk regardeert, doch de ondertekening ten overstaan van de Classis betrekking heeft op de bewaring van de enigheid des geloofs in het kerkverband.

Recommendation:

Op grond van *Consideration a en b* wijst de Synod het eerste aangevoerde bezwaar van de broeders af.

ADOPTED

C. *Information:*

De broeders voeren aan dat “naar de letter van Art. 53 K.O. geen ondertekening geeist kan worden door de kerkeraad en *bovendien* door de Classis”.

Consideration:

De Synode overweegt dat, aangezien Art. 53 K.O. in verband met schorsing van kerkeraad of Classis spreekt, het gebruik van het woordje “of” in plaats van “en” niet impliceert, dat slechts een enkelvoudige ondertekening mag plaats vinden.

Recommendation:

Op grond van deze overweging wijst de Synode het tweede bezwaar van de broeders af.

ADOPTED

D. *Information:*

De broeders voeren aan, dat het niet ondertekenen van het Dordtse Formulier niet kan worden aangevoerd als een oorzaak voor schorsing naar Art. 53 K.O., omdat Art. 53 onderschrijving van de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid vereist, doch niet vraagt een onderschrijving van het Dordtse ondertekeningsformulier.

Consideration:

De Synode overweegt dat uit het feit dat Art. 53 K.O. geen onderschrijving van een ondertekeningsformulier vereist niet geconcludeerd mag worden, dat voor de onderschrijving van de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid niet van een ondertekeningsformulier mag worden gebruik gemaakt. De Dordtse Synode, die Art. 53 in haar herziene Kerkenordening opnam, heeft zelf zulk een ondertekeningsformulier opgesteld.

Recommendation:

Op grond van deze overweging wijst de Synode ook dit derde bezwaar af.

ADOPTED

E. *Information:*

De broeders voeren aan, dat “voor de schorsing van ds de Haan geen grond is aangegeven welke deze daad duidelijk rechtvaardigt”, omdat ds de Haan aan de letterlijke eis van Art. 53 K.O. heeft voldaan.

Consideration:

De Synode overweegt, dat de broeders hadden moeten aantonen, dat de Synode van Edmonton 1965 ten onrechte het in Art. 183, II,B, aangevoerde heeft gesteld.

Recommendation:

Op grond van deze overweging wijst de Synode ook dit laatste bezwaar af.

ADOPTED

F. *Recommendation:*

De Synode besluit de broeders van deze uitspraken in kennis te stellen.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 51

Committee IV presents:

Material:

Communication of “de Canadian Reformed Church, c/o Rev. C.de Haan,” V,10.

A. *Information:*

Adressanten stellen in hun schrijven dat zij “om wille van het gereformeerd-kerk-zijn-naar-Schrift-Belijdenis-en-kerkorde de schorsing van Ds de Haan blijven verwerpen als onschriftuurlijk, onkerkelijk en daarom onchristelijk” (pag.5, voorlaatste alinea). Adressanten voeren aan:

“De schorsingsgrond wordt door de Synode (Edmonton 1965) als onjuist aangemerkt” (pag. 2) doordat de Synod van Edmonton 1965 uitsprak, dat de kerkeraad ten onrechte in het schorsingsbesluit van het Dordtse Formulier als het formulier toegevoegd in Art. 53 K.O. sprak, daar Art. 53 K.O. geen formulier met name noemt (Acta Art. 153, II,A).

Consideration:

De Synode overweegt dat ds C.de Haan geschorst werd vanwege zijn weigering het formulier toegevoegd in Art. 53 K.O. te ondertekenen en vanwege zijn weigering zich nader te verklaren (Acta Art. 183, pag. 38), en dat de Synode van Edmonton 1965 inderdaad uitsprak, dat de kerkeraad van Winnipeg ten onrechte sprak van het Dordtse Formulier als het Formulier toegevoegd in Art. 53 K.O.

De schorsingsgrond zou met deze uitspraak vervallen zijn als de geldigheid van de schorsingsgrond afhing van de vraag of het Dordtse Formulier al of niet toegevoegd was aan Art. 53 K.O. De geldigheid van de schorsingsgrond hangt echter af van een geheel andere vraag, namelijk of het Dordtse Formulier in overeenstemming is met het in Art. 53 K.O. vereiste. Art. 53 K.O. vraagt de binding van de predikanten aan de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid. Het Dordtse ondertekeningsformulier vraagt blijkens zijn inhoud niet anders.

Recommendation:

Op grond van deze overweging wijst de Synode het eerste bezwaar van adressanten af.

ADOPTED

B. *Information:*

Adressanten voeren aan dat “ds de Haan toch eigenlijk niet geschorst is vanwege het weigeren om de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid te ondertekenen”, als door Art. 53 K.O wordt vereist, “maar vanwege het ‘weigeren’ om bepaalde beloften af te leggen ten overstaan van de zusterkerken” (pag.4, 3de alinea).

Considerations:

De Synode overweegt dat er een strijdigheid tussen het ondertekenen van de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid en het afleggen van de door het Dordtse Ondertekeningsformulier gevraagde beloften zou bestaan indien het afleggen van deze beloften van de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid zou afvoeren of aan deze Formulieren iets wezenlijks nieuws zou toevoegen. Blijkens de inhoud van het Dordtse Ondertekeningsformulier is het omgekeerde het geval. Dit formulier bevat een verklaring van instemming met de Drie Formulieren, een belofte de leer in de Drie Formulieren verrat naarstig voor te staan en de dwalingen die er tegen strijden te weren, de verplichting om in geval van twijfel ten aanzien van enig stuk der leer in de Drie Formulieren verrat, dit niet te verbreiden, maar daarover kerkeraad, classis of synode te laten oordelen, en een belofte om zich bij het geven van redenen daarvoor aan het onderzoek van kerkeraad, classis en synode te onderwerpen, behoudens het recht van appel. Deze vier punten betekenen niet anders dan een binding aan de Drie Formulieren van Enigheid ter bewaring van de enigheid des geloofs.

Recommendation:

Op grond van deze overwegingen wijst de Synode het tweede bezwaar van adressanten af.

ADOPTED

C. *Information:*

Uit het gehele schrijven blijkt dat appellanten er voorts groot bezwaar tegen hebben dat de Synode Edmonton 1965, huns inziens, Art. 53 K.O zo uitlegt “dat de Classis haar eigen recht heeft, naast de kerkeraad, in haar handelen met predikanten” (pag.5, 2de alinea).

Consideration:

De Synode overweegt dat de Synode Edmonton 1965 inderdaad naar Art. 53 K.O. spreekt van de bevoegdheid van de Classis, naast die van de kerkeraad, tot schorsing van predikanten die weigeren de Drie Formulieren te ondertekenen (Acta Art.183, II,B), maar dat zij nergens spreekt van een eigen, dat is een oorspronkelijk recht der Classis. De bevoegdheid der Classis, waarvan maar niet de Synode van Edmonton 1965 doch Art. 53 K.O. spreekt, is niet een oorspronkelijk recht, maar een recht dat in de samenleving der kerken aan de Classis door de bevoegdheid bezittende kerkeraden is verleend ter bewaring van de enigheid des geloofs binnen het kerkverband.

Recommendation:

Op grond van deze overweging wijst de Synode ook dit bezwaar van adressanten af.

ADOPTED

D. *Recommendation:*

De Synode besluit adressanten van deze uitspraken in kennis te stellen.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 52

The Chairman reads a communication (V,12) dated November 6th, 1968, from Deputies of Die Vrye Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika for Correspondence with Foreign Churches, expressing their best wishes to Synod.

Synod receives this letter with gratitude for the interest shown. The letter is referred to Committee III.

ARTICLE 53

Elder K. Stam requests Synod to sing Psalm 149:1, and leads in thanksgiving.

EIGHTH SESSION – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15TH, 1968

ARTICLE 54

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 98:1,4, reads Psalm 98, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 55

Due to serious illness in his congregation, Rev. H. Scholten is not present.

This morning's session is adjourned to give the advisory committees the opportunity to prepare their reports for Synod.

ARTICLE 56

The evening roll call indicates that all the delegates are present.

ARTICLE 57

Regarding *Translation Heidelberg Catechism*, Committee II presents:

Materials:

- a. Report, I, 9, of Deputies;
- b. Overture, III, 31, of the Church at Orangeville, Ont., proposing that Synod adopt the recommendations mentioned in the report of Deputies.

Observations:

1. Deputies have adduced proofs that neither of the translations mentioned is such an improvement over the text presently in use as to warrant adoption.
2. Deputies have given a description of the qualifications required for the examination of various translations as set out in the mandate given by Synod Edmonton 1965.

Considerations:

1. It will be very difficult to find within the churches persons with these required qualifications.
2. Adoption of another translation at this time might be premature in view of work being done by others.

Recommendation:

Synod appoint Deputies with the mandate to be diligent with respect to all aspects of a new translation and publication of the Heidelberg Catechism and to report to the churches in due time.

ARTICLE 58

ADOPTED

Regarding *Declaration of Agreement*, Committee II presents:

Materials:

- a. III, 3, 3b: Overture of the Church at Smithers, B.C., "to decide that the delegates have to declare that they agree with the Three Forms of Unity before they take session".
- b. V, 5: Communication re a. from the Church at Barrhead, Alta.

Considerations:

- A. Re grounds of Synod Homewood 1954:
The Church at Smithers does not relate the ground stated by Synod Homewood 1954 correctly.
- B. Re grounds given by the Church at Smithers:
 1. That "a public statement of agreement with the confession is not a mere formality". That is not a reason why it should be introduced.
 2. That "the General Synod is the broadest assembly where matters pertaining to the confession are dealt with". From this it does not follow that a public statement of agreement with the confession must be introduced in order to ascertain the reliability of the delegates.
 3. The Church at Smithers incorrectly states that a public declaration of agreement with the confession at a General Synod is necessary to provide "a possibility to directly approach a delegate who has given serious reasons of doubt . . . regarding his concurrence with the confession".
 4. To demand such an express agreement by the delegates at General Synod does not constitute an "open declaration" by the Canadian Reformed Churches "over against the outside world".

Recommendation:

Not to act upon the proposal of the Church at Smithers.

Ground: The Church at Smithers has not given conclusive grounds why the decision of the Synod Homewood-Carman 1954, namely that the delegates shall not be demanded to express their agreement with the confession at Synod, should be changed.

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED

ARTICLE 59

The Chairman reminds the brethren of the fact that, in accordance with the decision mentioned under Art. 10, Synod shall resume its meetings on Monday November 18th, at 9.00 a.m.

ARTICLE 60

Elder H. Oosterveld informs Synod that he no longer has the opportunity to attend as a delegate.

He speaks a few words of appreciation for the co-operation, requests Synod to sing Psalm 1:1-4, and leads in thanksgiving.

NINTH SESSION – MONDAY NOVEMBER 18TH, 1968

ARTICLE 61

The Chairman requests Synod the singing of Psalm 145:1,5, reads Psalm 145, and leads in thanksgiving and supplication.

ARTICLE 62

The roll call indicates that the elders H. Bouwman and J. Kuik have not yet arrived. The alternate delegate of elder H. Oosterveld, elder G. DeBoer, is not yet present.

ARTICLE 63

The Acts of the Fifth to the Eighth Session inclusive are read and approved.

ARTICLE 64

Synod decides that the officers will take care of the Press Release. (See Art. 185)

ARTICLE 65

The afternoon roll call reveals that all the delegates are present except the alternate delegate elder G. DeBoer.

It is decided that the alternate delegate elder N. Bronsema, Grand Rapids, Mich. will be a member of Synod until elder G. DeBoer will be able to attend.

ARTICLE 66

Synod deals with the report of advisory Committee III concerning the *Minority Report* (I,12) submitted to Synod by Mr. P. Vanderschaaf as one of the Deputies for *Correspondence with Foreign Churches*.

The discussion will be continued. (Art. 73)

ARTICLE 67

Elder S. Tuininga requests Synod to sing Hymn 15:1,2, and leads in thanksgiving.

TENTH SESSION – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19TH, 1968

ARTICLE 68

Synod sings Psalm 128:1,3. The Chairman reads Psalm 128, and leads in prayer. The roll call indicates that all the delegates are present.

ARTICLE 69

The morning is used for the preparatory work of the advisory committees.

ARTICLE 70

The afternoon roll call reveals that Rev. G. VanDooren is replaced by Rev. D. VanderBoom.

ARTICLE 71

Committee II on the *Training for the Ministry* presents a report (Supplement 5) on the following

Materials:

- a. Report Deputy Governors, I,10. (Supplement 3)
- b. Report Library Theological College, I,11.
- c. Financial Report, I,13. (Supplement 4)
- d. Auditors' Report, I,13a.
- e. Overture of the Church at Hamilton, Ont., III,36 (See also Art. 170)
- f. Overture of the Church at Burlington, Ont., III,37 (See also Art. 171)
- g. Request Rev. L. Selles, IV,1.
- h. Request Revs. F. Kouwenhoven, W. Loopstra, D. VanderBoom, IV,6.
- i. Request of the Church at London, Ont., IV,12 (See also Art. 171).
- j. Request of the Church at Edmonton, Alta, IV,13 (See also Art. 170)
- k. Nomination Governors, V,2.
- l. Nomination Governors, V,7.

The discussion will be continued to-morrow (Art.77, 78).

ARTICLE 72

The evening roll call reveals that elder N. Bronsema is replaced by elder G. DeBoer, Richmond Hill, Ont.

Rev. G. VanDooren is present again.

ARTICLE 73

The discussion on the report of Committee III (Art. 66) is continued. (See Art. 173)

ARTICLE 74

Rev. H. Scholten requests Synod to sing Psalm 111:4,5, and leads in thanksgiving.

ELEVENTH SESSION – WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20TH, 1968

ARTICLE 75

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 71:1,2,3, reads some verses of Psalm 71, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 76

Elder J. Kuik is congratulated by Synod on his birthday in a proper way.

ARTICLE 77

The discussion on the *Training for the Ministry* (Art. 71) is continued. Synod grants the privilege of the floor to the President and Secretary of the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE 78

Synod decides in principle to appoint professors for the Training for the Ministry (See Art. 91, 92).

ARTICLE 79

Committee III on *Correspondence with Foreign Churches* presents (Supplement 6-A) (see also Art. 110)

1. *Materials:*

- a. Report I,12a, signed by Rev. H. Scholten and Mr. C. Ouwersloot;
- b. Report I,12b, signed by Mr. P. VanderSchaaf;
- c. Request IV,8 from Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches of "De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland".

2. Re: a change of Article 70 of the Church Order of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, which article now reads: “De Kerkeraden zullen toezien dat de huwelijksbevestiging voor de Gemeente van Christus, of de huwelijksluiting met approbatie van de Gemeente van Christus, zullen geschieden volgens de respectieve formulieren daarvan zijnde”.

Recommendation:

Synod declare that the change in Article 70 C.O. of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia is no reason why correspondence with these Churches should be discontinued.

Ground: This change does not cause these Churches to deviate from the Reformed Confession in doctrine, liturgy, church government and discipline (Rules for Correspondence, Acts General Synod Hamilton, 1962, Art. 139, sub a).

ADOPTED

3. a. *Recommendation:*

Synod decide not to grant the request of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia to receive as many copies of the Acts of General Synods as there are local Churches.

Ground: The correspondence with Churches abroad is carried out by means of Deputies of General Synods.

ADOPTED

b. *Recommendation:*

Synod decide that the number of Acts of General Synods to be sent to sisterchurches abroad, be equal to the number of Deputies of those Churches plus one copy for their archives.

Ground: To have a good contact with Deputies abroad it is advisable that each of them have a copy of the Acts of General Synods.

ADOPTED

4. Re: the requests contained in Article 188, page 210, sub c and d, of the “Acta van de Generale Synoden van de Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland” 1967.

Recommendation:

Synod decide to remind its Committees that part of the correspondence with Foreign sisterchurches consists in keeping them posted concerning contacts and progress in contacts with other Churches (by sending reports).

Ground: One of the rules for Correspondence is “To render account to each other in case of correspondence with a third party” (Acts General Synod Homewood-Carman 1958, Art. 56, sub 6; Acts General Synod Hamilton 1962, Art. 139, e).

ADOPTED

5. Re: Correspondence of “De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland” with the “Presbyterian Koryo - Pa” in Korea.

Recommendation:

Synod decide to charge Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches to inform “De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland” that the Canadian Reformed Churches regret that they have not been satisfactorily informed about the intention of the Dutch sisterchurches to start correspondence with a Presbyterian Church in

Korea according to the same rules that have been agreed upon between them and us, and to request “De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland” to provide as yet full information about the relationship with this Korean Church.

Ground: This information was agreed upon by acceptance of the rules for correspondence (Acts Homewood-Carman 1958, Art. 56, sub 6; Acts General Synod Hamilton 1962, Art. 139, e).

ADOPTED

6. Re: Rules for Correspondence with Foreign Churches.

Recommendations:

- a. Synod decide not to comply with the request of the sisterchurches in (Australia and) the Netherlands, nor to adopt the overture of the Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches, *i.e.* to replace the existing rule for correspondence sub c, Article 139 Acts General Synod Hamilton 1962 (“To inform each other . . .) by: “het plegen van voorafgaand overleg”.
- b. Synod declare that the Canadian Reformed Churches are fully willing to bind themselves by the promise contained in this “voorafgaand overleg” whenever a change in the Three Forms of Unity is deemed necessary.

Grounds:

- a. The existing rules provide sufficient safeguards for maintaining the unity of faith with churches abroad;
- b. they serve the purpose of correspondence well;
- c. no new arguments have been brought forward which have not already been heard by previous Synods;
- d. the proposed new rule could result in such a complicated inter-relationship as to hamper church life in many cases.

ADOPTED

7. *Recommendation:*

The report of Committee III be published with the Acts. (Supplement 6-A)

ADOPTED

8. *Recommendation:*

Synod remind Deputies for Correspondence with Churches Abroad of the mandate given by Synod Homewood-Carman 1958, Art. 95, sub 9, to inform the Churches from time to time about that which is of interest in their correspondence with the sisterchurches abroad.

Grounds:

- a. In this way the report of these Deputies may be expected to become a living report;
- b. this will promote a living rapport between our Churches and those abroad.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 80

Regarding *Forms for "Excommunication Members by Baptism"* Committee IV presents:

Materials:

- a. Report I,4 of Deputies;
- b. Overture III,8 of the Church at Coaldale, Alta, to adopt Forms mentioned in a.;
- c. Overture III,9 of the Church at Carman, Man., to adopt Forms mentioned in a.

Recommendations:

1. Synod adopt the following forms:
FORMS FOR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MEMBERS WHO,
HAVING NOT YET MADE PROFESSION OF FAITH, ARE LIVING IN
DISOBEDIENCE

A. *Public Admonition*

The consistory, having taken the advice of classis, has the sad duty of informing the congregation, that N, by baptism ingrafted into the Christian Church, in spite of continual earnest admonitions obstinately persists in the sin of . . .

Unless he/she within . . . shows repentance and amendment of life, the consistory will be obliged to exclude this brother/sister from the communion of the Church because of his/her wilful disobedience to the covenant of God.

The congregation is exhorted to admonish this averse member with affection and to pray the LORD for his/her conversion.

B. *Excommunication*

The consistory had the sad duty of informing the congregation that N, by baptism ingrafted into the Christian Church, in spite of continual earnest admonitions, obstinately persisted in the sin of . . . ,and that the consistory would be obliged to exclude this brother/sister from the communion of the Church, unless he/she would show repentance and amendment of life.

The consistory must now inform the congregation that N, in spite of many earnest admonitions, obstinately denies the communion with Christ and His Church, which was signified and sealed unto him/her in Holy Baptism.

Therefore, being obliged to proceed, we ministers and rulers of the Church of God at this place, being assembled in the Name and authority of Jesus Christ, our Lord, declare before you all that for the aforesaid reasons we hereby excommunicate N from the Church of our Lord and that, as long as he/she persists obstinately and impenitently in his/her sins, he/she is excluded from the fellowship of Christ and all His spiritual blessings and benefits which God promises to and bestows upon His Church; and that he/she is therefore to be accounted by you as a gentile and a publican, according to the command of Christ, who says that whatsoever His ministers shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.

Further we exhort you, beloved Christians, to keep no company with him/her to the end that he/she may be ashamed; yet count him/her not for an enemy, but at times admonish him/her as you would a brother/sister.

In the meantime, take heed lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God (Hebr.3:12). "Children, obey your parents in the

Lord, for this is right. Honour thy father and thy mother - which is the first commandment with a promise - that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph.6:1-4).

“Ye younger, submit yourselves to the elder” (I Peter 5:5). “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (I John 2:15-17).

But since it is God who works in us both to will and to work, for His good pleasure, let us call upon His holy Name with confession of our sins:

O righteous God, merciful Father, before thy high majesty we blame ourselves for our sins, and acknowledge that we have justly deserved the sorrow and pain caused us by this excommunication of this our late fellow-member; yea, if Thou shouldst enter into judgment with us, we all deserve to be excluded and banished from thy presence on account of our great transgression. But, o Lord, be gracious unto us for Christ’s sake, forgive us our trespasses, for we heartily repent of them; and work in our hearts an ever increasing measure of sorrow for them, that we, fearing thy judgment which thou bringest upon the stiff-necked, may endeavour to please Thee. Grant that we may avoid all pollution of the world and of those who are excluded from the communion of the Church, in order that we may not make ourselves partakers of their sins, and that he/she who is excommunicated may become ashamed of his/her sins.

And since Thou desirest not the death of the sinner, but that he may repent and live, and since the bosom of thy Church is always open for those who return, kindle Thou, therefore, in our hearts a godly zeal, that we, with good Christian admonitions and example, may seek to bring back this excommunicated person, together with all those who through unbelief and recklessness of life go astray. Add thy blessing to our admonitions, that we thereby may have reason to rejoice again in them for whom we must now mourn, and that thus thy holy Name may be praised, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors;
And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.

ADOPTED

2. Synod, having read the overtures of the Churches at Carman and Coaldale, decide
 - a. to forward reports and decisions regarding these Forms to Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, with the request to bring them before their forthcoming Synod and to recommend adoption of these Forms, in so far as this is possible for them;
 - b. to have these Forms inserted into a new edition of the Book of Praise.

3. Synod thank Deputies for the work done for the Churches.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 81

Rev. H. A. Stel requests Synod to sing Psalm 25:4,5, and leads in thanksgiving.

TWELFTH SESSION – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21ST, 1968

ARTICLE 82

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 86:1,2, reads Psalm 86, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 83

The morning and afternoon are used for the preparatory work of the advisory Committees.

ARTICLE 84

Synod deals with a report of Committee IV concerning *the Book of Praise* (See Art. 87).

ARTICLE 85

Rev. L. Selles requests Synod to sing Psalm 42:1,3,5, and leads in thanksgiving.

THIRTEENTH SESSION – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22ND, 1968

ARTICLE 86

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 18:1,2,3, reads Psalm 18:1-17, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 87

Regarding the *Book of Praise* Committee IV presents:
(See Supplement 9.)

Materials:

- a. I,5, Report of the Deputies for an English Calvinistic Psalter; (Supplement 7)
- b. I,15, Financial Statement; (Supplement 8)
- c. I,16, Auditors' Report from the Church at Brampton, Ont.;
- d. III,2, Overture of the Church at Smithers, B.C.;
- e. III,12, Overture of the Church at Coaldale, Alta;
- f. III,14, Overture of the Church at Toronto, Ont.;
- g. III,19, Overture of the Church at Barrhead, Alta;
- h. III,27(3) Overture of the Regional Synod of Ontario, plus Appendix;
- i. IV,5, Request of Deputies for an English Calvinistic Psalter;
- j. IV,10, Request of Mr. W. Griffioen, Willowdale, Ont.;
- k. V,9, Report of a Committee of the Church at Edmonton, Alta.

Recommendations:

Synod decide

1. to express thanks to Deputies, the Publication Committee, and Mr. J. J. Knegt, Rockwood, Ont., for the work done for the compilation and publication of an English Calvinistic Psalter, and to thank contributors for their share.

ADOPTED

2. to discharge Deputies of their responsibility for the finances of the Book of Praise during the period March 1965 – October 1968, on the basis of the Auditors' report from the Church at Brampton.

ADOPTED

3. to remind Deputies of the instruction given by General Synod Edmonton, 1965, Art. 192,5, and to provide next Synod with a financial statement covering the period 1962 – February 1965.

ADOPTED

4. to thank the Church at Brampton for the auditing of the books of Deputies.

ADOPTED

5. to appoint again six Deputies.

ADOPTED

6. to forward to Deputies the report of the Church at Chatham, (as "Appendix") added to the Overture III,27(3), and the report of the committee of the Church at Edmonton, added to communication V,9.

ADOPTED

7. to give deputies the following mandate:

- a. to consider the reports mentioned, and the criticism brought forward in the overtures and requests;

ADOPTED

- b. to delete from a new edition of the Book of Praise:

1. those rhymed versions which lack the close conformity to the Scripture-text and those which lack the simplicity and clarity of expression required for the songs of the covenant, if revision is not possible;

ADOPTED

2. those hymns which are not thoroughly scriptural in contents;

ADOPTED

3. those tunes which are not considered conducive to the purpose of the singing of the covenant people, namely: "the praise of the Lord".

ADOPTED

- c. to continue the work of previous deputies in such a way that

1. the completion of the Psalm-section of the Book of Praise have first attention of Deputies;

ADOPTED

2. as far as the hymn-section of the Book of Praise is concerned, the decision of Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 192,3d, be remembered, "that Deputies are authorized to include in the Book of Praise, beside the Psalms also hymns that are scriptural, preferably rhymings of parts of Scripture, especially of poetic character, which are considered suitable".

ADOPTED

- d. to give preference to the Genevan tunes as melodies for the rhymed Psalms, with the understanding:

1. that identical tunes for different Psalms be avoided as much as possible;

ADOPTED

2. that those tunes which are hard to sing be replaced by other melodies of "priceless value".

ADOPTED

- e. to continue the contact with "Deputies for a Churchbook in the English language" of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

ADOPTED

- f. to avail themselves of the assistance of a Publication Committee which shall work under the authority of Deputies, and, if necessary, of a paid secretary.

ADOPTED

- g. to conclude reasonable contracts with contributors.

ADOPTED

- h. to submit a financial report to next Synod.

ADOPTED

- i. to request financial assistance, if needed, directly from the Churches.

ADOPTED

- j. to report to the next Synod about their activities, and to forward a copy of their report to the Churches at the proper time.

ADOPTED

- k. to set as target date for the presentation of a complete Book of Praise the year in which the next General Synod will be convened.

ADOPTED

- l. to make sure that the Creeds, the Liturgical Forms, and the Church Order are included in the next edition of the Book of Praise.

ADOPTED

8. to request the Church at Brampton to audit the financial records of Deputies for an English Calvinistic Psalter and to report to next Synod.

ADOPTED

9. to urge the Churches to show their interest in the work of Deputies by presenting them with their constructive criticism.

ADOPTED

10. that the Reports of Deputies and the Committee be published with the Acts. (Supplement 7, 8, 9.)

ADOPTED

Elder J. VanderVeen requests Synod to sing Psalm 62:1,4, and leads in thanksgiving.

Synod adjourns till Saturday morning 9.00 a.m.

FOURTEENTH SESSION – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23RD, 1968

ARTICLE 89

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 25:1,2,3, reads Psalm 25, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 90

The roll call reveals that elder J. Vanderveen is absent. He is replaced by elder N. Bronsema.

ARTICLE 91

Synod decides to adopt the following recommendations of Committee II on the *Training for the Ministry* (compare Art. 71, 78):

- a. to express its appreciation for the work done by the Governors;
- b. to appoint again six Governors and alternate governors;
- c. to authorize the Governors to forward to the Deputies for the Training for the Ministry of foreign sister-churches such decisions as may be requested by those Deputies;
- d. to decide to charge the Governors to continue their investigations into and their efforts towards incorporation of our Theological College;
- e. to make available for the Library an amount of \$2,500.00 per year.

ARTICLE 92

Further discussion on the *Training for the Ministry* results in the following decision:

Synod decides to inform the Governors for the Training for the Ministry about its decision to appoint professors (Article 78), and to request the Governors to meet as soon as possible, and serve Synod with advice concerning:

- a. the number of professors to be appointed, two or three;
- b. whom to appoint as professors;
- c. the disciplines to be taught by these professors;
- d. how the remaining disciplines are to be divided among lecturers;
- e. whom to appoint as lecturers;
- f. where the Theological College is to be located;
- g. the appointment of a Financial Committee of five to serve under the auspices of the Board of Governors and to advise the Board in all non-academic matters pertaining to the establishment and operation of the College.

(See Art. 96-100,117)

ARTICLE 93

Synod adjourns till Monday 9.00 a.m.

Rev. M. van Beveren requests Synod to sing Psalm 25:10, and leads in thanksgiving.

FIFTEENTH SESSION – MONDAY NOVEMBER 25TH, 1968

ARTICLE 94

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 5:1,5,9,10, reads Psalm 5, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 95

The roll call indicates that Rev. G. VanDooren is replaced by Rev. D. VanderBoom.

ARTICLE 96

In order to give the Board of Governors the opportunity to meet (see Art. 92), Synod adjourns till 7.00 p.m.

ARTICLE 97

The evening roll call indicates that all the delegates are present. Rev. D. VanderBoom, Secretary of the Board of Governors, receives the privilege of the floor.

ARTICLE 98

Synod decides to meet in executive session to deal with a confidential report of the Board of Governors (Art. 92, 105, 115).

ARTICLE 99

Executive session.

ARTICLE 100

Synod decides to appoint three professors for the *Training for the Ministry* on the following grounds:

1. to provide the Churches with a scholarly sound training for the Ministry, three professors should be appointed for the three major disciplines, namely: Systematic Theology, Exegesis Old Testament, and Exegesis New Testament.
2. The cost involved does not differ considerably whether two professors are appointed or three.
(Art. 118)

ARTICLE 101

Elder G. DeBoer requests Synod to sing Hymn 14:1,5, and leads in prayer.

SIXTEENTH SESSION – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26TH, 1968

ARTICLE 102

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 119:2,3, reads Psalm 119:1-8, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 103

The roll call indicates that all the delegates are present.

ARTICLE 104

Synod grants the privilege of the floor to Rev. W. Loopstra and Rev. D. VanderBoom, President and Secretary of the Board of Governors, respectively.

ARTICLE 105

Synod decides to meet in executive session, in order to deal with the advisory report of the Board of Governors (Acts Art. 98).

No decisions are made.

ARTICLE 106

The Chairman calls the afternoon roll. Elder H. Bouwman had to be taken to hospital. He is replaced by elder N. Bronsema.

ARTICLE 107

Synod again decides to meet in executive session.

ARTICLE 108

Executive session.

ARTICLE 109

Committee II on *Colloquium Doctum* presents:

I. Materials:

1. Overture of the Church at Cloverdale, B.C., III, 11;
2. Overture of the Church at Barrhead, Alta, III, 16;
3. Overture of the Church at Winnipeg, Man., III, 30.

II. *Observations:*

The material constitutes an appeal against a decision made by the General Synod of Edmonton 1965, Acts Art. 39,B,46.

- a. The appeal is based on the assertion that no request from any of the Churches or assemblies was submitted to Synod for this pronouncement.
- b. It is further asserted that it is in conflict with the adopted rules for correspondence with foreign churches (Synod 1958, Art.56,2; Synod 1962, Art. 139,D).
- c. And finally that General Synod 1965 did not state the reason for a *colloquium doctum*, nor did it set a standard which is to be met.

III. *Re: Observation a.*

1. *Considerations:*

General Synod 1965 had to deal with two requests to establish "general ordinances" with respect to the calling of a minister from outside the Canadian Reformed Churches and from outside the Churches with which correspondence is maintained.

Art. 5 of the Church Order states in connection with the calling of ministers from outside the Canadian Reformed Churches that this shall be done "with due observance . . . of the general ecclesiastical ordinances for the eligibility of those who have served outside the Canadian Reformed Churches". It does not differentiate between Churches with which correspondence is maintained and others.

That Synod 1965 made a distinction between the two categories of ministers here, is in line with the character of correspondence with foreign churches.

2. *Conclusion:*

Synod 1965 acted within its province and within the bonds of the Church Order when making a pronouncement also with respect to the eligibility of ministers from foreign churches with which correspondence is maintained, now that requests to establish general ordinances were on its table.

IV. *Re: Observations b. and c.*

1. *Observations:*

To the rule referred to in the overture of the Church at Cloverdale (General Synod 1958, Art. 56,2) another rule was added by General Synod 1962, which combined the two (see Acts, Art. 139,d). It now reads, "To accept each other's attestations and to admit each other's ministers to conduct Church services, to preach the Word, and to administer the sacraments". The Church at Cloverdale refers to the first point, the Church at Barrhead to the latter.

2. *Considerations:*

While this latter part deals with the admittance of each other's ministers to conduct Church services, it does not state anything regarding the eligibility of a minister from foreign churches for, and their admittance into, the ministry of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

The overture of the Church at Cloverdale points out that Synod 1965 did not state the reason why a minister called from foreign churches with which correspondence is maintained has to submit to a *colloquium doctum* dealing especially with the Reformed doctrine and Church polity, nor set a standard which is to be met. From the questions IIIa and IIIb in this overture it appears that the Consistory is thinking of some sort of an academic examination. It is to be admitted that the word "*doctum*" is misleading in this respect and it would have been better if Synod 1965 had employed the word "*colloquium*" alone, which is an adequate description of the examination introduced by Synod 1965.

With respect to the acceptance of each other's attestations it is to be remarked that the admittance of a minister from foreign churches into the ministry of the Canadian Reformed Churches is entirely different from accepting members of foreign churches into the community of the Church on the basis of an attestation.

The Canadian Reformed Churches do not have, nor have they ever had, any control over the training of ministers in foreign churches or over their admission into the ministry of those churches. Therefore Synod 1965 does not question attestations from foreign churches on the basis of which their members are received into the community of the Canadian Reformed Churches. It merely established a means for the Churches to ascertain prior to admittance of a minister from foreign churches to the ministry of the Canadian Reformed Churches whether he adheres to the reformed doctrine and Church polity.

3. *Conclusion:*

By establishing the rule that ministers from foreign churches with which correspondence is maintained shall have to submit to a *colloquium doctum* prior to admittance into the ministry of the Canadian Reformed Churches as part of the general ordinances mentioned in Art. 5 of the Church Order, Synod 1965 did not come into conflict with the adopted rules for correspondence with foreign churches.

V. *Recommendations:*

- a. Synod decide not to comply with the requests of the Churches at Barrhead, Cloverdale, and Winnipeg to abrogate the decision of General Synod of Edmonton 1965, Art. 14 B.
- b. Synod decide, in order to prevent misunderstanding, to delete the word "*doctum*".

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 110

Committee III on *Correspondence with Foreign Churches* presents (see also Art. 79):

Materials:

- a. Majority Report, I,12a, pp. 5-7;
- b. Communication of Mr. P. VanderSchaaf, I,12b.

Recommendations:

Synod decide

1. that, before guest ministers from sister churches abroad are invited to preach, Deputies for Correspondence with Foreign Churches be asked to provide information whether they are ministers in good standing;
2. that the *colloquium* with a minister called from abroad, be conducted by the classis concerned.

Ground: the rules for Correspondence with Foreign Churches provide desirable and sufficient safeguard for the churches.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 111

Committee II on *Quotum for the Training for the Ministry* presents:

Materials:

- a. Overture of the Church at Burlington, Ont., III, 25;
- b. Overture of the Church at Orangeville, Ont., III, 23.

Concluding consideration:

Since the Training for the Ministry is a matter of the Churches in common, it is beyond doubt that Synod Edmonton 1965 did not lord it over the Churches when it decided to set the contribution for the Training for the Ministry at \$7.00 per confessing member. Though it is regrettable that Synod Edmonton 1965 did not give a reason for this decision, it is clear from the series of decisions taken that larger contributions by the Churches were necessary (Acts General Synod 1965, Art. 199, sub 4).

Recommendation:

Synod do not grant the requests contained in the overtures of the Churches at Burlington and Orangeville.

ADOPTED

Rev. G. VanDooren does not vote according to Article 33 of the Church Order.

ARTICLE 112

Rev. G. VanDooren requests Synod to sing Hymn 19:1,3, and leads in supplication and thanksgiving.

SEVENTEENTH SESSION – WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27TH, 1968

ARTICLE 113

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 90:1,2,16,17, reads Psalm 90, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 114

Rev. W. Loopstra, President of the Board of Governors, receives the privilege of the floor.

ARTICLE 115

Synod decides to meet in executive session to deal with the advisory report of the Board of Governors (Art. 92).

ARTICLE 116

Executive Session.

ARTICLE 117

The Board of Governors presents the following:

- a. The Board of Governors decided to advise Synod preferably to choose the city of Guelph, Ontario, as the location for our Theological College.

Grounds:

- a. It is a city with a steadily expanding University;
- b. Information received shows that there are possibilities for purchasing an adequate estate;
- c. University Library is within reach for daily use for the students.

ADOPTED

- b. Synod decide to appoint a Committee of Administration of five members (see Art. 120, 132, I, II).

ADOPTED

- c. Synod decide to most honourably discharge Mr. H. Leffers, Coaldale, Alta, as Treasurer of the Governors, and to forward to Mr. H. Leffers a letter of appreciation for his work done during several years. (see Art. 132, I, 2a)

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 118

The Chairman announces that for the *Training for the Ministry* Synod has appointed

Professor of Systematic Theology (Dogmatics, Symbology, Apologetics, Modern Theology, Ethics, Philosophy):

Rev. J. T. VanPopta, Cloverdale, B.C.;

Professor of Old Testament (Hebrew, Exegesis, Canon, Hermeneutics, Historia Revelationis, Archeology, Biblical Geography and Historia Sacra):

Rev. Drs. J. Faber, Rotterdam, The Netherlands;

Professor of New Testament (New Testament Greek, Exegesis, Canon, Hermeneutics, Historia Sacra, Historia Revelationis):

Rev. L. Selles, Chatham, Ont.;

Lecturer on Church History, Church Polity:

Rev. H. Scholtten, M. Th., Smithville, Ont.;

Lecturer on Pastoral Theology (Homiletics, Catechetics, Poimenics, Liturgy, Diaconal Subjects and Elenctics):

Rev. G. VanDooren, M. Th., Burlington, Ont.

(See Art. 151, 153, 160)

ARTICLE 119

The Chairman expresses Synod's gratitude that these appointments could be made.

It is a historic moment, marking, as we hope and pray, the start of a full-fledged Theological College. It can not be denied that a considerable burden is laid upon the Churches. If we only explain, the members will definitely rally to the support of this decision. May the Lord restore the appointee the Rev. J. T. VanPopta, who still is seriously ill.

May the Lord establish the work of our hands upon us, Psalm 90.

ARTICLE 120

Synod decides to request the Board of Governors for an advisory report on

- a. Slate of names for a Committee of Administration, and an instruction for this Committee;
- b. Advice on the date of opening the Theological College;
- c. The term to be granted to the appointees in which to consider their appointment;
- d. Information to be forwarded to the appointees concerning discipline to be taught, salary, etc.;
- e. Matters concerning the budget;
- f. A draft for a letter to be forwarded to the members of the Churches concerning the decisions regarding the Training for the Ministry.

(See Art. 130-132)

ARTICLE 121

The Acts of the Ninth to the Eleventh Session inclusive are read and adopted.

ARTICLE 122

Synod deals with a report of Committee III on the *Contact with the Christian Reformed Church*.

The discussion will be continued (Art. 134).

ARTICLE 123

Synod receives a message that Rev. Drs. J. Faber will arrive at Toronto Deo Volente to-morrow night at 18.30.

ARTICLE 124

Elder N. Bronsema requests Synod to sing Psalm 43:3,5, and leads in prayer.

EIGHTEENTH SESSION – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28TH, 1968

ARTICLE 125

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 44:1,3, reads Psalm 44, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 126

The morning is used for meetings of the advisory committees.

ARTICLE 127

The afternoon roll call indicates that all the delegates are present.

ARTICLE 128

Incoming mail from the Church at Smithers, B.C., from some brethren at Smithville, Ont., and from a brother at Kingston, Ont., cannot be dealt with, since these communications have been received after the date set in Article 21.

ARTICLE 129

Rev. W. Loopstra and Rev. D. VanderBoom, President and Secretary of the Board of Governors, respectively, receive the privilege of the floor.

ARTICLE 130

Synod decides to meet in executive session in order to deal with the advisory report of the Board of Governors mentioned in Art. 120.

ARTICLE 131

Executive Session

ARTICLE 132

- I. 1. Synod decides to appoint as members of a committee of Administration (Art. 120) Messrs. A. J. Hordijk, Burlington, Ont., J. Medemblik, Guelph, Ont., A. H. Oosterhoff, Toronto, Ont., A. L. VanderHout, Hamilton, Ont., M. VanGrootheest, Fergus, Ont.
2. The Board of Governors submits the following (Art. 120):
Recommendations:
- a. Synod appoint Mr. C. Lindhout, London, Ont., as treasurer in the place of Mr. H. Leffers, Coaldale, Alta (Art. 117,c).
 - b. Synod adopt as name for this committee:
"Committee of Administration".

ADOPTED

ADOPTED

- II. The Board considered the matter of a temporary mandate for the present situation, and of a general mandate.

Recommendation:

Synod approve of the following instructions for the Committee of Administration:

1. For the time being a general mandate shall be given to the Committee:
 - a. To serve the Board with suggestions and advice on all non-academic matters pertaining to the establishment and the maintenance of the Theological College.
 - b. To execute the decisions of the Board of Governors on these matters.
2. The Committee of Administration shall:
 - a. Choose from their midst a chairman, a clerk, and a bookkeeper.
 - b. Advise the Board of Governors re: purchasing an estate suitable for the Theological College on the following conditions:
 1. Purchase price should be well within the limits of the funds available at present.
 2. The location must be close to a University with appropriate Library facilities.
 3. The location must be chosen in Southern Ontario, preferably in the city of Guelph.

ADOPTED

III. *Recommendation:*

Synod set the opening date of the Theological College on the second Wednesday in September, *i.e.* September 10th, 1969.

ADOPTED

IV. *Recommendation:*

Synod set as ultimate date of decision for the appointed Staff members Wednesday December 18th, 1968, being three weeks after their appointment.

As to Rev. Drs. J. Faber, Synod set a date after he has met with Synod and the Board of Governors (see Art. 161).

ADOPTED

V. *Recommendation:*

- a. Synod decide on the date when contributions should commence, and accept the proposal of the Board of Governors:
January 1st, 1969.
- b. The Committee of Administration shall inform the Churches about this decision.

ADOPTED

VI. Recommendation:

Synod adopt the following Budget:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Remuneration Professors (3) | \$21,000.00 |
| Dwelling Professors | 4,500.00 |
| Superannuation Fund | 1,950.00 |
| Lecturers | 2,400.00 |
| Travel Expenses Lecturers | 800.00 |
| Buildings | 4,000.00 |
| Library | 2,500.00 |
| Caretaker | 2,000.00 |
| Expenses meetings Governors | 1,000.00 |
| Administration | 1,000.00 |
| Sundries | 850.00 |
| Total amount | \$42,000.00 |

This means a contribution of approximately \$14.00 per confessing member per year.

ADOPTED

VII. Recommendations:

1. Synod ask the Governors to inform the Churches which are served by the appointed Staff members about the appointments.
2. Synod give the Board of Governors the right to instruct the Committee of Administration to keep a certain amount of money in a reserve fund.

ADOPTED

- VIII. a.** The Board of Governors informs Synod that the mandate to inform the appointed Staff members concerning disciplines, salary, etc. (Art.120,d) has been fulfilled. The following information has been conveyed to
- Professors:* Salary: \$7,000.00 per year to be paid monthly. Dwelling will be provided, or \$1,500.00 will be allowed. Retirement provisions will be taken care of.

Lecturers: Salary: \$1,200.00 per year to be paid monthly. Travel expenses: 8c per mile.

- b.** The Board of Governors recommends:
1. Synod decide to grant each of the professors and lecturers the privilege of buying books, after consultation with the Librarian, to an amount of \$500.00 per year under condition that these books shall remain the property of the College.

ADOPTED

2. Synod adopt the following:
The professors and lecturers are expected to enter upon their office by April the 1st, 1969.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 133

The Acts of the Twelfth to the Fifteenth Session inclusive are read and adopted, Art. 99 (Executive Session) excepted.

ARTICLE 134

Committee III on *Contact with the Christian Reformed Church presents: (See Supplement 10)*

Materials:

- a. Report of Deputies for Contact with the Christian Reformed Church, I,3;
- b. Supplement to this report, I,3b;
- c. Letter from the Church at Burlington, Ont., V,6;
- d. Overture from the Church at Winnipeg, Man., III,22;
- e. Overture from the Church at Edmonton, Alta, III,6;
- f. Overture from the Church at Brampton, Ont., III,33;
- g. Overture from the Regional Synod Ontario 1968, III,27,sub 1;
- h. Request from Mr. E. Witten, Burlington, Ont., IV, 7.

Recommendations:

- I. (Re: Report of Deputies ad III, pp.5-7, on the Three Forms of Unity)
Synod take note of the fact that, though there is a slight difference in the edition of the text of Art. 36 of the Belgic Confession, the Christian Reformed Church and the Canadian Reformed Churches have adopted the same Three Forms of Unity, and that this difference in edition is not an obstacle for the unity between both Churches.

ADOPTED

- II. (Re: Report of Deputies ad IV, pp.7-19, on the Conclusions of Utrecht 1905/1908)
Synod take note of the fact that the mandate of Synod Edmonton 1965 as to The Conclusions of Utrecht (1905/1908) and an official interpretation of them (Christian Reformed Synod 1962), has been completed and resulted in the removal of this obstacle for unity by the Christian Reformed Church.

ADOPTED

- III. (Re: Report of Deputies ad V, pp.20-23 on the Three Points of Kalamazoo 1924)
Synod take note of the fact that Deputies appointed by Synod Edmonton 1965 have completed their mandate as to the deliverances on Common Grace '1924', with the result that the obstacle of the binding to these statements has also been removed.

ADOPTED

- IV. (Re: Report of Deputies ad VI, pp.23-26 on the Church Order)
Synod declare that the new Church Order of the Christian Reformed Church as adopted by Synod 1966 is not an insurmountable obstacle for further and closer contact, and eventual unity of both Churches.

ADOPTED

- V. (Re: Report of Deputies ad VII, pp.26-32, on Correspondence with Churches abroad)
Synod answer the question whether we feel that before we could be united with the Christian Reformed Church, the latter's relationship with the (synodical) "Gereformeerde Kerken" should be broken, in the affirmative.

VI. Synod decide to appoint new Deputies for Contact with the Christian Reformed Church.

Grounds:

1. The endeavours of previous Deputies have brought about some positive results with regard to "1908" and "1924".
2. The report of these Deputies rightly states that the mandate of Synod Edmonton 1965 has not yet been completed.
3. That part of the mandate which has not yet been completed has now become the most important item of that mandate, especially in the light of recent developments in the Christian Reformed Church.

ADOPTED

VII. Synod express its gratitude for the work done by the Deputies appointed by Synod Edmonton 1965, and for the detailed report on their work.

ADOPTED

VIII. Synod adopt the following:

Mandate for Deputies to be appointed by Synod 1968 to continue the contact with the Christian Reformed Church.

1. Deputies shall re-open the contact with the Contact Committee of the Christian Reformed Church and inform them of the decisions of this Synod, submitting to them the advisory report that led to these decisions.

ADOPTED

2. Deputies shall point out that the contact on the part of the Canadian Reformed Churches started with the "Appeal 1962", in which the reasons for our separate existence were given and the Christian Reformed Church was earnestly warned not to proceed with the course of recognizing the Synodical "Gereformeerde Kerken" as faithful Reformed Churches.

ADOPTED

3. They shall then inform the Contact Committee that the Canadian Reformed Churches can continue the contact only when this matter of correspondence (with related matters) is put in the centre of the deliberations. They shall, therefore, insist that a clear answer be given by the Christian Reformed Church to the three questions formulated by the previous Deputies (see their report, p.13); even more so because the Contact Committee has never brought these questions before their Synod nor answered them themselves.

ADOPTED

4. Deputies shall then wait till the next Synod of the Christian Reformed Church has expressed its willingness to enter into the discussion on this main obstacle. If the contrary should happen, Deputies shall discontinue the contact with the Contact Committee. Deputies shall then send an urgent, Christian appeal to the Christian Reformed community in the same vein as (the first part of) the "Appeal 1962".

ADOPTED

5. If, however, our urgent request is heeded, Deputies shall be diligent in discussing all matters that are found to be related to this main obstacle to the establishment of unity between the two Churches. Due attention shall be given to “the principles of Church correspondence adopted in 1944” (Acts Christian Reformed Church, 1947, Art. 96, sub d), and their implementation, the Reformed Creeds being the Standards for such a discussion.

ADOPTED

6. Deputies shall keep the Churches informed of the reactions received and the progress and results.

ADOPTED

7. Deputies shall scan the Acts of Christian Reformed Synods on any official changes in the Christian Reformed Church.

ADOPTED

8. Deputies shall prepare a report of all their actions, together with recommendations, for the next Synod. Copies of this report shall be forwarded to the Churches.

ADOPTED

- IX. Synod decide that the *Observations* of Committee III be published with the Acts. (Supplement 10.)

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 135

The Chairman welcomes the Rev. Drs. J. Faber who has arrived from The Netherlands to discuss his appointment as professor for Old Testament. Rev. Faber expresses his thanks for the confidence placed in him.

A meeting with Rev. J. Faber in executive session is scheduled for to-morrow.

ARTICLE 136

Synod is informed that the condition of Rev. J. T. VanPopta, appointed Professor for Systematic Theology, is deteriorating.

Synod receives this information with sorrow.

ARTICLE 137

Rev. L. Moes requests Synod to sing Psalm 139:1,2,13, and leads in thanksgiving and supplication.

NINETEENTH SESSION – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29TH, 1968

ARTICLE 138

The Chairman requests Synod the singing of Psalm 77:1,2,3, reads Psalm 77, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 139

The roll call indicates that all the delegates are present.

ARTICLE 140

Synod meets with Rev. Drs. J. Faber in executive session.

It is decided to refer the matter of the *ecclesiastical position of the professors* to Committee III (See Art. 163).

No further decisions are made at this time.

ARTICLE 141

Committee II on a *Central Address of the Canadian Reformed Churches* presents:

Materials:

- a. Report of Deputies, I,7;
- b. Overture of the Church at Barrhead, Alta, III,15;
- c. Overture of the Church at Edmonton, Alta, III,21;
- d. Overture of the Church at Smithers, B.C., III,26;

Recommendations:

1. Synod decide not to establish a central address.
Grounds: Neither the necessity nor the desirability for such an address has been conclusively proven. Moreover, a central address tends to promote the concept of a "Church Headquarters".
2. Synod decide to have the addresses of the various deputies (committees) printed with the Acts, and the address of the convening Church for the next General Synod.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 142

Synod deals with a report of Committee II on *Translation and Revision Church Order*.

The discussion will be continued. (Art. 179)

ARTICLE 143

In the evening session Synod deals with a report of Committee I on *Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church*.

The discussion will be continued Saturday morning.

ARTICLE 144

Rev. L. Selles requests Synod to sing Psalm 89:1,6, and leads in thanksgiving.

TWENTIETH SESSION – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, 1968

ARTICLE 145

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 141:1-4, reads Psalm 141. and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 146

The roll call indicates that all the members are present.

ARTICLE 147

Synod deals further with the report of Committee I on the *Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church*.

The recommendations are referred to Committee I for reconsideration (Art. 154).

ARTICLE 148

Rev. H. Scholten requests Synod to sing Psalm 118:9, and leads in prayer.

TWENTY–FIRST SESSION – MONDAY DECEMBER 2ND, 1968

ARTICLE 149

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 103:5,6,7, reads I Cor.15:12-29, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 150

The roll call indicates that all the members are present.

ARTICLE 151

The Chairman addresses Synod as follows:

Brethren,

Yesterday morning we received word that it pleased the LORD to take away brother Jules Taco Van Popta. And although we had been prepared for this moment, yet something in us changed when the expected tidings finally were received.

It would not attest to our gratitude for what the Lord had given in this brother if we kept silent. And in His servant we wish to praise this servant's Lord and Master.

The Lord had given him a loving heart, and a keen mind. He was a kind pastor, full of compassion. He was a faithful shepherd and a trusted friend. He was a man who would never talk friendly when facing a person, and stick out his tongue behind his back. He was conscientious, sometimes to such a point that we, his friends, could not understand it. He would never try to make someone look ridiculous, but possessed the desirable gift of being able to laugh at himself and to tell stories in which he himself was the victim. He joined wholeheartedly and good-naturedly in the general hilarity at his own expense. To know him meant to trust him and to love him. I cannot characterize or describe him any better than with a word of the Saviour: "an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile".

During this Synod we heard the expression "The Men of the first Hour". That title applies to him first of all. He was the first minister to come to Canada and the various Churches in Alberta, British Columbia, and Manitoba will recall with gratitude the work which he did, especially during the first years. Hardly had he arrived in Edmonton, when it appeared necessary to visit "those in the dispersion". He traveled, hundreds and hundreds of miles, sometimes spending two or three days in a row aboard a train, taking with him sandwiches and books. Thus he traveled from Church to Church, visiting, preaching, attending Consistory meetings and Congregational meetings, speaking about various subjects, and edifying the Church of Christ. Here he loved since he loved the Lord of the Church. Everything he rejected which he believed to be detrimental to the edification and future of the Church.

He was a scholar and had taken up again his studies of philosophy. The courses which he followed during a year he passed with an A. No one who has known him, will be surprised at that. How happy he was when his move to Cloverdale provided him with the opportunity to take up the study of philosophy. And how did the young people benefit from this study when he started to analyze the spirit that is behind the various movements and theories which vie for the sympathy of the masses and especially of the younger generation.

Now his work on earth has come to an end. He has not been allowed to take up the work to which he had been appointed: the work at our own College. He has not even known that he was appointed. If he had known he would not have hesitated, though feeling inadequate for the task. The matter of the Training for the Ministry was a cause which had the love of his heart, which he deemed necessary and wished to promote, for which he undoubtedly would have given whatever he had and was able to do. But the Lord did not deem it necessary that he knew of his appointment, that he decided about it, and that he did any work for it. We shall have to continue without him, knowing and trusting that is the Lord God who bids us to continue and Who will take care of His Church.

Thus we shall continue. Without Jules Taco Van Popta, but following after our King and Saviour Jesus Christ. His mercy we implore; His help we ask for the family Van Popta, for the Church at Cloverdale, for all the Churches.

And we wait for the day when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible.

ARTICLE 152

The Acts of the Sixteenth to the Twentieth Session inclusive are read and adopted, the Articles 108, 116, 131 (Executive Session) excepted.

ARTICLE 153

Synod, having received the sorrowful tidings that the Rev. J. T. VanPopta has passed away, decides to request the Board of Governors to meet as soon as possible to reconsider the matter of appointment of a professor of Systematic Theology in his place (Art. 158).

ARTICLE 154

Committee I on *Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church* presents:

Materials:

- a. Report Deputies for Contact with Representatives of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, I,1;
- b. Overture of the Church at Edmonton, Alta, III,5;
- c. Overture of the Church at Fergus-Guelph, Ont., III,13;
- d. Letter of the Church at Barrhead, Alta, III,18 (support for b.);
- e. Overture of the Church at Winnipeg, Man., III,29;
- f. Letter of the Church at Brampton, Ont., III,34 (support for c.);
- g. Overture of the Church at Hamilton, Ont., III,35;
- h. Letter of the Church at Smithers, B.C., V,3.

Considerations:

1. From the report of Deputies Synod may conclude that Deputies have fulfilled the 3rd and 4th part of their mandate, namely to explain to the Representatives of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church what the concept of church correspondence is in the Canadian Reformed Churches, and to familiarize themselves with the views of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in this respect. Deputies discussed the existing correspondence maintained by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church with other churches, as well as the membership of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod. Important differences came to light with respect to these matters. Our Deputies did not define or evaluate these differences, but confined themselves to a review of opinions.
2. The second part of their mandate (C,2) "to compare these differences with the Word of God", has not received full attention of Deputies. They inform Synod of the opinion and answers of the Representatives of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, but do not report on their own testing and examination of the received answers and the existing divergencies.
3. Deputies summarize in six points differences which exist between the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Canadian Reformed Churches, but do not indicate to what extent the differences might affect the possibility of correspondence with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
4. Deputies do not pay attention to the far reaching statements concerning church discipline in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, which statements are quoted in the overture of the Church of Fergus-Guelph from the report of February 1965 to the Regional Synod of Ontario, which report was sent to General Synod Edmonton 1965. Deputies should have made it clear whether these statements were justified or not.
5. Deputies rightly state "that considerable differences exist between the two churches in the implementation of the kingship of the Lord Jesus over His church".

6. Deputies state, "These and other points showed that considerable differences exist" (see 5), but they do not mention what these "other points" are.
7. The consistory of the Church at Winnipeg "also learned from the report of our Deputies that the Orthodox Presbyterian Church does not gather the believers in the unity of faith as defined in our confession (catechism L.D.21), but that 'common believers who want to join the Church . . . are admitted to the Church on their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and that no complete knowledge of the entire confession nor agreement with each section of it is demanded' (Report, page 5)".
The consistory, without argumentation, places two statements in contra-position, the first one being an expression of opinion of the consistory, the second a statement of the Representatives of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. This places Synod on the horns of a dilemma which can not be accepted.
The consistory should have proved that not demanding "complete knowledge of the entire confession nor agreement with each section of it", necessarily means "that the Orthodox Presbyterian Church does not gather the believers in the unity of faith as defined in our confession", which the consistory fails to do.
8. This does not mean, however, that the statement of the Representatives of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church mentioned under 7, does not raise serious questions about the correctness of the distinction made between office-bearers and "common" believers, its impact upon the maintenance of discipline, and the function of the creeds in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
9. The Church at Edmonton rightly overtures Synod to instruct Deputies to ask for more clarification on certain divergencies in the Larger Catechism.
10. The overture of the Church at Edmonton to instruct Deputies "to further discuss the matter of church-government, especially in order to serve the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, if possible and desired, with advice in their revision of the Form of Government", is not without reason. It is, however, neither our task, nor that of Deputies, nor the purpose of seeking contact, to counsel the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
11. The information Synod received on the differences between the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Canadian Reformed Churches is not of such a nature as to instruct new Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to come with joint proposals concerning the divergencies (as requested by the Church at Hamilton, 1st part of the Overture).

12. **Re: Rules for Correspondence with Foreign Churches:**
 - a. “The existing rules provide sufficient safeguards for maintaining the unity of faith with Churches abroad”, and “they serve the purpose of correspondence well”. (Acts Art. 79,6, of this Synod).
 - b. No grounds have been adduced for the overture of the Church at Edmonton, that “as far as correspondence with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church is concerned” the first and fifth rule for Correspondence with Foreign Churches be changed.
 - c. No grounds have been adduced for the overture of the Church at Hamilton (second part) that Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church be instructed to come to joint proposals concerning the rules for correspondence.
13. Deputies fail to elaborate on the difference between and the implications of “fraternal relations” and “full correspondence” maintained by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church with divers churches.
14. No grounds have been adduced by the Church at Edmonton for its overture “to establish ‘fraternal relations’ in the sense as this is customary in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church”.
15. Information and quotations gathered by Deputies from the Minutes of the latest General Assemblies of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, especially on interchurch relationship and ecumenicity, as well as evaluation of these data, could have served Synod in its deliberations.
16. The following statement in “Report of the Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations”, sub VII, “Conversations with the Deputies of the Canadian Reformed Churches”, p.98 of the Minutes of the Thirty-fifth General Assembly (1968), remains unexplained:
“Discussion centered on the correspondence of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church with the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands. It appeared as if the fact that the Orthodox Presbyterian Church was expressing itself against recent decisions of those churches would help considerably with the Canadian Reformed Churches, and might even allow them to entertain correspondence with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church even though the Orthodox Presbyterian Church was in correspondence with the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands.”
17. Seeing the deviations from the Truth in the (synodical) Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, it is necessary that Deputies-to-be appointed make it clear that the relationship of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church with the (synodical) Reformed Churches in the Netherlands forms an insurmountable obstacle to closer relations of the Canadian Reformed Churches with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

18. The statement of Deputies, page 3, “the Orthodox Presbyterian Church could very well decide to discontinue the correspondence” with the (synodical) Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, leaves room for further discussions with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and for more clarification of, and elucidation on the stand of the Canadian Reformed Churches in ecumenicity.
19. The Church at Winnipeg has not proved “that there is no need for further discussion between Deputies from our side and representatives from the side of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church”.
Consideration 18 suggests a reason why such discussions might be fruitful.
20. The statement of the Church at Winnipeg that “the Representatives have no authority to answer without reference to the General Assembly”, has not been proved, and therefore can not serve as a ground on which contact by means of Deputies should be discontinued.

Recommendations:

Synod decide

- A. to thank Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for the work done, and to discharge them;

ADOPTED

- B. gratefully to acknowledge the fact that the Orthodox Presbyterian Church can accept the Canadian Reformed Churches as true churches on the basis of their doctrinal standards and church government (Report Deputies, page 2);

ADOPTED

- C. to express its gratitude that it is evident that in many respects the good fight of the faith is being fought in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church;

ADOPTED

- D. to appoint four Deputies for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and one alternate deputy;

ADOPTED

- E. to instruct these Deputies as follows:

1. to examine the divergencies in confession, church polity and principles of church correspondence which exist between the Canadian Reformed Churches and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

ADOPTED

2. To compare these divergencies with the Word of God, to evaluate them as to the question whether they are of such a nature that they would prevent the Canadian Reformed Churches from recognizing the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as a true church of the Lord Jesus Christ and from entering into correspondence with this church.

ADOPTED

3. To investigate how the Creeds, the Form of Government and the Book of Discipline function in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and whether they are actually maintained.

ADOPTED

4. To explain to the Representatives of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church why it is impossible for the Canadian Reformed Churches to have a sister-relationship with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as long as they maintain the sister-relationship with the (synodical) "Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland", because of the deviations in these Netherlands Churches in, e.g., doctrine, church polity, and interchurch relationship.

ADOPTED

5. To keep the Churches informed about the result of their investigations, the matters dealt with in their contact, and the developments in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, to forward a report with recommendations to the next General Synod and copies of this report to the Churches.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 155

Committee II on *the Implementation of Article 19 C.O.* presents:
(See also Art. 172)

I. Re *Appointment of Deputies*

Materials:

- a. Report of Deputies, I,2 sub 7; (Supplement 11-A)
- b. Overture of the Church at Coaldale, Alta, III,4;
- c. Overture of the Regional Synod Ontario 1968, III, 27 sub 5.

Observations:

1. Deputies come to the conclusion that, in order to work effectively, they should live close together.
2. Deputies recommend that therefore a Church be appointed instead of deputies, since this is the most effective solution and the least expensive one.
3. The Regional Synod of Ontario and the Church at Coaldale, Alta, for the same reason advise Synod to appoint as deputies brethren who live close together.

Considerations:

1. The reasons given for having deputies who live close together are valid.
2. Although the appointment of a church would be the least expensive course, it may not be desirable to entrust this matter to one body.

Recommendation:

In order to facilitate the work of Deputies, Synod appoint brethren who live close to each other.

ADOPTED

II. Re *Financial Statement*

Materials: Report of Deputies, I, 2 and 2b (See Supplement 11-A, 11-B).

Observations:

Deputies point out that by May 1968 there were still four Churches which did not send the one collection for 1967. On October 15, 1968, there were still nine Churches which did not yet pay anything in 1968. The result was that payments to the brother involved had to be delayed.

Recommendation:

Synod take note of this communication and the information contained in it.

III. *Re Contribution by the Churches*

Material:

Request of the Church at London, Ont., IV, 12, "dat de kerken wordt verzocht alleen collecten ad Art. 19 K.O. te houden voor het General Fund".

Recommendation:

Synod act not upon the request of the Church at London, Ont.

Ground: It is not in the jurisdiction of General Synod to advise the Churches what collections should or should not be held (Art. 30 C.O.).

ADOPTED

IV. *Re Implementation of Article 19 C.O. by Deputies*

Materials:

- a. Report of Deputies, I,2 (See Supplement 11-A);
- b. Appeal of Mr. R. F. Boersema, Chestnut Hill, Pa, II,2;
- c. Overture of Regional Synod Ontario 1968, III,27 sub 7;
- d. Communication Classis Ontario North of December 6, 1967, V,1;
- e. Request Classis Ontario North of September 4, 1968, IV,4.

Observations:

1. Deputies decided not to support students of theology who did not study at our own Seminary.
2. Classis Ontario North of December 6, 1967, was of the opinion that Deputies have read certain restrictions into their mandate which General Synod 1965 did not explicitly insert.
3. Mr. R. F. Boersema appeals this decision of Deputies by stating that "it does not appear from the Acts that Synod ever considered the problem which students they would support".

Considerations:

1. General Synod 1965 considered that the manner in which the training for the Ministry is organized at present causes special difficulties in determining the costs, because the students have to travel from one place to another.
2. General Synod 1965 decided to set up a general fund for needy students until the time that our own training institute has been established at a certain place.

Conclusions:

1. From the consideration and decision of General Synod 1965 it appears that only students are meant to be supported from this fund who study at our own training institute.
2. Deputies ad Article 19 C.O. therefore did not go against their mandate when refusing to support those students who did not study at our own training institute.

Recommendation:

Synod inform Mr. R. F. Boersema that on the basis of the observations, considerations, and conclusions, mentioned above, Deputies ad Article 19 C.O. acted in accordance with their mandate when refusing support to those students who do not study at our training institute.

ADOPTED

V. *Re Appeal of Mr. R. F. Boersema, Chestnut Hill, Pa, (II,3)*

Observation:

This brother states that he appeals a decision of Classis Ontario South of September 11, 1968, since the Regional Synod of Ontario 1968 was not able to come to a decision.

Consideration:

General Synod is allowed to deal only with appeals against decisions of a Regional Synod.

Recommendation:

Synod inform Mr. R. F. Boersema that it is not allowed to deal with his appeal.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 156

Synod decides to send a telegram of condolence to Mrs. J. T. VanPopta, Cloverdale, B.C.

ARTICLE 157

The President and Secretary of the Board of Governors, Rev. W. Loopstra and Rev. D. VanderBoom, respectively, receive the privilege of the floor.

ARTICLE 158

Synod decides to meet in executive session to deal with an advisory report of the Board of Governors (Art. 153).

ARTICLE 159

The Chairman informs Rev. Drs. J. Faber of the decisions made in the executive session, and extends Synod's congratulations.

ARTICLE 160

In open session the Chairman announces the decisions made in the executive session, as follows:

1. The Board of Governors advises Synod to rescind its decision of November 27 (Art. 118) re the appointment of Rev. Drs. J. Faber as Professor of the Old Testament disciplines.
2. The Board of Governors advises Synod to fill the vacancy in Systematic Theology by appointing the Rev. Drs. J. Faber, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in the place of the late Rev. J. T. VanPopta.

ADOPTED

ADOPTED

3. If Synod decides in accordance with these advices, the Board of Governors recommends Synod to appoint the Rev. F. Kouwenhoven, M.Th., Willowdale, Ont., as Professor of the Old Testament disciplines.

ADOPTED

4. After consultation with the appointed Staff, the Board of Governors advises Synod to appoint the Staff members for a period of three years.

ADOPTED

5. The details in connection with the term of office will be decided upon by the Board of Governors, after consultation with the Staff of the College.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 161

Synod decides that the ultimate date of decision set for the appointed Staff members applies also to Rev. J. Faber (compare Art. 132,IV).

ARTICLE 162

The Board of Governors requests the permission of Synod to take time off to visit, together with the Staff, the location mentioned by the Committee of Administration. This will take place from 12.00 - 2.00 p.m. Tuesday December 3rd.

GRANTED

ARTICLE 163

In accordance with Art. 140 Committee III on *Ecclesiastical Position of the Professors of Theology* presents:

Observations:

1. Although there has been submitted to this Synod an overture to delete the Art. 2 and 18 of the Church Order, which speak of the "office of the Doctors or Professors of Theology", these articles still stand. They do, however, not speak of the ecclesiastical position of a minister who is appointed as professor of the Theological College.

2. The Articles 12,13,14 of the Church Order have been considered:
 - a. Art. 12 speaks of ministers who “enter upon an other vocation”, and therefore lose their honour and title as minister.
 - b. Art. 13 speaks of ministers who, by reason of “age, sickness or otherwise are rendered incapable” and therefore have to retire. They “retain the honour and title of a minister”.
 - c. Art. 14 speaks of ministers who are “compelled to discontinue their service for a time”, remaining, however, “at all times” “subject to the call of the Congregation”.
3. Conclusion from sub 2 is that these Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Church Order do not speak about the ecclesiastical position of professors of Theology.
4. Art. 6 of the Church Order states that those ministers who “serve in any private manor, institutions of mercy or otherwise” will not have this liberty
 - a. “unless he be previously admitted in accordance with the preceding articles”, *i.e.*, if he is called and ordained by a local church;
 - b. “he shall, no less than others, be subject to the Church Order”, which means among other things: subject to the discipline as described in the Church Order.
5. Synod Leeuwarden 1920 in the Netherlands decided that “de Classen . . . zullen zich houden aan de regel dat zulk een voorrecht (*i.e.* retaining the honour and title of a minister) alleen behoort geschonken te worden aan zulke dienaren die geroepen worden tot een andere dienst ten bate der kerken in het gemeen”.

Recommendations:

1. Synod decide that in the case of a minister of a Canadian Reformed Church, appointed as professor, the rule be applied that he retain the honour and title of a minister and remain subject to the Church Order (Art. 6 C.O.).
ADOPTED
2. In order to apply this same rule in the case of a minister of one of the sisterchurches abroad, Synod decide that the Church where the College is located be requested to call this minister and to ordain him with appropriate stipulations, admonitions, and prayers (Art. 4 C.O.).
ADOPTED
3. Committee III furthermore suggests that Drs. J. Faber be provided with:
 - a. an official letter of appointment as Professor of Theology before his return to the Netherlands;
 - b. a letter with information about the rule, recommended in this report;
 - c. a letter containing the stipulations (salary etc.), and the exact date on which the Canadian Reformed Churches will accept the responsibility for the Rev. Faber’s financial support.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 164

The Rev. H. A. Stel requests Synod to sing Psalm 4:2,3, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 165

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 46:1, reads Psalm 46, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 166

The roll call indicates that Mr. J. Bareman had to leave. A word of farewell which he left with the Chairman is read.

ARTICLE 167

The Acts of the Twenty-First Session are read and adopted.

ARTICLE 168

The Chairman welcomes the Rev. F. Kouwenhoven, M.Th., and expresses the hope of Synod that he accept his appointment as Professor for the Old Testament disciplines. Rev. Kouwenhoven thanks Synod for the trust placed in him.

ARTICLE 169

Upon recommendation of Committee II on the *Training for the Ministry*, Synod decides to authorize the Board of Governors

- a. to fill vacancies in the Committee of Administration during the period between two General Synods;
- b. to make temporary arrangements for the continuation of the instruction at the College whenever need arises.

ARTICLE 170

Committee II on *Proposal Re Other Colleges* presents:

Materials:

- a. Overture of the Church at Hamilton, Ont., III,36;
- b. Request of the Church at Edmonton, Alta, IV, 13 sub 2.

Observations:

1. The Church at Hamilton is of the opinion “that there are better and more appropriate possibilities. Also more realistic and responsible” than “to expand the existing training facilities to a full fledged own and independent Theological Seminary with professors, lecturers, and other staff required, as well as buildings and library”.
2. The Church at Hamilton, however, also declares that “If there really were no other possibilities, our consistory would be the first to recognize this and stimulate with all possible resources the founding of this own and independent Canadian Reformed Seminary. At any cost”.
3. The Church at Edmonton suggests that Synod “investigate whether there are other Theological Schools or Colleges where a reformed theological training can be obtained”, meanwhile continuing the Training for the Ministry as it is being done at this time.

4. The first point from the “Rules and Regulations” adopted by the Synod of Edmonton 1965, Acts Art. 199, 6, I, reads, “De Kerken verzorgen de Opleiding tot de dienst des Woords door middel van Curatoren, die benoemd en geïnstrueerd worden door de Generale Synode.”

Considerations:

1. The proposal of the Church at Hamilton suggests a course which would lead away from a College of our own, and would bring the Churches to make use of a College or Seminary over which they would have no control whatsoever.
2. This course would be inconsistent with the above quoted “Rule”, adopted by Synod 1965.
3. Even though it is possible that those who have studied elsewhere be admitted to the ecclesiastical examinations after having passed a “supplementary examination” (see e.g. Acts Synod Homewood 1958, Art.151), yet it is to be considered a matter of utmost importance for the future of the Churches that the Training for the Ministry be kept in our own hands.

Recommendation:

Synod do not accede to the proposal and the suggestion of the Churches at Hamilton and Edmonton, respectively.

ADOPTED

The Revs. L. Selles and G. VanDooren abstain from voting.

ARTICLE 171

Committee II on *Requirement Ecclesiastical Examinations* presents:

Materials:

- a. Overture of the Church at Burlington Ont., III,37 sub 5;
- b. Request of the Church at London, Ont., IV, 12.

Observations:

1. Both Churches propose to adopt the following rule:
“To be admitted to the ecclesiastical examinations Theological students must admit to the Assembly which is going to examine them a Certificate issued by the Teaching Staff of our Seminary.”
2. The Church at London proposes to add, “which proves that they followed the courses of our own Seminary”.

Considerations:

1. Synod Carman 1958 differentiated between those who studied at the Theological College of our Netherlands sisterchurches, and those who studied elsewhere, Acts. Art. 151.
2. Synod Hamilton 1962 did not bring about a change, Acts Art. 23,97,V.
3. Synod Edmonton 1965 did not do so either: the Acts make no mention of this matter.
4. The wording of the decision of Synod 1958 might give the impression as if, once the Churches can be provided with candidates who studied at our own College, it would be impossible for others to be admitted to the Ecclesiastical Examinations.
5. It is therefore advisable to change the wording.

Recommendation:

Synod decide

To be admitted to the ecclesiastical examinations candidates shall submit proof that they have completed their studies at our own Theological College. Candidates who took their theological training at other institutions shall present a Certificate issued by the Staff of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches stating that they have followed and/or complemented a course of studies conforming with the training provided by the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 172

Committee II on the *Implementation of Article 19 C.O.* (Compare Art. 155) presents:

Re: *Mandate of Deputies ad Art. 19 C.O.*

A. *Proposal of Regional Synod of Ontario 1968*

Materials:

- a. Report of Deputies ad Art. 19 C.O., I,2 (See Supplement 11-A);
- b. Proposal of Regional Synod of Ontario 1968, III,27 sub 4.

Observations:

1. Deputies ad Art. 19 C.O. granted a large amount of financial assistance in a case where a "large family" was involved.
2. Deputies, having been criticized by some Churches for doing so, express the hope that Synod may give Deputies instruction for similar cases that might turn up in the future.
3. Regional Synod of Ontario 1968 proposes to Synod to restrict financial aid to needy students for the ministry to the actual costs of their studies.

Considerations:

1. In order to meet the need for ministers, the Churches set up in 1962 a provisional training for the Ministry where students of theology could receive their instruction.
2. In order to meet the difficulties resulting from that set-up, the Churches have established a General Fund out of which students might receive financial assistance, Acts 1965, Art. 147.
3. From the character and set-up of this General Fund it follows that financial assistance to the students should be limited to the actual cost of this study.

Recommendation:

Synod instruct Deputies ad Art. 19 C.O. to restrict the financial assistance to the needy students at our own Theological College to the actual cost of their theological studies.

ADOPTED

B. *Proposals of Churches at Barrhead, Alta, and Edmonton, Alta.*

Materials:

- a. Report of Deputies ad Art. 19 C.O. I,2 (See Supplement 11-A);
- b. Overture of the Church at Barrhead, Alta, III,17;
- c. Overture of the Church at Edmonton, Alta, III,20.

Observations:

1. The Church at Barrhead and the Church at Edmonton are of the opinion that theological students should be free to choose the Seminary at which they would like to study.
2. These Churches feel that this freedom is restricted by the regulations for the financial help out of the General Fund ad Art. 19 C.O. as proposed in the report of Deputies.
3. The Church at Barrhead therefore proposes not to limit the financial assistance out of the General Fund ad Art. 19 C.O. to theological students who study at our own Theological College.
4. The Church at Edmonton for this reason proposes that newly appointed Deputies ad Art. 19 C.O. will also receive the mandate "to, in exceptional cases, support students who are not studying" at our own Theological College.

Considerations:

1. The Churches should respect the freedom of study for students of Theology.
2. The Churches at Barrhead and at Edmonton claim that this freedom of study is limited when no financial assistance is given to those students who do not study at our own Theological College.
3. Neither Church has furnished any proof for this claim.
4. Moreover, the proposal of the Church at Edmonton fails to make clear what is meant by "exceptional cases", some of which "might even be beneficial to the Churches".

Recommendation:

Synod decide not to accept the proposals of the Churches at Barrhead and at Edmonton.

ADOPTED

C. *Appointment of Deputies ad Art. 19 C.O.*

Materials:

- a. Report of Deputies, I,2 (See Supplement 11-A);
- b. Overture of the Church at Barrhead, Alta, III,17;
- c. Overture of the Church at Coaldale, Alta, III,4;
- d. Overture of Regional Synod of Ontario 1968, III,27 sub 6.

Observations:

1. Deputies state that the General Fund ad Art. 19 C.O. was a temporary set-up.
2. Deputies propose that, if Synod should decide to carry on with this Fund, Deputies be again appointed.
3. Deputies include in their report a draft of regulations which could be a guide for the General Synod if this Fund should be continued.
4. The Churches at Barrhead and at Coaldale suggest some changes in this draft

Considerations:

1. Deputies rightly state that the General Fund ad Art. 19 C.O. was a temporary set-up.
2. Synod Edmonton 1965 established such a Fund because it was of the opinion that it was reasonable to arrange the support of students generally until the time that a College would have been established at a certain place, Acts Art. 147.
3. Synod 1968 has appointed three professors and two lecturers and has decided that a College shall be established shortly.

Conclusions:

1. In view of the facts stated above it may be assumed that this temporary fund will discontinue as soon as this College commences its operation.
2. In the meantime the operation of this fund is to be continued by new Deputies.

Recommendations:

Synod appoint five deputies with the mandate

- a. to continue the operation of this fund in accordance with the mandate of Synod 1965, Acts Art. 147, until the College becomes operational;
- b. to give financial assistance from the General Fund only to students who make use of the provisional training and need help, and to restrict this assistance to the actual costs of their theological studies;
- c. to honour the commitments made prior to 1968.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 173

Committee III on *Correspondence with Foreign Churches* presents a detailed report (Supplement 6-B) on the "Minority Report" (I,12) forwarded to Synod by one of the Deputies for Correspondence with Churches abroad, Mr. P. VanderSchaaf (Arts. 66, 73)

Observation:

Mr. P. VanderSchaaf's communication results in the overture that Synod, on the basis of certain observations and considerations, make the following decision:

"De Synode spreekt uit dat de kerkeraad van Breda (praeses Ds K.C. Smouter) als wettige raad van De Gereformeerde Kerk te Breda erkend dient te worden, en de hierboven (in "minority report") genoemde kerkeraden, predikanten en kerken, voorzover zij niet zelve het verband met De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland, met welke onze kerken tot dusver correspondentie onderhielden, verbroken hebben, als wettige kerkeraden, predikanten en kerken te blijven erkennen, en met haar de kerkelijke correspondentie te blijven onderhouden; en besluit hiervan mededeling te doen aan de eerstkomende generale synode van De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland." (Page 19)

Recommendation:

Synod conclude that on the basis of this minority report it is unwarranted and impossible to decide upon the overture contained in it, namely to maintain the correspondence with churches, consistories and ministers who at present are outside the "Kerkverband" of the sisterchurches in the Netherlands with which we have correspondence.

Reason: The minority report speaks of deficiencies in Church polity in "De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland", but does not present a complete picture of the issues involved.

ARTICLE 174

Committee III on *Correspondence with Foreign Churches* presents:

Material:

A request of Messrs. K. Blokhuis, J. Ferkranus and S. J. VanderKooy, IV,9.

Observation:

The brethren request Synod to send a pastoral letter to the sisterchurches in the Netherlands in which to express:

“our concern over the developments in the sister churches; to appeal for humility before the Lord; that the love referred to by the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 13 should be first and foremost in all church dealing, notwithstanding differences of opinion; to do everything possible to prevent further schisms and to heal the existing rifts.”

Consideration:

These brethren do not give sufficient evidence to substantiate their statements:

- a. “the Church order is sometimes interpreted in a disputable manner. This has resulted in a number of local church divisions.”
- b. “the Church press is not at the level which should be expected from brothers who all have one Saviour and all subscribe to the same church confession.”
- c. “the mutual Christian love, which should be the dominant factor, becomes less and less evident.”
- d. “the strong impression is obtained that as a result of the above, the conditions are becoming increasingly more chaotic.”

Recommendation:

Synod decide not to grant the request of these brethren.

Ground: They fail to substantiate the reasons for their request with factual evidence.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 175

Rev. G. VanDooren requests Synod to sing Hymn 24:1,2, and leads in prayer.

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION – WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4TH, 1968

ARTICLE 176

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 84:1,2,6, reads Psalm 84, and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 177

The roll calls indicates that all the members are present except elder J. Bareman (see Art. 166).

ARTICLE 178

The Acts of the Twenty-Second Session are read and adopted.

ARTICLE 179

Committee II on *Translation and Revision Church Order* presents:

Materials:

- a. Report Deputies Translation Church Order, I,6 (including Draft Translation, (see Supplement 12);
- b. Overture of the Church at Carman, Man., III, 10;
- c. Overture of the Regional Synod of Ontario, III, 27, sub 9;
- d. Overture of the Church at Orangeville, Ont., III, 28;
- e. Overture of the Church at Edmonton, Alta, III, 32.

Recommendations:

That Synod

1. provisionally accept the presented draft-translation of the Church Order with the following changes:
 - a. "particular synod" into "Regional Synod";
 - b. the word "secular" in Art. 28, 71, 79 into "civil";
2. appoint a Committee with the mandate
 - a. to improve the wording of the draft-translation wherever necessary;
 - b. to revise the Church Order where such revision would profit the Churches (Art 86 C.O.);
 - c. to report to the next General Synod;
 - d. to send a copy of their report to the Churches;
3. pass on to the Committee the appendices to III,27, sub 9, and III,32.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 180

Synod decides to make the following *appointments*:

a. Board of Governors:

Revs. W. Loopstra (convener), L. Moes, J. Mulder, H. A. Stel, M. van Beveren, D. VanderBoom. Alternates: Revs. D. DeJong, P. Kingma, A. B. Roukema, M. VanderWel, W. W. J. VanOene.

b. Committee for Support Students (Art. 19 C.O.):

Revs. M. van Beveren (convener), M. VanderWel, Messrs. M. VanGrootheest, H. VanVeen, A. J. Ytsma.

c. Committee for an English Calvinistic Psalter:

Mr. M. M. DeGroot, Rev. F. Kouwenhoven, Mr. S. R. Smilde, Rev. D. VanderBoom, Rev. G. VanDooren (convener).

d. Committee on Translation Heidelberg Catechism:

Prof. F. Oosterhoff, Rev. H. A. Stel (convener), Rev. C. VanSpronsen.

- e. *Committee on Translation and Revision Church Order:*
Revs. H. Scholten (convener), H. A. Stel, W. W. J. VanOene.
- f. *Committee on Revised Standard Version:*
Revs. D. DeJong (convener), J. Mulder, H. A. Stel.
- g. *Committee for Correspondence with Churches Abroad:*
Mr. C. Ouwersloot, Rev. H. Scholten (convener), Mr. P. VanderSchaaf.
- h. *Committee for Contact with the Christian Reformed Church:*
Mr. M. Kampen, Revs. F. Kouwenhoven, M. van Beveren, D. VanderBoom, G. VanDooren (convener).
- i. *Committee for Contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church:*
Revs. W. Loopstra, H. Scholten, L. Selles (convener), Mr. W. Wildeboer, Alternate:
Rev. M. VanderWel.
- j. *Church in charge of the Archives:*
The Church at Burlington, Ont.
- k. *Church for the inspection of the Archives:*
The Church at Hamilton, Ont.
- l. *Church for auditing the books of Theological College:*
The Church at Chatham, Ont.
- m. *Church for auditing the books of Committee English Calvinistic Psalter:*
The Church at Brampton, Ont.
- n. *Church for auditing the books of General Synod 1968:*
The Church at Fergus-Guelph, Ont.
- o. *Churches to appoint Days of Fasting and Prayer:*
The Churches at Burlington, Ont., and Edmonton, Alta.

ARTICLE 181

Censure ad Article 43 C.O. is not necessary.

ARTICLE 182

Synod decides to entrust the publication of the Acts to the two clerks.
The Acts will be sent

1. to the Churches in so many copies that every family and single person can receive one;
2. to the Church which keeps the Archives, a number of copies;

3. to the Library of the Theological College, a number of copies.

ARTICLE 183

Synod decides to request the Financial Committee appointed by the convening Church, to wit Mr. C. Lindhout and Mr. S. Wildeboer, to continue, and from the funds still available to reimburse Deputies for the costs incurred in the fulfillment of their mandate, and to authorize this Committee to ask the Churches for additional contributions if needed.

ARTICLE 184

The Church at New Westminster, B.C., is appointed convening Church for the next General Synod.

ARTICLE 185

The Assessor together with the 1st Clerk will take care of the Press Release.

ARTICLE 186

Synod decides that members of the Churches may propose a name for the Theological College on which the Board of Governors will decide.

ARTICLE 187

Synod decides to adjourn provisionally.

If due to unforeseen difficulties in the appointment of Staff members of the Theological College it appears necessary to reconvene Synod, the Board of Governors shall notify the officers.

ARTICLE 188

The Acts of the executive sessions, to wit the Article 99, 108, 116, 131, will be taken care of by the officers. These Articles will be forwarded to the Churches under cover.

ARTICLE 189

The Chairman, Rev. W. W. J. VanOene, addresses Synod as follows:
Dear Brethren in the Lord,

The saddest and at the same time happiest moment in the brief life of a General Synod has arrived: we have come to the end of our work, and Synod will presently be adjourned.

It is a sad moment. During the weeks we have been together and have been holding this Synod, we have grown into a group of men who have learned to know each other,

whereas before in more than one instance we were more or less strangers to each other, though united by the one bond of faith.

It is this bond of faith in which we have been brought together, by which we have been kept together, and in which we have done the work we were charged to do.

Those who were members of previous Synods will recall the feeling of loneliness which was unmistakable once the Synod had died: That closely-knit community of sixteen men now stood dissolved; each one of them knew only one thing: how to reach his family in the shortest possible time and to make an end to a separation of several weeks.

Members of Synod who for many days worked together, had their meals together, and sometimes slept under the same roof, now realize that there are distances: distances of hundreds and even thousands of miles. It is a moment of sadness.

It is at the same time a happy moment. There is happiness because within a day practically every one will – under the guidance and the protection of the LORD – have been re-united with his family and have returned to his daily task.

However, that is not all. It is not even the first thought that comes up. In the first place there is the happiness that the work has been finished, the task been accomplished.

The weeks that passed by were not spent in idleness. There was a constant strain: Every member was well aware of the responsibility and of the necessity to give account to his LORD. One wrong step, one wrong decision, one wrong turn, and the Churches might start on a road which will lead them away from their basis, away from the faithfulness to the Scriptures and to the Forms and Regulations they have agreed upon.

Now we have come to the last point on the agenda: Closing. That is the first reason for our happiness and, to a certain extent, satisfaction. It is something to be satisfied with when one has been allowed to complete the task given to him.

Now we depart from here; there is gratitude in our hearts: the LORD has kept us, given us strength and wisdom, and enabled us to deal with all matters entrusted to us.

One of the reasons why we were able to deal with all matters brought up in such a relatively short period was the way in which this Synod was prepared by the Church at Orangeville, and especially by those who were thereunto appointed by the Orangeville Church. The care with which the preparations for this Synod were carried out and the care which has been bestowed upon us in every respect during these past weeks made us forget almost completely the unfriendliness of the climate. I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all who in any way gave their attention, their time, their care, and their skill. It could hardly have been better and it may serve as an example for the convening Church for the next General Synod. Brethren and sisters: Many thanks!

In due time the printed Acts will reach the Churches so that our work and its results can be examined, not in a spirit of a wrongly-understood and exaggerated “ratification-idea”, but in the spirit of faithfulness to the promises made also in the credentials, given to those who were delegated to the broader assemblies.

That our actions and decisions will be examined and scrutinized by the Churches should not refrain us from cautiously evaluating them at the close of this Synod.

This Synod was a “first” in more than one respect.

It was the first Synod where the discussions were held in the English language.

It was the first Synod of which the Acts will be published in the English language, the English text being the authentic one.

At the beginning of this Synod we heard the title "Workers of the first Hour". It is an appropriate expression to denote those who were the pioneers, through whose labours and sacrifices the LORD caused His Church to grow.

We met in Orangeville. This is a "Church of the first Hour". Who does not recall the name "Georgetown"?

Again we have some "Workers of the first Hour".

One of the most important and far-reaching decisions this Synod has made is the one by which a Theological College has been established.

We cannot disguise from ourselves the difficulties with which our Professors and Lecturers will have to cope. There is a considerable difference between becoming a Professor and Assistant-Professor at an established College and having to build everything from the ground up. Our Professors and Assistant-Professors are facing an enormous task. That among them several "Men of the first Hour" are found can only be a valuable asset.

It is a reason for sorrow that the very first minister has been taken from us by the LORD. The Rev. J. T. Van Popta passed away without learning of his appointment as Professor. We gratefully acknowledge the mercy of the LORD, which was so abundantly clear in our late brother.

We all are aware of the financial consequences of the decision to establish a Theological College. It is only because we are convinced of the necessity to establish our College that we took it. The reactions which we have heard so far confirm this our conviction that we have done the right thing. And with the prayer that the LORD will establish the work of our hands we wish our College Godspeed: a blessed journey and a safe arrival!

May from its gates come forth a steady flow of well-trained and thoroughly Reformed candidates for the Ministry, that the Churches of the Lord be provided with faithful shepherds and be preserved in the unity of the true faith, in order that the Son of man, at His coming, may find the faith on the earth.

The strain of the work and of the discussions became evident. This strain will undoubtedly have contributed to the illness of br Bouwman who had to be admitted to the hospital. The Lord graciously restore his health and grant him that he may return to his family in good health.

As for the others: no one was prevented from doing his work; we were also allowed to do our work in peace and quiet. Six years ago, when the Synod of Hamilton was held, there was a serious threat to world-peace when the Cuban missile-crisis held the attention of the whole world.

No such thing happened during this Synod: we could give our undivided attention to the matters placed before us.

These matters were varied and frequently extensive.

I have already mentioned the matters concerning our Theological College. It would amount to gross neglect if I should fail to mention the whole cause of an English Calvinistic Psalter.

One might wonder whether we are not taking upon ourselves burdens too heavy and responsibilities too great for us by trying to establish a College and by endeavouring to complete an English Calvinistic Psalter. Are not these causes too great and too high for us? Are we not trying to walk on stilts that are too tall and in boots that are much too large for us?

We are convinced that these are necessary undertakings when we take our calling seriously. It is not from a desire to act big that we have made bold to take up those tasks and are endeavouring to fulfil them; but it is from the desire to serve our God and Father and to maintain and preserve what He has given to us, His Church and children. His we are and Him we serve.

It is from this same desire that we have maintained contact with the Christian Reformed Church and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

The fact that discussions and talks are being held is no cause for alarm. It is only for those who misunderstand their character.

No one will deny that sometimes contact is sought by persons who have already forsaken and denied their own stand.

But to everyone who has seriously taken note of the reports of our Deputies and for all those who have followed the discussions at Synod it is abundantly clear – and let our God be praised for this – that the brethren who were our voices at the meetings of contact-committees have not for one second given an impression as if they doubted that the cause for which they stood was the cause of the Son of God. Continuation of such discussions can never be detrimental to the cause of Christ's Church.

It is not my intention to discuss or defend this Synod's decisions. We believe that they are clear and speak for themselves. We have acquitted ourselves of our task to the best of our abilities. We have done what we had to do: it is the LORD from Whom we expect the outcome and the blessing. Here, too, we confess that without His blessing neither our care and labour nor anything else can profit us.

Brethren, we must part.

But we shall not do so without a word of thanks to all of you.

It was a pleasure to chair the sessions. You placed considerable trust in me when choosing me to be the president of this Synod. It was you who rendered it possible not to put this trust to shame. At least, I hope that I have not done so.

The LORD our God be with us all.

Thank You.

ARTICLE 190

The Chairman requests Synod to sing Psalm 122. The Assessor, Rev. H. Scholten, leads in prayer and thanksgiving.

SUPPLEMENT 1
(Ag. Report I,8; Art. 42)

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

GENERAL SYNOD 1965

CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

RECEIPTS

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Assessments of \$2.00 as per Schedule "A" | \$5,492.00 |
| Bank Interest | 167.70 |
| | \$5,659.70 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| Travelling Expenses as per Schedule "B" | \$1,667.06 | |
| Meeting Expenses as per Schedule "C" | 832.69 | |
| Cost of Acts | 1,748.47 | |
| Sundry Expenses as per Schedule "D" | 38.69 | |
| | | 4,286.91 |
| | | \$1,372.79 |
| Expenses of Deputies as per Schedule "E" | | \$1,341.04 |
| CASH ON HAND MAR. 15/68 | | \$ 31.75 |

SCHEDULE "A"

ASSESSMENTS:

CLASSIS – ONTARIO NORTH:

Conf. Mbrs.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------|
| paid through Classis Quaestor | 941 | 1,882.00 |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------|

CLASSIS – ONTARIO SOUTH:

| | | |
|---------|-----|--------|
| Chatham | 120 | 240.00 |
|---------|-----|--------|

| | | |
|----------|-----|--------|
| Hamilton | 134 | 268.00 |
|----------|-----|--------|

| | | |
|--------|----|-------|
| London | 40 | 80.00 |
|--------|----|-------|

| | | |
|------------|-----|--------|
| Smithville | 230 | 460.00 |
|------------|-----|--------|

| | | |
|---------|----|-------|
| Watford | 44 | 88.00 |
|---------|----|-------|

| | | |
|--------------|----|--------|
| Grand Rapids | 70 | 140.00 |
|--------------|----|--------|

| | | |
|--|-----|----------|
| | 638 | 1,276.00 |
|--|-----|----------|

CLASSIS – ALBERTA & MANITOBA:

| | | |
|----------|----|-------|
| Barrhead | 25 | 50.00 |
|----------|----|-------|

| | | |
|---------|----|-------|
| Calgary | 11 | 22.00 |
|---------|----|-------|

| | | |
|--------|----|--------|
| Carman | 97 | 194.00 |
|--------|----|--------|

| | | |
|----------|-----|--------|
| Coaldale | 100 | 200.00 |
|----------|-----|--------|

| | | |
|----------|-----|--------|
| Edmonton | 250 | 500.00 |
|----------|-----|--------|

| | | |
|------------|----|-------|
| Neerlandia | 29 | 58.00 |
|------------|----|-------|

| | | |
|----------|----|--------|
| Winnipeg | 80 | 160.00 |
|----------|----|--------|

| | | |
|--|-----|----------|
| | 592 | 1,184.00 |
|--|-----|----------|

CLASSIS – B.C.

| | | |
|------------|----|--------|
| Abbotsford | 95 | 190.00 |
|------------|----|--------|

| | | |
|------------|----|--------|
| Cloverdale | 87 | 174.00 |
|------------|----|--------|

| | | |
|---------|----|--------|
| Houston | 55 | 110.00 |
|---------|----|--------|

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------|
| New Westminster | 261 | 522.00 |
|-----------------|-----|--------|

| | | |
|----------|----|--------|
| Smithers | 77 | 154.00 |
|----------|----|--------|

| | | |
|--|-----|----------|
| | 575 | 1,150.00 |
|--|-----|----------|

| | | |
|--------|-------|----------|
| TOTALS | 2,746 | 5,492.00 |
|--------|-------|----------|

SCHEDULE "B"

TRAVELLING EXPENSES:

DELEGATES FROM ONTARIO:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Rev. De Jong – train one-way 64.25, air one-way 89.00 | 153.25 |
| Rev Kouwenhoven – train one-way 64.25, air one-way 89.00 | 153.25 |
| Rev. Scholten – train two ways | 127.75 |
| Rev. Selles – train one way 64.25, air one way 93.20 | 157.45 |
| C. Ouwersloot – air two ways incl. train to Smithville | 185.50 |
| H. Van Veen – air one-way 89.00, train one-way 71.00 | 160.00 |
| H. Wildeboer – air two ways | 178.00 |
| P. Wildeboer – train two ways incl. Tor, Orangeville | 145.36 |
| | 1,260.56 |

DELEGATES FROM MANITOBA:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Rev. J. Mulder – train two ways | 80.00 | |
| L. Toet – air two ways | 86.00 | |
| | | 166.00 |

DELEGATES FROM B.C.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Rev. Stel – train two ways | 56.00 | |
| Rev. VanOene – train two ways | 51.50 | |
| E. Baartman – train two ways | 51.50 | |
| J. Vanderlinde – train two ways | 51.50 | 210.50 |
| Sundry Transportation in Edmonton | | 30.00 |
| | | \$1,667.06 |

SCHEDULE "C"

MEETING EXPENSES

MEALS:

Jiffy lunch 4 1/2 days 210.75

Mrs. Stikma balance of 17 1/2 days 394.74

USE OF HALL:

reimburse for light, heat & janitor exp. 54.00

STATIONERY & TELEPHONE:

Printing of letterheads 7.93

Cost of wire to Rev. deHaan 2.20

long distance calls 23.90

paper, stencils etc. @ cost 123.56

postage 15.61 832.69

SCHEDULE "D"

SUNDRY EXPENSES:

| | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Exchange on cheques | | 2.96 | |
| Stationery & postage exp. of Finance Committee | | 15.77 | |
| Group photograph of delegates | 40.00 | | |
| less: recoverable from delegates | 32.00 | 8.00 | |
| Expenses clerk | | 11.96 | 38.69 |

SCHEDULE "E"

EXPENSES OF DEPUTIES

| | | | |
|---|---------|--|------------|
| Storage cabinet for Archives (Rev. Van Dooren) | | | 120.00 |
| Deputies for Psalter | | | |
| June/66 | 59.51 | | |
| Mar./67 | 58.40 | | 117.91 |
| Deputies for Contact Christian Reformed Church | | | |
| July/66 | 48.25 | | |
| Nov./66 | 89.10 | | |
| Mar./67 | 99.55 | | |
| May/67 | 66.34 | | |
| Feb./68 | 86.25 | | |
| | | | 389.49 |
| Deputies for Contact Orthodox Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Jul./66 | 263.64 | | |
| Jan./68 | 450.00* | | 713.64 |
| | | | \$1,341.04 |

*incl. \$150.00 advance for future meetings.

(Art. 45)

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE III ON THE *Revised Standard Version**Observations:*

Synod is requested to

- a. appoint Deputies "to check the Revised Standard Version";
- b. to give a well-founded judgment as to the accuracy, first of all of the Revised Standard Version, and secondly of the other available modern translations of the Bible;
- c. "to request church members to take part in testing the Revised Standard Version";
- d. "to declare that it is desirable that the Revised Standard Version be also used in our churches";
- e. "not to decide yet on the introduction of the Revised Standard Version for official use in the Churches, but to appoint a Committee with the mandate to study the desirability of corrections in this version, and to contact the Editors of this translation" because an improved version of the Revised Standard Version is planned and any suggestions as to this improvement are welcome;
- f. "to advise all Canadian Reformed Churches strongly to advocate to its members the use of approved, modern language Bible versions."

Considerations:

- a. It is within the jurisdiction of this Synod to decide upon this matter because
 1. it is desirable that the Churches in general choose the Version they consider best for official use in the Churches (Art. 30 C.O.: "In major assemblies only such matters shall be dealt with as could not be finished in minor assemblies, or such as pertain to the Churches of the major assembly in common.");
 2. previous General Synods have taken decisions in this matter (1954, Arts. 64, 71 of the Acts; 1958, Arts. 30, 34, 35, 48, 93 of the Acts);
 3. Synod 1958 even decided "een commissie (te) benoeme(n) die de vraag onder ogen moet zien of The Revised Standard Version tot gebruik in onze kerken kan worden toegelaten en (of) worden aanbevolen"; however, such a Committee was never appointed by that Synod;
 4. Synod 1958 dealt in detail with a request to participate in the preparations of a new Version (Arts. 35, 48, 93).

The *conclusion* is that previous Synods considered it to be within the jurisdiction of a General Synod to make recommendations in this matter.

- b. However, there are *limitations*.

1. Synod 1958 did not consider it to be "in the power of the Synod" "to appoint a committee" for active participation in the work of translating the Word of God from the original languages (Acts, p.225). Your Committee agrees that it is not within the jurisdiction and competence of a Synod to give a mandate for translating God's Word. (See also Acts General Synod 1954, Art. 64)
2. Once there is a translation available, Synod can recommend its use in the Churches when "het Schriftgelovig karakter dezer vertaling onbestreden is" (General Synod 1954, Art. 71).

3. This Synod has to speak in this matter because
 - a. Synod 1954 recommends the King James Version only;
 - b. Synod 1958 agreed "that the King James Version has become somewhat antiquated as since the time it was made additional ancient manuscripts have been discovered and also the English language has undergone certain modifications, which destroy the clarity of many passages." (Acts p.225)

SUPPLEMENT 3

(Ag. Report I, 10; Art. 71; compare Suppl. 4, 5)

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY-GOVERNORS APPOINTED BY SYNOD EDMONTON, 1965.

To the General Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches, which will meet, the Lordling, on November 7th, 1968, at Orangeville, Ontario.

teemed Brethren in the Lord:

Deputies for the "Training of the Ministry", appointed by Synod Edmonton, 1965, submit to your Assembly a report of their activities for your consideration.

The mandate and instructions given to us were laid down in the following decisions of Synod 1965:

"De Synode besluit

"Aan Curatoren voor het opzetten van een bibliotheek een bedrag van \$6,000.00 beschikbaar te stellen. Hierin is begrepen het bedrag dat door de vorige Synode voor dit doel beschikbaar was gesteld doch niet is gebruikt." (Acta Art. 99)

De Synode besluit

"1. Drie Curatoren te benoemen uit het ressort van het Oosten en drie uit het ressort van het Westen, met secundi.

2. Curatoren te machtigen de tegenwoordige docenten vergoeding te geven voor de arbeid door hen verricht of te verrichten.

3. Aangezien de Synode, bij gebrek aan voldoende kennis van zaken, geen verantwoordelijke beslissingen nemen kan inzake verscheidene door Curatoren ingediende voorstellen, Curatoren te verzoeken de gehele zaak van een Theological College in alle aspecten te onderzoeken, tezamen met het College van Docenten, en dienaangaande een gezamenlijk rapport te zenden aan de volgende Generale Synode.

Voorts Curatoren te verzoeken een afschrift van dit rapport minstens een half jaar voor die Synode ter kennisneming aan de Kerken toe te zenden.

4. Curatoren te machtigen een "estate" aan te kopen in de Provincie Ontario. Tot zulk een aankoop zullen zij niet overgaan dan nadat zij vooraf gunstig advies van deskundigen hebben ontvangen en de Particuliere Synode van Ontario definitieve goedkeuring heeft gegeven. Tot de voorwaarden waaraan voldaan zal moeten worden behoort ook, dat er een behoorlijk terrein is voor eventuele verdere uitbouw en dat affiliatie met een Universiteit mogelijk is.

5. Personen boven de 30 jaar zullen kunnen worden toegelaten tot de lessen en examens der Opleiding zonder in het bezit van een B.A. degree of daarmee gelijkstaande graad te zijn, indien zij met goed gevolg een admissieexamen hebben afgelegd, waarvoor de vereisten zullen worden vastgesteld door het College van Docenten, zulks onder nadere goedkeuring van Curatoren; evenwel zo, dat deze niet zullen uitgaan boven hetgeen vereist is voor de graad van Bachelor of Arts.

6. De volgende bepalingen uit de door Curatoren voorgestelde "Rules and Regulations" thans reeds te aanvaarden:

- I. De Kerken verzorgen de Opleiding tot de dienst des Woords doormiddel van Curatoren, die benoemd en geïnstrueerd worden door de Generale Synode. Curatoren worden voorgedragen door de mindere vergadering. Iedere Particuliere Synode draagt drie Curatoren met secundi voor.
- II. Curatoren zullen in ieder geval eenmaal per jaar samen vergaderen. Docenten zullen het recht hebben deze vergaderingen bij te wonen als adviseurs. Curatoren zullen van hun vergaderingen een Kort Verslag publiceren.
- III. Curatoren zullen toezicht uitoefenen op het onderwijs, teneinde daaruit geweerd worde al wat niet in overeenstemming is met de Schrift en de Belijdenisgeschriften der Kerken. Zij stellen, met advies van docenten, een curriculum op.
- IV. Curatoren zullen aan de Generale Synode een voordracht doen toekomen voor de benoeming van docenten ter vervulling van bestaande vacatures. De Generale Synode zal niet aan deze voordracht gebonden zijn.
Curatoren zullen een aparte regeling opstellen voor de onderbreking of beëindiging van de dienst der Docenten.
- V. Een Docent moet lid zijn van een Canadian Reformed Church of van een Kerk met welke de Canadian Reformed Churches correspondentie onderhouden. Voordat zij hun dienst beginnen, zullen docenten ondertekenen het "Form of Subscription of Docents at the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches", opgesteld door de Generale Synode van Edmonton, 1965.
Docenten zullen zich in hun arbeid onderwerpen aan het toezicht der Curatoren, doch zullen te allen tijde het recht behouden zich op de Generale Synode te beroepen.
- VI. Curatoren zullen de Generale Synode adviseren inzake het aantal Docenten dat nodig wordt geacht." (Acta, Art. 199)

Synod decides

"1. To appoint three governors from Western Canada and three from Eastern Canada with alternates;

2. To authorize the governors to compensate the present Docents for their work, already done or still to be done;

3. To request the governors to study the whole matter of the Theological College in all its aspects; to do this together with the college of Docents; and to submit a joint report about the matter to the next General Synod, since Synod, for lack of sufficient knowledge of these matters, cannot at present make warranted decisions with respect to several proposals made by the governors;

4. To authorize the governors to purchase an estate in the Province of Ontario. Such a purchase shall be made only upon preceding favourable advice of experts and upon definite approval of the Particular Synod of Ontario.

Among the conditions which have to be met are these, that a fair-sized plot be available for possible further extension; and that affiliation with a university be possible.

5. Persons over 30 years of age may be admitted to the courses and examinations of the College without being in the possession of a B.A. degree or its equivalent, if they pass successfully an admission-examination, the requirements for which shall be set up by the College of Docents with concurrent approval of the Governors; on the understanding that these requirements shall not exceed what is required for a Bachelor of Arts degree.

6. To adopt at this moment already the following provisions from the "Rules and Regulations" which were proposed by the Governors:

I. The Churches shall take care of a Theological College through Governors, who shall be appointed and instructed by the General Synod. Governors shall be nominated by the Minor Assembly. Each Particular Synod shall nominate three Governors with alternates.

II. The Governors shall meet at least once a year; Docents shall have the right to attend these meetings in an advisory capacity. The Governors shall publish a brief report of their meetings.

III. The Governors shall exercise supervision over the instruction given in order that may be barred whatever is not in accordance with the Scripture and Creeds of the Churches.

IV. The Governors shall submit to the General Synod a nomination to appoint Docents for existing vacancies. The General Synod shall not be bound by this nomination.

The Governors shall draw up separate regulations covering leave of absence and the termination of the service of Docents.

V. A Docent shall be a member of a Canadian Reformed Church or of one of the Churches with which the Canadian Reformed Churches maintain correspondence.

Before entering upon their service, Docents shall subscribe to the "Form of Subscription for Docents at the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches", drawn up by the General Synod of Edmonton, 1965. (See Dutch text of Acts, Article 180).

Docents shall submit themselves in their work to the supervision of the Governors, but shall always retain the right of appeal to the General Synod.

- VI. The Governors shall advise the General Synod about the number of Docents which is deemed necessary." (Brief Report, Art. 38)

In connection with decision 6 sub IV (combined meetings) we have been able to convene two such meetings, one on October 18th and 19th, 1966, at Abbotsford, B.C., and another on July 10th and 11th, 1967, at Burlington, Ont. We are very grateful that this opportunity was given by the previous Synod and we assure your assembly that a close contact has facilitated our work.

The idea of giving a chronological account of our deliberations was rejected; instead we decided to submit to you the material which was at our disposal, the observations resulting from our research and a report of the discussions on specific matters. At the end of the report we will submit a number of recommendations.

Consequently we report on the following matters:

- I. Meetings of the Board of Governors.
- II. Theological College.
- III. Students.
- IV. Estate.
- V. Admission and Curriculum.
- VI. Appointment Teachers
- VII. Library
- VIII. Report Teaching Staff
- IX. Financial Matters:
 - Remuneration Teachers
 - Report Treasurer
 - Investments
 - Contributions of the Churches.

I. MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

A. *Mandate.*

The Governors shall meet at least once a year. Teachers shall have the right to attend these meetings in an advisory capacity. The Governors shall publish a short report of their meetings. (Acta Synod 1965, Art. 199 sub 6-11; as translated in Art. 38 of the 'Brief Report').

B. *Material.*

1. Minutes of the meeting of Governors, held on October 18th and 19th, 1966 at Abbotsford, B.C.
2. Minutes of the meeting of Governors, held on July 10th and 11th, 1967, at Burlington, Ont.

C. *Observations.*

At the first meeting officers of the Board were elected: Rev. W. LOOPSTRA, President; Rev. D. VANDERBOOM, Secretary; Rev. H. A. STEL, Assessor.

At the request of 'Deputaten van de Synode van de Free Reformed Churches of Australia' it was decided "to forward the minutes of the meetings of the Board to these Deputies".

At the request of the Teaching Staff, Rev. G. VANDOOREN was appointed Principal, Rev. W. W. J. VANOENE, Vice-Principal of the Teaching Staff.

Rules for the method of communication between the Governors from Eastern and Western Canada were adopted. For these rules we refer to pages 3 and 4 of the Minutes of the Board meeting of October 18th and 19th, 1966.

II. THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

A. *Mandate.*

To request Governors to study the whole matter of the Theological College in all aspects; to do this with the college of Teachers (Teaching Staff); and to submit a joint report about the matter to the next General Synod, since Synod, for lack of sufficient knowledge of these matters, cannot at present make responsible decisions with respect to several proposals made by the Governors. (Acta Synode 1965, Art. 199, sub 3; translation from Art. 38, sub 3 of the 'Brief Report').

B. *Material.*

1. Extracts from the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario (with a copy of the Private Bill, an Act to Incorporate MacMaster Divinity College);
2. Report of Information received at the Departments of Education and University Affairs, with an additional report (see under Observations);
3. Two letters from Messrs. Shepherd, McKensie, etc., concerning the matter of legal aspects of the set-up of a Theological College in the Province of Ontario;
4. Two letters containing information received from the Minister of Education of the Province of British Columbia and from Registrars of Universities in this province.

C. *Observations.*

The information received by Deputies concerning the set-up of a Theological College or Seminary was discussed at both meetings of the Board. To give your assembly an idea of the issue we transcribe here a part of the material at hand, as mentioned under Material No. 2.:

Synod 1962 decided: Tot de lessen en examina aan de Opleiding worden toegelaten zij, die lid zijn van een van de Canadian Reformed Churches . . . en in het bezit zijn van een B.A. degree, of daaraan gelijk te stellen graad.

This decision was taken contrary to the advice of Deputies 'om de eigen Opleiding te doen aansluiten bij de aan een High School volbrachte studie'. The conclusion may be drawn that it was the intention of Synod to establish a College with full academic training and standing with the right to confer the B.Th and/or B.D. degrees. With this conclusion in mind information was gathered at the above mentioned Departments.

There are three possibilities:

1. *Provincial Charter by Private Bill.*

To be able to confer a degree a Charter of the Provincial Legislature is needed. Such a

charter must be obtained by Private Bill. This Bill must be drafted by a lawyer's firm and the application for granting the Bill must be sent to Parliament and to the Lieutenant Governor of the Province (see Application Forms). When the application is accepted in principle (first reading), the applicants are called before a standing committee on University Affairs to explain the petition and they are requested to give sound reasons why a denominational College is wanted. Some of the issues which will be considered by the standing committee are:

- (a) Have arrangements been made for affiliation with an existing University in the place where the College is going to be established; is this affiliation granted.
- (b) Proof must be given that the College is not only going to be established, but that there is sufficient support for a certain length of time. This is an important matter since some Colleges in the Province have terminated their educational program for lack of funds.
- (c) Certain guarantees must be given as to the academic standing of the Teachers to be appointed; curriculum and rules for examination must comply with the requirements for higher learning.
- (d) Are there facilities for the accommodation of out of town students.

It was made clear that the Provincial Government wants to prevent a further proliferation of denominational Colleges. When the Standing Committee has decided upon the matter, the approval of the Department of University Affairs is needed before the Bill can be put on the Agenda of the House. If this Department has no objections, a Member of the Legislature must be found willing to defend the Bill. Much opposition can be expected. As soon as Parliament has accepted the Bill in second and third reading, it will be published and becomes law. The College will then be recognized throughout all the Provinces of the Dominion.

2. *Incorporation by The Corporations Act.*

There is a second possibility, nl., to seek recognition as a Theological College by way of The Corporations Act. It is a purely legal matter. According to the Deputy Minister of University Affairs most denominational colleges have such a charter. Degrees conferred by these colleges are not honoured at Universities on this Continent.

Since January 1964 the Department of Education and the Department of University Affairs are working closely together with the office of the Provincial Secretary in their joint effort to deny certain institutions the name of College. Many young people, they say, are herded into institutions with the idea that they are going to receive a recognized degree, but they find out too late that in many cases they are not able to continue their studies at another College or University.

The following requirements must be met:

- (a) A Board of Trustees (Governors) must apply for a legal charter under the Corporations Act.

(b) The authorities must be satisfied concerning financial matters and concerning the scientific standard of the Teaching Staff.

(c) Library facilities must be up to certain standards, since there will be no affiliation.

(d) Degrees may be conferred, but it cannot be done within the scope of the Law of Higher Education. These degrees are valid only within the denominational organization concerned, and for those denominations which consider such degrees sufficient for their clergy.

3. *Theological School.*

Apparently there is a third possibility, namely to confer a Certificate. We should keep in mind that the initials B.A. and B.D. behind the names of ministers is not to 'show off', but to indicate that ministers have an academic standing, contrary to 'self-made' preachers.

In the case of a Theological School a Certificate to Preach, or a Certificate of Candidacy in Theology is the only thing that can be conferred upon the student.

Without any evaluation this report was submitted to the Board of Governors.

At the request of the Board an additional report was submitted to the next meeting. It reads:

Re: Provincial Charter by Private Bill.

It must be repeated that such a charter is a must if we want to establish an independent College. The question of affiliation has implications which cannot be evaluated at the moment, because such affiliation might endanger the independence of the College.

Nothing can be added to the procedure mentioned in the first report. Observations and reports from Queen's Park and the Newspapers make it clear that a Private Bill (even in non-ecclesiastical matters) has not much chance of success. The request might never reach the floor of the Legislature because of the necessity of being approved by the Department of University Affairs and the Standing Committee on educational matters.

The preliminary work cannot be done by Deputies, but an experienced and competent lawyer is necessary ('die de knepen van het vak kent'). We, as Deputies, are not able to start such procedures unless specific authorization is given.

Re: Corporations Act.

This method seems to open an easier way, but has the disadvantage that the establishment of a College under this Act does not give the right to confer degrees which are recognized as such at other institutions of learning.

As additional information the following can be mentioned:

To become incorporated as a Society or Corporation, application must be made for an "Official Name". The purpose of the Corporation must be FULLY explained. These applications can be handled only by people who are fully conversant with the Corporation Laws. This application must, again, be presented to the Department of University Affairs, with all the implications already mentioned in the first report.

D. Considerations.

a. Concerning possibility 1 (Provincial Charter by Private Bill), we also refer to the letter of Messrs. Shepherd, etc. (20 September 1966): "With respect to the second course of action mentioned above, we wish to advise that the main draw-backs to this course of action are firstly, the possible delays in processing a Private Bill through the Legislature, and secondly, the expenses involved. In addition to the usual fees to be paid to the clerk of the Legislature and costs of advertising, the cost of printing the private bill for which the applicant is responsible, can be very prohibitive. The benefit of a private statute is, however, that you will be able to grant your own degrees. In addition to the provisions as to fees and advertising, you will note that a private bill must be introduced in the Legislature by a member thereof, who has been approached beforehand for that purpose."

Concerning affiliation with Universities, we received the following information: "With respect to affiliation, we understand that you are investigating this possibility. Affiliation with an institution such as Knox College would be the least expensive of the two alternatives referred to above (affiliation or incorporation). If affiliation is the course of action decided by you, it is our opinion that you would have to incorporate a private company without share capital under the provisions of The Ontario Corporations Act. In this case, funds would be obtained through the annual subscription of members and . . . through any donations you might receive. The main drawback of this instance is, however, that you will not be in a position to grant your own degrees". (Letter Messrs. Shepherd, etc., 20 September 1966).

"The University Act makes provisions for affiliation of Theological Colleges with any of the provincial universities under section 71. Policy has been that affiliations has been entered into only with those theological colleges established on the campus of the University. The affiliation does not therefore grant university blessing to the academic or professional studies and has no effect on the recognition of the degrees granted by the theological colleges. May I give you my personal opinion that 'affiliation' as known here, would not accomplish the objective you have in mind, and, further, that there is a strong possibility that the Senate of this University would not want to add to its present list of affiliates." (Letter of the Registrar of the University of British Columbia)

"Since the University is not prepared, in the foreseeable future, to allocate more campus space for additional theological colleges there is no possibility that any additional affiliation will be considered." (Letter of the Registrar of the University of British Columbia).

". . . regarding your recent letter suggesting an affiliation between the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches and Simon Fraser University, . . . , the Board of Governors and the Senate . . . have received a number of requests for affiliation by such groups as yours and to date none of these requests have been granted." (Letter of the Registrar of Simon Fraser University, British Columbia).

b. Concerning possibility 2 (Incorporation under the Corporations Act without affiliation), Deputies, although convinced that the full emphasis should be laid upon the truly Reformed character of a Theological College, want to bring to your attention that the Law requires (as we have mentioned before, page 6, 2(b)) that in the instruction given at such a College sound academic standards are maintained.

The basic requirement for such a training would be the appointment of at least three professors (Old Testament, New Testament and Dogmatics) whereas the other disciplines could be taught by lecturers. It appears to be difficult to give a complete and detailed budget for such a set-up. What follows is no more than an estimate and might be very conservative.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Remuneration Professors | \$30,000.00 |
| 2. Lecturers | 3,600.00 |
| 3. Travel Expenses – Lecturers | 1,500.00 |
| 4. Rent Buildings | 4,000.00 |
| 5. Library | 2,000.00 |
| 6. Administration | 1,000.00 |
| | \$42,100.00 |

To the figure of \$42,100.00 must be added – for the first year – costs of Incorporation. From information received it became clear that lawyers' fees for the preparation of the material for incorporation are \$40.00 – \$70.00 per hour. Since we know from the same sources that 100 or more hours are necessary an amount of \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 must be considered. Statistics show that at the end of 1968 the membership of our Churches will be approximately 7,000, of whom approximately 3,000 are confessing members. This would bring the contribution of the Churches to \$6.00 per member per year, or \$14.00 per confessing member per year. (For the first year after incorporation: \$7.00 and \$16.50 respectively)

c. Concerning possibility 3 (Theological School) we bring to your attention the following considerations:

In their last meeting the Governors agreed “that the Report to Synod must contain the following items and recommendations:

- a. a good, academically sound training is a necessity;
- b. a complete and detailed budget of the costs is required;
- c. no estate should be acquired, but use should be made of the facilities of one of the Churches;
- d. two professors must be appointed who can request the assistance of lecturers.”

The report deals already with “a” under Chapter II-C; with “c” under Chapter IV. As to “b” (budget) we can submit an estimate only since recommendations for appointments of lecturers could not be made (see under VI: Appointments).

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Remunerations Professors | \$20,000.00 |
| 2. Lecturers | |
| 3. Travel expenses | |
| 4. Rent Buildings | 4,000.00 |
| 5. Library | 2,000.00 |
| 6. Administration | 1,000.00 |
| | \$27,000.00 PLUS |

A

- Ad. 1. The remuneration of professors should be such that they can provide for their own dwelling, transportation and other expenses. The possibility of being covered by the Fund for Superannuation could be considered.
- Ad. 2. Since it was agreed to recommend to Synod that "professors can request the assistance of lecturers", it is almost impossible to estimate the costs involved. This will be possible when Synod, with the advice of, or upon the request of professors, has appointed lecturers, and when it is known where these lecturers have their residences.
- Ad. 3. These last facts leave the item of travel expenses a complete guess.
- Ad. 4. Referring to Chapter IV, we realize that there might be a Church with facilities for lecturing, but we feel that there is no church which has sufficient room available for a Library. Space must be rented, which means an expense in addition to the amount of \$2,000.00 for the set-up of a library.
- Ad. 5. Deputies appointed by Synod 1958 reported to Synod 1962 that \$2,000.00 per year would be a minimum for the set-up of a Library. Synod 1965 decided that the Governors make available for the Library an amount of \$300.00 per teacher per year for the period to the next Synod. Since there are six instructors this means an amount of \$1,800.00.

Ad. 6. Administration costs are usually 3 - 4% of the total budget.

E. Conclusions.

Ad. a. It is the conviction of the Board of Governors that the establishment of a College under Charter by Private Bill is almost impossible, due to technical and legal complications, and to the tremendous costs involved.

There seems to be no possibility either for affiliation, witness not only the latest information from Universities in British Columbia but also the earlier reactions of University Senates in Ontario.

Ad. b. Our conclusion with respect to incorporation is that further investigations are necessary to ascertain the need and the possibilities of such a course of action.

Ad. c. Since Deputies, at the time, were not in a position to foresee the complications of the set-up of a College, and were not allowed to anticipate decisions concerning the appointment of lecturers, further conclusions could not be made and we restrict ourselves to the recommendation which was agreed upon.

III. STUDENTS.

A. Mandate.

"With respect to the suggestions of the Rev. G. VanDooren concerning contact with future students of theology the following (is decided): Synod expresses the desirability of contact with students who are planning to study theology, but does not judge it to be in its province to make a decision in that direction. (Acta Synode 1965, Art. 199, add. decisions 3, translation 'Brief Report' Art. 38).

B. Material.

Oral information of the Principal of the Teaching Staff and one of the Governors, that some young men have decided to register at other institutions of learning;

Oral information of Classical Deputies ad Art. 19 that one student is registered at the Theologische Hoogeschool at Kampen.

C. Observations.

We want to inform Synod that at the time of preparation of this report

- (a) One student is studying at our own Training-institute for the Ministry;
- (b) Two men of over 30 years are preparing for the admission examinations, and
- (c) Four young men of our Churches are registered at other institutions of learning.

IV. ESTATE

A. Mandate.

To authorize the Governors to purchase an Estate in the Province of Ontario. Such a purchase shall be made only upon favourable advice of experts and with the approval of the (Particular) Regional Synod of Ontario. Among the conditions which have to be met are these: That a fair-sized lot be available for possible further extension; and that affiliation with a University be possible (Acta Synode 1965, Art. 199, sub 4, translation 'Brief Report', Art. 38 sub 4).

B. Material.

We refer to the quotations from several letters concerning affiliation (See page 8 of our Report).

C. Observations.

It was observed that the advice of experts is not favourable, and that it is doubtful whether affiliation would ever be possible. Consequently the matter of purchasing an Estate was not given further consideration, as being premature in the present situation.

V. ADMISSION AND CURRICULUM.

A. Mandate.

Persons over 30 years of age may be admitted to the courses and examinations of the College without being in the possession of a B.A. degree or its equivalent, if they pass an entrance examination, the requirements for which shall be set by the Teaching Staff with approval of the Governors; on the understanding that these requirements shall not exceed those for a B.A. degree. (Acta Synode 1965, Art. 199, sub 5; translation 'Brief Report', Art. 38).

Curatoren stellen met advies van Docenten een Curriculum op. (Acta Synode 1965 Art. 199 sub 6-III).

B. Material

- 1. Letter from the Teaching Staff concerning requirements for entrance Examination
- 2. The Draft Curriculum will be part of the report of the Teaching Staff.

C. Considerations.

The Board decided to approve the requirements of the entrance examination for people of 30 years and older (See letter Teaching Staff and minutes of Board meetings).

The Board requested the Teaching Staff 'to draw up a Curriculum with the system as found in the calendar of Westminster Theological Seminary as a model, and in the meantime to consider the fact that students, for the time being, have to study in Western as well as in Eastern Canada.

VI. APPOINTMENT TEACHERS.

A. Mandate.

The Governors shall submit to the General Synod a nomination to appoint instructors in case of vacancies.

The Governors shall advise the General Synod about the number of instructors considered necessary (Acta Synode 1965, Art. 199, sub 6-IV and VI; translation 'Brief Report', Art. 38).

B. Observations.

Deputies observed that Synod 1965 did not reappoint the Rev. H. Krabbendam as Teacher for the 19th and 20th Century Theology. The Rev. G. VanDooren was asked to accept responsibility for this subject.

The number of instructors to be appointed depends on the decisions of Synod 1968 regarding the set-up of a College; consequently no advice is given.

VII. LIBRARY

A. Mandate.

Synod decided: Aan curatoren voor het opzetten van een bibliotheek een bedrag van \$6,000.00 beschikbaar te stellen. Hierin is begrepen het bedrag, dat door de vorige Synode voor dit doel beschikbaar was gesteld, doch niet is gebruikt. (Acta Synode 1965, Art. 99).

B. Material.

Report Librarian.

A brief report on the Library is added as Appendix I.

C. Considerations.

The Rev. J. Mulder was appointed by the Board as Librarian. He was requested to set up a Library, and authorized to purchase the books requested by the Teachers. At a later date the Board decided that the Librarian will inform the Teaching Staff that the Board considers it necessary that only such books should be acquired which a minister usually does not buy.

VIII. REPORT TEACHING STAFF.

This Report has not passed the Board and apparently will be submitted directly to Synod.

IX. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

A. Mandate.

To authorize the Governors to compensate the present instructors for work already done or still to be done (Acta Synode 1965, Art. 199, sub 2; translation 'Brief Report', Art. 38).

To request the Governors to pay attention to Br. Leffers' suggestion for a better investment of the moneys available; to request the Governors to remind the Churches that the General Synod of Hamilton 1962 requested the sum of \$1.00 per member per year for the Theological College. (Acta Synode 1965, Art. 199 - additional decisions 4 c and e; translation 'Brief Report, Art. 38).

B. Material.

Several letters from Churches concerning the contribution of Churches.

C. Observations.

(a) Remuneration of Teachers.

The Board has requested the Teachers to give an estimate of the work and time involved in the past. Some have answered that request. In the discussion of this part of the mandate, it became clear that Deputies did not have a clear picture of the work involved. Consequently the following was decided: 'The Board of Governors decides to give the Teachers who instructed Mr. C. VanSpronsen toward the Office of Minister of the Gospel, an amount of \$250.00 as a token of appreciation instead of a remuneration, since the Board was not able to make a correct estimate of each teacher's work'.

One of the teachers informed the Board that he was not satisfied with this decision, but that he left the case to the forthcoming General Synod.

(b) Treasurer's Report.

This report will be submitted to Synod by the Treasurer, Mr. H. Leffers.

(c) Investments.

After discussing a communication from the Treasurer, the Board decided:

1. To approve the course of action taken by the Treasurer re the investment of the moneys, as explained in his letter to the Board;
2. To inform br. Leffers that the Board is of the opinion that the remaining funds of \$12,497.10 should not be invested 'on long term' in view of certain decisions of Synod concerning Library and Estate.
3. To mention in the Press Release of the meeting that a better investment of the moneys contributed has been considered, approved and enacted.

(d) Contribution Churches.

This matter was discussed in connection with the report of the Treasurer to the Board. The following was decided: 'The Board of Governors decides that the Treasurer shall be requested to inform the Secretary of the Board about those Churches which are behind in their contributions, and that the Secretary shall forward a letter to these Churches on behalf of the Board to remind them of the fact that the Synod of Hamilton, 1962, decided: "inzake de kosten verbonden aan de uitvoering van de genomen besluiten (Acta 1962, Artt. 95 and 162) spreekt de Synode uit dat het voor het uitvoeren dezer besluiten betreffende de opleiding noodzakelijk is, dat de kerken tot de eerstkomende Synode \$1.00 per ziel per jaar opbrengen", and to ask them to make up for the arrears.

In the course of time several Churches have submitted to the Board questions and requests concerning this matter. In connection with some of these questions it was decided:

- (a) Re the question brought up by two Churches concerning contributions for 1963, to inform these Churches that the practice has been in our Churches to commence payment of \$1.00 per member per year immediately after publication of the Press Release, and
- (b) to grant the request of one of the Churches in view of certain circumstances (See minutes of the Board meetings).

Other requests could not be considered because they were received after the last Board meeting.

To be informed about the contributions of the Churches, the Board requested the Treasurer to inform the Board about Churches which are behind in contributions and to forward a letter to remind them of the decisions of Synod 1962 and 1965. In the course of time financial statements have been prepared and forwarded to the Churches. The Board was informed that the result has been a more regular payment of contributions.

Deputies also received a copy of an appeal of two Churches against the decisions of Synod 1965 to ask from the Churches an amount of \$7.00 per confessing member per year. Cognizance was taken of this information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Deputies respectfully submit the following recommendations:

1. To appoint new Deputy-Governors with the mandate to be diligent in all matters pertaining to the Training for the Ministry.
2. To give the privilege of the floor of General Synod to the President and the Secretary of the Board of Governors.
3. To authorize Deputies to forward copies of the minutes of their meetings to corresponding Churches, if so requested (See Chapter I Report).
4. (a) Not to proceed into the direction of a Charter by Private Bill. To continue investigating the possibility of affiliation with an existing College; however, for the time being, not to proceed into that direction because of insurmountable obstacles.
(b) To charge the Deputies-to-be-appointed to advise the next General Synod whether it is warranted to proceed to the establishment of a Theological College under the Corporations Act, with a view to the need and the possibilities of such a course of action. Deputies are convinced that, at the present time, such a procedure is unwarranted.
(c) To appoint two Professors who can request the assistance of Lecturers (Chapter II-Report).
5. To adopt the following rule, in view of the fact that several of our Church members study at other institutions of learning: 'To be admitted to the Ecclesiastical Examinations, theological students must submit to the Classis, which will examine them, a Certificate issued by the Teaching Staff of our own Seminary' (See Chapter III-Report).
6. Not to acquire an Estate, neither to authorize Deputies to purchase any Real Estate property before a definite decision concerning incorporation or affiliation has been made (See Chapter IV-Report).
7. To assign an amount of \$2,500.00 annually for the Library.

We trust that with this report we have fulfilled the mandate given to us by Synod 1965, Edmonton.

Praying that the Lord may bless Synod in all her work, and guide her also in the discussions and decisions concerning this important matter to the edification of the Church of Christ in this country, we respectfully submit this report to your Assembly.

Board of Governors,

W. LOOPSTRA, President

D. VANDERBOOM, Secretary

H. A. STEL, Assessor

L. MOES

J. MULDER

A. B. ROUKEMA

SUPPLEMENT 4

(Ag. Report I,13; Arts. 71, 117)

REPORT TREASURER TRAINING FOR THE MINISTRY

Uitgaven voor de "Opleiding tot de Dienst des Woords" over de periode 1966, 1967 en 1968 tot 26 Oct.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Vergoeding aan Docenten | \$ 1770.00 |
| Bibliotheek | 493.85 |
| Diverse onkosten curatoren, reiskosten, vergadering | 2277.86 |
| Totaal | \$ 4541.71 |

Overzicht belegging aanwezige gelden

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Debenture Canada Trust @ 6% | \$20,000.00 |
| Dit geld komt vrij 1 Aug. 1969 plus \$3976.33 aan interest | |
| Debenture Canada Trust @ 6 1/2% | 17,000.00 |
| Komt vrij 2 Febr. 1970 plus \$2410.06 aan interest | |
| Lening Schoolvereniging New-Westminster @ 5% | 3,810.00 |
| Trust Savings Account Bank of Montreal 5% | 25,809.82 |
| Savings Account Bank of Montreal | 7,908.96 |
| Totaal aanwezige gelden | \$74,528.78 |

De bescheiden van de penningmeester worden eens per jaar gecontroleerd de kerk van Coaldale, Alta.

De laatste boekencontrole vond plaats 30 Jan. 1968.

H. Leffers, penningmeester.

OVERZICHT ACHTERSTAND IN BIJDAGEN "OPLEIDING DIENST des WOORDS"

t/m OCT. 26, 1968

| Kerk | te kort 1963-65 | te kort 1966 | te kort 1967 | totaal achter- stallig 1963-1967 | betaald voor 1968 |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------|
| Abbotsford | - | - | | | \$735.00 |
| Barrhead | - | | | | |
| Brampton | \$ 80.00 | | | \$ 80.00 | |
| Burlington | - | \$1339.20 | \$2431.49 | \$3770.69 | |
| Calgary | - | | | | |
| Carman | - | | | | |
| Chatham | - | | | | |
| Cloverdale | - | | | | \$756.00 |
| Coaldale | - | | | | \$700.00 |
| Edmonton | - | | | | |
| Fergus-Guelph | - | | \$ 728.00 | \$ 728.00 | |
| Grand Rapids | - | | | | \$518.36 |
| Hamilton | - | | | | |
| Houston | - | | | | |
| London | - | | | | |
| Matheson | - | | | | \$ 63.00 |
| Neerlandia | - | | | | |
| N. Westminster | - | | | | |
| Orangeville | 1) - | \$ 681.00 | \$ 671.00 | \$1352.00 | \$330.00 |
| Ottawa | - | \$ 274.73 | \$ 95.56 | \$ 370.29 | |
| Smithers | - | | | | |
| Smithville | - | | | | |
| Toronto | - | | | | |
| Watford | \$249.78 | | \$ 150.58 | \$ 400.36 | |
| Winnipeg | - | | | | \$332.00 |
| Totaal achterstallig | | | \$6701.34 | | |

1) De kerk te Orangeville betaalde voor 1968 tot op heden \$1.00 per ziel

SUPPLEMENT 5

(Arts. 71, 78, 91, 92, 100, 108, 111, 116-120, 131, 132, 135, 153, 160, 169, 170)

Report of Advisory Committee II on TRAINING FOR THE MINISTRY

Observations:

1. The report about the Library appears to be a report to the Board of Governors and does not contain any proposals to Synod.
2. The first point from the "Rules and Regulations", adopted by the Synod of Edmonton 1965, Acts Art. 199, 6,I, reads,
"De Kerken verzorgen de Opleiding tot de Dienst des Woords door middel van Curatoren, die benoemd en geïnstrueerd worden door de Generale Synode. Curatoren worden voorgedragen door de mindere vergadering. Iedere Particuliere Synode draagt drie Curatoren met secundi voor."
3. Governors advise Synod
 - a. not to proceed into the direction of a Charter by Private Bill;
 - b. to continue investigating the possibility of affiliation with an existing College;
 - c. to charge the Board of Governors to advise the next General Synod whether it is warranted to proceed to the establishment of a Theological College under the Corporations Act, with a view to the need and the possibilities of such a course of action.
4. Two of the Governors and one of the Teachers informed Synod that at least three Professors and five Lecturers would be needed if Synod should decide to establish a Seminary which is to provide adequate training. They do not consider this feasible, at least not at present.
5. Governors propose to Synod that a rule be adopted covering the admission to the Ecclesiastical Examinations of those who study at other institutions of learning.
6. In various proposals an important argument against immediate establishment of a complete College is that the needs, now and in the foreseeable future, do not warrant the large sums of money required for such an undertaking.
7. Another recurring argument is that it should be understood that students, of whom it is demanded that they should have a B.A. degree, also wish to obtain an officially recognized B.D. degree.

Considerations:

1. Synod will have to appoint Governors.
2. It is advisable to give the privilege of the floor to the President and the Secretary of the Board of Governors.
3. It would be strange to provide, upon their request, corresponding Churches with copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Governors, whereas the own Churches are to be content with a brief Press Release. Since they are interested in the decisions only, there is not really any need to send the full minutes.
4. From the documents submitted and other information received it appears that it is not entirely impossible to have an incorporated Theological College.

5. It would be incorrect to leave it up to Professors to request the assistance of Lecturers. Synod is to appoint all instructors.
6. The recommendation of Governors to adopt a rule re Ecclesiastical Examinations is inadmissible, since this is not a matter with which the Governors should deal, and since the General Synod of Homewood-Carman 1958, made a decision in this matter, Acts 1958, Art. 151.
7. It is advisable that Governors be authorized to proceed to the acquisition of an estate. The cost of such an estate should be within the limits of the funds available and should be entirely suitable for the purpose.
8. Of the \$6,000.00 which had been put at the disposal of Governors for the build-up of a Library, an amount of only \$491.53 has been spent. The necessity of having a well-provided library – irrespective of the course to be followed – is beyond doubt. An amount of \$2,500.00 per year is to be considered the minimum, especially since our library is in its infancy. Besides, when affiliation with other Colleges or with a University is impossible for the time being, it is the more important to have a good library.
9. The importance of having a Theological College and of having candidates to fill the present and future vacancies cannot be expressed in monetary terms. And the necessity is not determined and modified by financial aspects.
10. Among the various questions coming up the primary one is, whether such measures ought not to be taken which will give us, also in the future, ministers trained in the sound doctrine. In this respect the following points are to be observed.
 - a. At present there are six vacancies in the Churches.
 - b. Of the ministers now serving one is over 60 years of age, 4 are older than 55, 5 are over 50 years old. Even if it pleases the LORD to enable them to do their work till their 65th year, the Churches will need 10 new ministers within 15 years.
 - c. This calculation does not take into account additional need for ministers due to increased membership, establishment of new Churches, etc.
 - d. Nor does it take into account the need for missionaries.
 - e. A Theological College would be of value not only for us, but also for foreign sister Churches where English is the language used.
 - f. As Reformed people we have a task also towards our neighbours. Although in itself this would not be a reason to establish a Theological College, it must be borne in mind that students at other Colleges might be required or advised to follow certain courses at our College or be otherwise attracted to it.
 - g. The more the use of the Netherlands language diminishes, the less likely it will be that ministers will be called from the Netherlands.
 - h. In order to protect the purity of doctrine also from the pulpit, the Churches are to have control over the way in which future ministers are instructed.
11. Although it is necessary to set high standards for the training for the Ministry in the Church of God, it must be borne in mind that the Churches do NOT maintain a Theological College in order to give persons the opportunity merely to study theology, but rather that they maintain a College to give proper and needed instruction in theology to those who aspire to the Ministry in the Churches. Whosoever wishes to complete his studies of theology should have the opportunity

to do so at the Churches' own College. However, this does not mean that no College should be established until such an opportunity can be provided.

A College is established and maintained for the sake of the Churches, not for the sake of students who wish to study theology and to obtain a "recognized degree".

12. That a degree from our own College would not be "recognized", at least not for some time, is no reason why such a College should not be established, since
 - a. such recognition is of secondary importance since we deal with the training for the Ministry;
 - b. a degree obtained at the "Theologische Hogeschool" of our Netherlands sister churches is not recognized by other Universities in the Netherlands either;
 - c. it is always possible to obtain such a degree from an incorporated College once the studies at our own College have been completed.
13. It has been stated but not proved that the Churches are not able to carry the burden of a "provisional" training with some Professors and Lecturers; the financial report received from the Treasurer gives reason to think otherwise.
14. If it were true that the Churches are unable to carry the burden of a "provisional" training with some Professors and Lecturers, we should not flatter ourselves with the hope that in the future the Churches will be able to carry a burden which would be twice as heavy, since four Professors and some Lecturers would be the minimum requirement for a College such as is considered necessary by all.
15. Appointment of two Professors and some Lecturers would involve a total cost of approximately \$33,000.00, which amounts to five dollars per member per year, or an estimated eleven dollars per year per professed member.
16. Neither Synod nor the Board of Governors have had the opportunity to make decisions about the disciplines for which Professors should be appointed and to look for men who could fill these posts. It is, however, possible that the Board of Governors meets during this Synod and provides Synod with a nomination for Professors and Lecturers and an advice concerning the disciplines to be taught by them.
17. It is advisable that the Board of Governors be assisted by some brethren who can take care of the practical matters, such as buildings if needed, lodging for the library, etc.

Recommendations:

Synod

1. express its appreciation for the work done by the Governors;
2. appoint again six Governors and alternate-governors;
3. give the privilege of the floor to the President and the Secretary of the Board of Governors;
4. authorize the Governors to forward to the Deputies for the Training for the Ministry of foreign sister-churches such decisions as may be requested by those Deputies;
5. decide to charge the Governors to continue their investigations into and their efforts towards incorporation of our Theological College;
6. make available for the Library an amount of \$2,500.00 per year;

7. request the Board of Governors to advise Synod concerning
 - a. the number of professors to be appointed, two or three;
 - b. whom to appoint as professors;
 - c. the disciplines to be taught by these professors;
 - d. how the remaining disciplines are to be divided among lecturers;
 - e. whom to appoint as lecturers;
 - f. the appointment of a financial committee of five, to serve under the auspices of the Board of Governors and to advise the Board in all non-academic matters pertaining to the establishment and the operation of a College;
 - g. where the Theological College is to be located;
8. receive the report of the Treasurer for information and express its appreciation for the work done;
9. honourably discharge the Treasurer on the ground of the Auditors' report received from the Church at Coaldale, Alta;
10. express the gratitude of the Churches for all the work Mr. H. Leffers as Treasurer of the Training for the Ministry has done during several years;
11. authorize the Board of Governors to
 - a. purchase upon the advice of the financial committee an estate suitable for the Theological College on the following conditions:
 - I. that its purchase price be well within the limits of the funds now available;
 - II. that its location be close to a university with appropriate libraries;
 - III. that its location be chosen in the Burlington-Guelph-Hamilton area;
 - b. fill vacancies in the Committee of Administration during the period between two General Synods;
 - c. make temporary arrangements for the continuation of the instruction at the College whenever need arises;
12. request the Churches to contribute \$14.00 per professed member per year for the maintenance of our Theological College.

SUPPLEMENT 6—A

(Arts. 79, 110)

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE III ON *Correspondence with Churches*
Abroad re Majority report (Ag. Report I, 12a)

Introduction

Committee III felt the need to ask the chairman of Deputies, the Rev. H. Scholten, the following questions:

- a. Is the report which you submitted to be considered as the report of the whole Committee, or as a majority report?
 Answer: Yes, it is a majority report, submitted by Mr. Ouwersloot and Rev. Scholten. Mr. VanderSchaaf read this report but did not sign it.
- b. Is the communication of Mr. VanderSchaaf to be considered as a disagreement with the majority report?
 Answer: Yes; Mr. VanderSchaaf disagreed with certain parts of it.

- c. Is there a reason why the majority report does not at all deal with the substance of Mr. VanderSchaaf's communication?

Answer: Yes; its substance had been discussed in meetings of Deputies but the majority did not see a deviation from the Church Order in the Acts of the General Synods in the Netherlands and therefore did not consider it necessary to mention all the things that are discussed by Mr. VanderSchaaf.

The Correspondence of the "Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland" with the Presbyterian Koryo - Pa in Korea

Your committee wants to state that it is difficult to submit a proper recommendation for the following reasons:

- a. By failing to inform the Canadian Reformed Deputies in a proper way about the start and progress of their contact with this Korean Presbyterian Church, the Gereformeerde Kerken did not act according to their own request (See their *Acta Generale Synode 1967*, Art. 188,b, II,c,d, page 210).
- b. Although their correspondence with the Presbyterian Koryo - Pa is not yet fully established, the Gereformeerde Kerken on their part have already declared to be eager and willing to live in sister-relationship with this Church. Yet, our Deputies did not, and perhaps could not, inform us about discussions concerning the differences in confession and Church Order. The Canadian Reformed Churches could have greatly profitted from such discussions, if they have taken place, for their own contact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
- c. Another result of adherence to rule 6 for Correspondence could have been a recommendation of our Deputies for establishing correspondence with this Church. Now, however, a sister-church is ready to go into correspondence with a "third party" about which our Churches know next to nothing.
- d. The only "obstacle" for this correspondence seems to have been the Presbyterian Koryo - Pa's membership of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod.

Rules for Correspondence

The Deputies propose that our Churches adopt the changed rules for correspondence as they have been formulated in 1967 by the "Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland" at the request of the sister-churches in Australia.

Your committee points out:

- a. that our Churches in all their Synods have repeatedly and consistently refused to accept as rule for correspondence the obligation to make no change in confession, Church Order, and Liturgical Forms without "voorgaand overleg" with other Churches (Acts General Synods: 1954, Arts. 16, 44, 49, 54; 1958, Arts. 50, 56, 57, 95, Reports IX, XII; 1962, Arts. 78, 112, 137, 138, 139, 140, 150, 156, Bijlage I; 1965, Arts. 92, 93, Report, page 78 - 85).
- b. At the request of the Churches in Australia the Dutch sister-churches changed the rules, although they knew that our Churches had consistently rejected the idea of "voorgaand overleg", and yet they themselves did not apply their own rule.

- c. It is the opinion of your committee that uniformity in the relationship with Churches abroad is not an absolute necessity. If the Australian Churches want such a close relationship with the Netherlands Churches, it does not necessarily follow that all other Churches must follow this example. On the other hand, our Churches have already a particular relationship with the Australian Churches concerning the Book of Praise, English text of the Liturgical Forms, Church Order, Catechism, etc. All this can be done within the scope of the rules which our Churches adopted (Acts Synod 1965, Art. 92, sub 3).
- d. Deputies did not offer any new arguments for this change, nor did they convince the committee that such a far-reaching condition (“voorgaand overleg”) is necessary, feasible, practical, or even possible. And far-reaching it is indeed! To begin with, this Synod would not be allowed to deal with every item of the Agenda, but submit a considerable number of items (*Forms for Excommunication, Translation and Revision of the Church Order, English Text of Catechism, etc.*) to this “voorgaand overleg”.
- In addition, did Deputies realize what this “voorgaand overleg” would necessitate? We mention:
- a. this Synod takes some provisional decisions, e.g., re Church Order;
 - b. our Deputies have to pass these on to Deputies of Churches abroad;
 - c. they, in the Netherlands, in Brasil, in South Africa, in Australia have to bring them, after some preparatory study, to their Synods;
 - d. these Synods are not allowed to take decisions in these matters without having given the Churches an opportunity to come with overtures;
 - e. then, after some years reactions start coming (let us hope so, anyway!);
 - f. suppose the reactions are different. What must our Deputies do, if anything?
 - g. our next Synod has now to consider these reactions; will it be bound to accept them?
 - h. in case it does not, must we then send back our objections all over the world again? Etc.
- e. Sincy the unity in Creeds is the real basis of correspondence with Foreign Churches, and our Creeds are the heritage of all the Church abroad too, let it be known to all Churches that the Canadian Reformed Churches are not planning any change, however small, of these Creeds; and if they ever become convinced that these Creeds have to be corrected or changed on the basis of God’s Word, they will not do that without the sister-churches with whom they have these Creeds in common. For such an important matter an international conference or Synod would not be unwarranted.

SUPPLEMENT 6-B

(Art. 173)

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE III ON *Correspondence with Churches Abroad* re *Minority Report (Ag. Report I, 12)*

Your committee has gone through the report of Mr. P. VanderSchaaf, who brought forward several objections and criticisms against actions and decisions of recent General Synods of “De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland”. At the end he comes to the conclusion that there is “een bepaalde ommezwaai te bespeuren, in afwijking van en in strijd

met de aangenomen kerkenordening als accoord van kerkelijke gemeenschap". "Deze zwenking niet aan te wijzen, zou schuldige nalatigheid zijn van deputaten." (Report, p.16, sub XVII)

The committee is convinced that it has to limit itself to acts, decisions and declarations of *Generale Synoden*. We are only concerned with *principles of church polity* and for that reason leave out names of places and persons as much as possible.

Coming now to the Report, we follow the numbering of its chapters:

I No comments.

II "Gravamen Ds . . ." (Acts *Generale Synode* 1964, Art. 134). By way of question Mr. VanderSchaaf calls abiding by a majority vote legalistic and formalistic. Your committee points out:

- a. that upholding a majority vote (even with the smallest majority) is in accordance with Art. 31 Church Order;
- b. that the only objection against it can be that the *grounds* for a decision to suspend an office-bearer are invalid and unbiblical (Art. 31b C.O.), which Mr. VanderSchaaf did not prove.

III No comments.

IV No comments.

V "Inzake Groningen-Zuid" (Acts *Generale Synode* 1964, Art. 315).

Mr. VanderSchaaf asks (p. 3) "Mag en kan een predikant schorsenswaardig verklaard worden op grond van onduidelijke en niet heldere stukken?" and proceeds to quote a statement of a member of *Synode* 1964 (p. 3,4).

Our remark is: *Synode* 1964 admitted that there were areas of *onduidelijkheid* in the grounds for suspension but stated that this does not affect the *wettigheid* of the decisions regarding the suspension of a minister. Mr. VanderSchaaf does not prove that this last statement was in error.

Page 5,6. Mr. VanderSchaaf rightly points out that *Generale Synode* 1964 upheld, overagainst a *Particuliere Synode*, that Art. 79 C.O. may not be set aside by appealing to Art. 31 C.O. Therefore your committee sees nothing wrong in his conclusion, p. 6 at bottom, "indien er noodzaak is van schorsing, dan is de enige weg tot schorsing die naar Art. 79 K.O."

Page 7,8. Mr. VanderSchaaf, after having quoted decisions of Synod Homewood-Carman 1958 on Art. 79 C.O., submits the request to Synod to admonish our sisterchurches in the Netherlands on the basis of Art. 79 C.O. as interpreted by our Synod 1958 (Acts Art. 179, sub 3): "De classis had daarom niet de roeping eerst te onderzoeken of de kerkeraad van X in een noodsituatie verkeerde. Ze had de roeping dadelijk te constateren dat deze schorsing in strijd met Art. 79 K.O. was geschied".

This stand of the Canadian Reformed Churches in 1958 is compared with that of *Synode* 1964 in the Netherlands, Acts Art. 431: "Zij is van oordeel dat de kerkeraad van Y vanwege de aldus ontstane situatie gerechtigd was in afwijking van de in Art. 79 K.O. gestelde regel zijn 'eigen verantwoordelijkheid' . . . te betrachten".

This matter will be dealt with later on.

VI I "De lering van . . ." (Art. 449)

From his question: "is het geoorloofd voor een ander conclusies te trekken?" it is clear that Mr. VanderSchaaf draws a wrong conclusion from this Article of *Synode* 1964. The "conclusion" or rather result of certain unreformed ideas of that minister were noted in his sermons. 08

VII “*Schorsingswaardigheid . . .*”.

On page 9 Mr. Vander Schaaf states that *Synode* 1964, in dealing with an appeal from a “doleantie-kerkeraad” “heeft gedaan wat des (naastgelegen) kerkeraads was”.

Your committee is of the opinion that this *Synode* did not do so but dealt with an appeal according to Art. 31 C.O. of this “doleantie-kerkeraad” against decisions of a *Particuliere Synode*.

VIII “*Dolenantie*”

Mr. VanderSchaaf makes some remarks about the considerations of the *Generale Synode* 1964, in the matter of “doleren” (Art. 458a). Your committee does not see the need to comment on these remarks.

IX No comments.

X “*Generale Synode Amersfoort West 1967*”.

a. Your committee is of the opinion that Mr. VanderSchaaf rightly states that the words “als lid der Synode heenzenden” are in this case more appropriate than the words “niet te ontvangen”. Synod had already been constituted; the “delegates” had become “members of Synod”.

b. The Committee took note of the information, provided by Mr. VanderSchaaf, that he could not find the “Open Brief” on the adopted Agenda of *Generale Synode* 1967 (See page 11).

XI “*Gelden Theologische Hogeschool*”.

The only comment: Synod Edmonton 1965 did a similar thing.

XII “*Scheuring te B*” (1967, Art. 137).

a. In answer to Mr. VanderSchaaf’s remark (c) “de Generale Synode leest in Art. 53 en 54 K.O. meer dan er staat”, your committee refers to decisions taken by the General Synod of Edmonton 1965 concerning a similar case (which decisions have been upheld by this Synod 1968).

b. The statement (p. 13 bottom) “Zuiver kerkrechtelijk gezien komt het voor dat deze zaak kerkrechtelijk niet zuiver zit” cannot in the opinion of your committee be a reason for advising Synod to recognize the church at B (“als zusterkerk blijven erkennen”).

XIII “*Correspondentie met Buitenlandse Kerken*”

Your committee has dealt with this matter in the first part of its report.

XIV “*Groningen-Zuid*”

Under this heading Mr. VanderSchaaf gives as his opinion that the *Generale Synode* 1967, when deciding that “de Synode hier een afwijking van Art. 79 K.O. geoorloofd acht”, violated Art. 79 C.O. Quoting the *Generale Synode*’s consideration: “in het licht der Schrift niet kan worden volgehouden dat een *aanwezig geachte noodsituatie* nooit of te nimmer een afwijking van Art. 79 K.O. zou mogen rechtvaardigen”, Mr. VanderSchaaf remarks: “dat zulks niet betekent noch toelaat dat, in gewone omstandigheden artikelen van de K.O. willekeurige wijze terzijde gesteld zouden worden”.(p.15)

We underlined two expressions. Mr. VanderSchaaf states:

a. dat dit een zeer subjectieve redenering is; wanneer is er een noodsituatie en wanneer zijn de omstandigheden gewoon?

b. in gewone omstandigheden komt Art. 79 K.O. niet ter sprake, doch in “nood-situaties” is het er om gehanteerd te worden.

Mr. VanderSchaaf compared these and similar interpretations of Art. 79 C.O. given by *Generale Synoden* 1964 and 1967 in the Netherlands with those given by the Synod 1958 of the Canadian Reformed Churches (See page 7 of his Report).

Our Synod 1958 stated a violation of Art. 79 C.O. by a consistory which had suspended its minister provisionally (“voorlopig”) without, or rather against “preceding sentence of . . . the Consistory of the nearest Church” (translation Report 6). Synod 1958 stated “de classis had daarom *niet* de roeping eerst te onderzoeken of de kerkeraad van X in een *noodsituatie* verkeerde. Ze had de roeping dadelijk te constateren dat deze schorsing in strijd met Art. 70 K.O. was geschied.”

Furthermore, this Synod maintained that (notwithstanding *de noodsituatie*):

- a. Art. 79 K.O. onder meer bedoelt de rechtspositie van de ambtsdragers veilig te stellen;
- b. dat deze door bedoelde kerkeraad was “aangetast”;
- c. dat deze kerkeraad “het recht in eigen handen heeft genomen”,

and concluded:

“door deze onwettige schorsing is het recht des HEEREN op de trouw van de kerk van X aan de ook door haar aanvaarde K.O. verloochend”.

Your committee has to admit that the difference in interpreting and applying Art. 79 C.O. between Synod Homewood-Carman 1958 and the Dutch *Synoden* 1964 and 1967 is obvious.

At both sides of the ocean a *noodsituatie* was acknowledged. At the Canadian side, however, this situation was not accepted as an excuse for a (*voorlopige*) suspension without or against the preceding sentence of the nearest church; such a procedure was called a violation of Art. 79 C.O.; at the Dutch side the *noodsituatie* was accepted as an “excuse”.

Your committee, however, in stating this difference cannot draw the conclusion that the Dutch sisterchurches no longer abide by the accepted Church Order or that a new binding interpretation of the Church Order has been adopted and imposed upon the Churches.

We do realize that the Dutch procedure might become a precedent and so create a practice which, in fact, might cause conflict with the Church Order. However, at this time it cannot be said that this “incident” is a “symptom” and proof of an *ommezwaai*, a *zwenking* in the life of the sisterchurches in the Netherlands.

The only thing that could be done by Synod in this respect is: to state the difference in the application of Art. 79 C.O.

XV “*Deputaat Curator*”

Your committee is of the opinion that it is not our business whom the Dutch sisterchurches do or do not want to appoint as “*curatoren*”.

XVI “*Deputaten Correspondentie*”

The same goes for this appointment.

XVII “*Samenvatting en Conclusie*”

Your committee has already, at the beginning of this part of its Report, stated that Mr. VanderSchaaf is convinced that the *Synoden* 1964, 1967 have deviated from, and acted in conflict with the accepted Church Order.

Having followed Mr. VanderSchaaf on his road to this “conclusion” your committee must state that our brother has not convinced us that a change of course has

taken place in the doctrine and the life of “De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland”. Therefore your committee cannot recommend that Synod adopt Mr. VanderSchaaf’s overture:” zij is van oordeel dat de kerkeraad van Breda (praeses Ds K.C. Smouter) als wettige raad van de Gereformeerde Kerk te Breda erkend dient te worden, en spreekt uit de hierboven genoemde kerkeraden, predikanten en kerken . . . te blijven erkennen en met haar de kerkelijke correspondentie te blijven onderhouden”. Your committee points out that this would, in fact, mean breaking off the correspondence with the sisterchurches in the Netherlands in general.

The *ground* for our recommendation, not to adopt Mr. VanderSchaaf’s *voorstellen* (pp. 17-19) is:

Even if the application of Art. 79 C.O. by *Synoden* 1964 and 1967 in the Netherlands differ from what Synod Homewood-Carman decided in 1958, and even if there have been mistakes and shortcomings, this does not give legitimate ground for the conclusion that the Dutch sisterchurches do no longer abide by the accepted Creeds and Church Order, or that a new binding interpretation of them has been adopted and imposed upon the Churches.

For the same reason we cannot advise Synod “een schrijven te doen uitgaan” to the sisterchurches in the Netherlands with the purpose, “om God’s wil en der broederen wil onze zusterkerken op te roepen terug te keren van deze schadelijke weg, en zich voor de HEERE en tegenover de broeders te verootmoedigen”, Report pp. 7,8.

SUPPLEMENT 7

(Ag. Report I, 5; Art. 87)

Report of Deputies for an *English Calvinistic Psalter*

I. THE SUPPLEMENT.

Although the Synod Edmonton in its decision (see Acts. Art. 192) envisaged the completion of the “Book of Praise” and instructed its Deputies accordingly, it also authorized deputies, in case it appeared to be impossible to submit to the Churches a complete Psalter in the near future, to publish a “Supplement” in order to fill the gap between the present “Book of Praise” and a complete Psalter (Acts, Art. 192 3h).

When Deputies discovered that the publication of a complete Psalter in the near future was impossible, they focused all their attention on the second possibility, namely the publication of a “Supplement”, which was forwarded to the Churches in the course of 1967.

The publication of the “Supplement” did not create any insurmountable problems, especially because the majority of the Hymns could be adopted from existing Hymnaries, while the publication of the Psalm section was greatly facilitated by the contribution from one of our church members.

Although the Supplement *per se* constitutes the Deputies’ report, - a matter too often forgotten - and consequently does not need any particular introduction, Deputies will nevertheless mention in this report (as they already did in the Preface to the Supplement) that this “Supplement” embodies 34 Psalms and 18 Hymns. The majority of the Psalms is on the traditional “Genevan tunes”. The Deputies also published three Psalms on a tune different from the traditional one. It is very much to be regretted that, as a result of a printing error, Psalm 41 was not published with the traditional Genevan tune Psalms 94 and 112, however, clearly indicate what was the intention of Deputies, namely to present a Psalm on two divergent tunes.

Although Deputies have now come to the conviction not to proceed in that direction, they nevertheless like to give in this report account of this rather unusual procedure. It has been a matter of consideration why some Psalms are hardly ever sung and are virtually unknown, whereas other Psalms apparently constitute part of a "collection" of "beloved" melodies. To a certain extent this discrepancy may be explained by the subjective choice of the minister with his individual preference for a certain number of Psalms. However, it cannot be denied that in most cases the same Psalms are hardly ever sung in any Church. This indicates that the personal choice of the local minister is not the only cause of the existence of "favorite" tunes". Deputies have come to the conclusion that the unfamiliarity of a Psalm is the result of the unfamiliarity with the melody, and is not caused by the contents of the Psalm. Hence Deputies attempted to replace an "unfamiliar" by a "familiar" tune. However, in order not to forfeit the traditional melody entirely, Deputies decided to publish the first stanza on the traditional tune, and to distinguish the Psalm on the "alternate" tune" with an "a" added to its number; see e.g., Psalms 41, 94, and 112. Deputies took this decision in the conviction that many Psalms, now hardly ever used in the worship services, probably would become more popular among the Church members. However, Deputies would now rather suggest a different course of action, as this report will indicate.

Deputies express their deep disappointment with the little interest shown in their work on the part of the Churches; those, however, who submitted their critical remarks will notice how much Deputies appreciated their suggestions.

II. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

The ultimate aim of Deputies is to present to the Churches a complete Psalter comprising all 150 Psalms on the Genevan tunes. They would like to emphasize the phrase "on the Genevan tunes". Deputies do not anticipate any objections to the first part of this suggestion; all of us are convinced that the Churches are in need of a complete Psalter. The second part of the suggestion, however, implies that Deputies will no longer avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the Edmonton Synod, namely that they did not have to limit themselves to the Genevan tunes, but were at liberty to use different tunes so long as these served the purpose of the congregational singing: the praise of the Lord. Deputies are now of the opinion that they should not make use of this possibility. They have come to the unanimous conclusion, after many lengthy discussions, not to recommend to the Churches to add another one to the many existing Psalters, which are composed of a number of tunes well-known in the Anglo-Saxon world together with beloved Genevan tunes. If this were the result of their work, Deputies would consider the work previously done a waste of time and money since there are many of this type of Psalters available in our country. Instead, Deputies would like to suggest that the Churches once and for all forsake this concept of an eclectic Psalter and proceed to the completion of a *Genevan Psalter*. If our Churches achieved this - and Deputies are convinced that this is certainly possible within a reasonable period of time - then our Churches would not only possess a well-balanced Psalter, but would also have contributed in a unique manner to the culture of our nation, which is for the most part unfamiliar with the magnificent Genevan tunes. Deputies flatter themselves that thus they may contribute to the Psalmody of our nation. That they certainly do not aim too high may be inferred from the enthusiasm with which musicologists from many quarters have

received our still incomplete Psalter. This change of policy entails of course that the non-Genevan tunes of some Psalms in the existing Book of Praise will be replaced by Genevan tunes.

But since Deputies are convinced that many non-Genevan tunes are of a priceless value, to mention only Psalms 5, 11, 12, 127, they would like to suggest that these tunes be inserted in the Hymn section of the Book of Praise. The advantage of such a procedure would be that we retain a good non-Genevan tune, though not in the Psalm section.

The so-called "identical tunes" ("Doublures") constitute a different chapter. The Genevan Psalter, although comprising 150 Psalms, does not have 150 different tunes. A number of Psalms are sung on an identical tune; four times one tune is used for three different Psalms, and there is even one tune used four times, namely in Psalms 24, 62, 95, 111. These "identical tunes" create a specific problem since Deputies could not find any consistency in the three-or fourfold use of a melody: why is the tune of Psalm 24 used four times, and why the tune of Psalm 42 and Psalm 89 only once? Deputies would like to reserve to themselves a certain liberty in the choice of a melody for a Psalm belonging to this category. It may be superfluous to assure the Churches that Deputies, in the choice of a different melody for the Psalms traditionally sung on an identical tune, will limit themselves to the Genevan tunes.

Since Deputies feel that not all versification of the Psalms contained in the original Book of Praise may meet the requirements of complete conformity to Scripture and of linguistic correctness, it is their intention to submit these versifications to a close scrutiny before presenting the Churches with a complete Psalter. Thereby Deputies hope to ensure that all rhymed versions are faithful to the original text and are rendered in idiomatic English.

Contact of Deputies with foreign churches was extremely rare, partly because Deputies did not meet with any special problems in the publication of the "Supplement" which necessitated consultation. The Deputies appointed by the Australian Churches will not fail to notice that Deputies have gratefully adopted the suggestions made by them with respect to the tunes, and Deputies are convinced that, although they could not adopt everyone of their suggestions, they certainly assimilated the main tenets of the report of the Australian Deputies.

With deep gratitude Deputies acknowledge the assistance received from some members of our Churches, who contributed to the "Supplement". Their contribution opens vistas for the publication of a Psalter, originating from various sources. Deputies express the expectation that they will be able, within the foreseeable future, to conclude a contract with these contributors to our Psalter.

Deputies express their disappointment with the fact that one of the Deputies, Mr. J. J. Knegt, Rockwood, Ontario, for reasons of increased business responsibilities, could no longer serve on the Committee. Mr. Knegt, who so faithfully served as Deputy and who contributed so much with his musical talent, resigned as treasurer of Deputies as well. His place was taken by Mr. S. R. Smilde, Thornhill, Ontario. Deputies are very grateful for the worthwhile contributions of br. J. J. Knegt and for his active participation in the work of Deputies.

III. Attached please find a Report on the finances of our Committee.

S. R. Smilde,
F. Kouwenhoven.

Respectfully submitted,
G. VanDooren,
D. VanderBoom,
M. M. DeGroot.

SUPPLEMENT 8

(Ag. Report I, 15; Art. 87)

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE FOR AN ENGLISH CALVINISTIC PSALTER

Financial Statement re "Book of Praise" 2nd Edition and "Supplement 1967"

March 1965 - October 31, 1968

Receipts

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------|
| From Deputies | | \$ 2,320.51 |
| Sold: | | |
| 3686 copies 2nd Ed.) | \$9,432.80 | |
| 3255 copies Suppl.) | | |
| Discount booksellers | 514.29 | 8,918.51 |
| Copyright: | | |
| received after closing books of Deputies | | 470.06 |
| Interest | | 28.41 |
| Sold: | | |
| 978 copies 2nd Ed.) | | 2,005.64 |
| 800 copies Suppl.) | | |
| Interest | | 71.23 |
| | | \$13,814.36 |

In Stock: 2nd Edition 380 copies

Supplement 1929 copies

Disbursements

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Authors and Advisers | | \$ 2,804.18 |
| Cost of Printing: | | |
| 5,044 copies 2nd Ed. | | 3,828.59 |
| 5,984 copies Suppl. | | 3,001.50 |
| Stationery | \$ 46.23 | |
| Advertising | 6.15 | |
| Reproduction of rhymes | 31.00 | |
| Shipping Expenses (partly recovered) | 349.19 | 432.57 |
| Shipping Expenses | | 20.00 |
| Balance (Bank Account) | | 3,727.52 |
| | | \$13,814.36 |

For the Committee,

M.M. de Groot.

SUPPLEMENT 9
(Art. 87)
REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE IV ON *The Book of Praise*

Observations:

A. It struck the committee that deputies write that the Supplement *per se* constitutes the deputies' report. The committee is of the opinion that not only the Supplement but all items of the mandate of deputies should be included in the report of deputies. It struck the committee too that deputies express their deep disappointment with the little interest shown in their work. Your committee, however, is convinced that there is hardly a subject which is more in the center of the interest of the churches than the Book of Praise.

In their report we did not find an answer to 3b of the mandate of deputies: "whether Mr. Westra was found willing and able to make improvements deemed necessary by deputies". Neither did we find a financial statement over the years 1962 - 1965 according to point 5 of the decisions of General Synod Edmonton 1965 re the Calvinistic Psalter.

In part II of their report deputies inform Synod that they do not plan "to avail themselves of the opportunity not to limit themselves to the Genevan tunes". (Apparently deputies expect to be appointed again.) They suggest that the churches proceed to the completion of a Psalter with exclusively Genevan tunes.

Deputies also suggest that the non-Genevan tunes, now found in the Psalter section of the Book of Praise, be transferred to the Hymn section. That way the good non-Genevan tunes could be retained.

As to the identical tunes deputies like to be free in the choice of a Genevan melody for a Psalm belonging to this category.

Deputies intend to submit the versifications to close scrutiny before a complete Psalter is published.

Contact with deputies of churches abroad was limited but helpful especially in the case of the Australian churches. Deputies acknowledge gratefully the assistance received from some members of our churches and hope to be able to conclude a contract with these contributors.

Deputies inform Synod that Mr. J. J. Knegt had to withdraw from the committee and that Mr. S. R. Smilde took over as treasurer.

B. The Church at Smithers, B.C. moves that Synod instruct deputies to concentrate on completing the Psalms first and then to confine themselves to rhymed versions of Scriptural passages.

C. The Church at Coaldale, Alta, proposes

1. that the new deputies be strongly reminded of the decisions of Synod Homewood-Carman 1958 "to compose a Psalter with other songs of Scripture, if possible, according to the directives of the report of deputies of Synod Homewood 1954",

and that 2. new deputies be instructed to be very cautious in including hymns in the Book of Praise.

As examples of less acceptable hymns the numbers 18, 20 and 21 are mentioned. The Church at Coaldale is of the opinion that deputies did not pay sufficient attention to the directive of Synod Edmonton 1965: "to give preference to versifications of Scripture-passages".

- D. The Church at Toronto, Ont., proposes that new deputies do not receive the right to use other than Genevan tunes except in the case of Genevan tunes which are seldom used; this on the ground that praising God is not the exclusive property of the Genevan tunes.
The Church at Toronto points out that every attempt should be made to versify in modern English and to avoid all artificiality. The Church at Toronto states that Christ's redemptive work, as related in the New Testament, should also be included in the Book of Praise.
- E. The Church at Barrhead, Alta, is not convinced by the arguments of deputies for a Psalter with Genevan tunes only. It is of the opinion that it is far better to have 150 Psalms that are suitable for congregational singing.
- F. The Regional Synod of Ontario 1968 moves that Synod: (1) instruct deputies not to use the melodies of Psalm 10, 12, 18, 69 and possibly others of the Book of Praise for the complete Psalter, because these melodies are not an improvement on the Genevan tunes, and (2) instruct deputies to have the Psalm versions of the Book of Praise thoroughly revised before they are included in the complete Psalter, and to look for suitable replacements if revision gives no good results, because several versions do not always express the contents of the Biblical text and lack the simplicity and clarity required in the rhymed versions of the songs of the Covenant.
- G. Mr. W. Griffioen requests Synod to decide that the numbers 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27 and 32 in the Hymn section of the Book of Praise be left out of a new edition, and to discourage the singing of these hymns in the services of our churches, because "history teaches that a church deforms in proportion to the number of unscriptural hymns it condones".
- H. The Church at Edmonton, Alta, forwarded to Synod a report concerning ideas and opinions of the congregation with respect to the Book of Praise and Supplement.
- I. The Publication Committee for an English Calvinistic Psalter presents to Synod a financial statement covering the period March 1965 to October 1968. We learn from it that the *receipts* were \$15,485.01 and the *disbursements* \$10,086.84. The surplus is \$5,398.70. The stock consists of 380 Books of Praise and 1929 Supplements.
- J. The Church at Brampton, Ont., informs Synod that the books of deputies were audited and found in good order.

Considerations:

The overtures submitted by churches and church members show that all want the Psalter completed but that opinions differ as to the question how to attain this goal. Deputies advocate a Psalm section with exclusively Genevan tunes, because they have come to the conclusion that a Psalter composed of Genevan and non-Genevan tunes would be a waste of time and money. Others feel that room should be left for non-Genevan tunes to replace those Genevan tunes that are difficult to sing and are therefore seldom used. They emphasize that not just part of the Psalter should be used but that the whole Psalter should be sung.

Your committee, though not indifferent to the arguments of deputies when they speak of the unique contribution which our Churches could make to the culture of our nation and to its Psalmody by composing a Psalter on the Genevan tunes, and though moved by the enthusiasm of musicologists, is of the opinion that our Churches need a Book of Praise which can be sung by old and young, and is used in school as well as in church, at the campfire as well as in the meetings of our societies.

The committee observed that the suggestions made by churches and church members did not include proposals to deviate from the directives of Synod Edmonton 1965: "that deputies do not have to restrict themselves to the Genevan tunes". (Acts 1965, Art. 192, 3f)

Though your committee is not opposed to a Psalter on Genevan tunes, it would regret a removal from the Book of Praise of the beautiful non-Genevan tunes which are used in the Psalm section. Those tunes have found as good a reception in the churches as the well-known Genevan ones and it would be a loss, in the opinion of the committee, if the churches should be deprived of them. Your committee wonders also if the existence of a Psalter with Genevan tunes only and of a hymnary with non-Genevan tunes will not have the result that outside the church services the Psalter will be forgotten and the hymnary used.

Regarding the versifications of the Psalms the committee is convinced that serious attention should be paid to the presentations of the Regional Synod of Ontario, the committees of the Church at Edmonton and of the Church at Toronto.

As to the request of Mr. Griffioen, your committee feels that the question whether or not a hymn is scriptural is not determined by the fact that its origin can be traced back to the Old or New Testament, but by the fact that its contents are in agreement with the divine revelation in Old and New Testament.

In regard to (a) the criticism voiced against a number of hymns in the Book of Praise and Supplement, (b) the reminder that, according to General Synod Edmonton 1965, preference should have been given to the rhyming of Scripture passages, and (c) the proposal to restrict ourselves to the versification of such passages, your committee is of the opinion that deputies who are to be appointed should proceed in the line of Synod Edmonton 1965.

Deputies should be careful that no hymns which do not answer the standard of complete faithfulness to the Scriptures will be included in a new edition of the Book of Praise and that hymns of which this is doubtful are deleted.

SUPPLEMENT 10

(Art. 134)

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE III ON THE

Contact with the Christian Reformed Church

Re: Report of Deputies ad IV, pp. 7-19, on The Conclusions of Utrecht 1905/1908

From the Supplement to the Report of Deputies (Ag. Report I,3b) your committee learned that Synod 1968 of Christian Reformed Church declared "that the 'Conclusions of Utrecht', as adopted in 1908, no longer have the status of binding doctrinal deliverances within the Christian Reformed Church". The First of the three grounds for this decision was that the Christian Reformed Synod 1962 had declared that these Conclusions "shall not be used as a test for membership or holding office in the Christian Reformed Church, nor as a test for admitting ministers to the Christian Reformed ministry". The other grounds merely express the hope and expectation that the decision would "facilitate" the relations with the Canadian Reformed Churches and the "Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken".

Your committee observes that

- a. Synod 1968 of the Christian Reformed Church drew a conclusion from the decision of its predecessor in 1962. From the Report of our Deputies we learn that for a time there had been an inconsistency between "to abide by" and "not to agitate against". This has now been taken away.
- b. The other two grounds are not really *grounds*, but rather *goals*. The Christian Reformed Church wanted to remove obstacles. This in itself is to be appreciated.

Your committee wants to express its appreciation for the work of Deputies who have not only convinced the Christian Reformed Church of this inconsistency (see their Report, pp. 9-15), but who have also made it abundantly clear in their *Memorandum on '1908'* that "The Conclusions of Utrecht (are) an obstacle to unity". The following remarks are to be added:

Here is a case of the status of *doctrinal* deliverances. In previous years it was said that they contain 'biblical truth' ("... whether a church that wants to be true to the Word of God may properly set aside its agreement with a statement of biblical doctrine unless that statement can be shown to be contrary to or unsupported by the Word of God." Acts Christian Reformed Synod 1962, Supplement 2, p. 142). Accordingly the Christian Reformed Synod 1962 did "not accede to the request to set aside the Conclusions of Utrecht". One of the grounds for this decisions was: "No grounds have been adduced to show that these conclusions are in conflict with the Word of God or our confessional standards. (Cf. Church Order, Art. 31)". Acts 1962, Art. 144. Your committee had therefore expected that the Christian Reformed Church, in annulling the binding character of these *Conclusions of Utrecht*, would now have adduced grounds from "the Word of God or our confessional standards" to prove that they were "contrary to or unsupported by the Word of God." The committee much regret the fact that no such grounds were given.

Re: Report of Deputies ad V, pp. 20-23 on THE THREE POINTS OF KALAMAZOO 1924

Observations:

Synod 1968 of the Christian Reformed Church decided to bring about :

change in “the regulations of Synod 1963 regarding the calling and admitting of ministers from other denominations”. The following regulation was deleted: “The consistory shall inform the pastor-elect that acceptance of the call implies his promise to abide by” “the doctrinal deliverances on common grace of 1924 and 1959-1961”. It was replaced by: “The consistory shall inform the pastor-elect that acceptance of the call implies his promise . . . to respect, in the exercise of his ministerial office in the Christian Reformed Church, these deliverances (to wit, the doctrinal deliverances on common grace of 1924 and 1959-1961) as statements which have been, and, if understood in their historical context, still are of great value in refuting certain errors in doctrine and life.”

Considerations:

It strikes the committee again that no doctrinal grounds are given for this change.

The committee learns that the Deputies (Report pp. 21/22) have pointed out another inconsistency (“to abide by” . . . “to bear with scruples”), and brought it to the attention of the Contact Committee, which approached their Synod with the request to remove it. While gladly acknowledging this, your committee repeats its remark made with regard to the setting aside of the *Conclusions of Utrecht 1905/1908*. Nevertheless, one can no longer say that the Christian Reformed Church binds its members to the *Three Points of Kalamazoo 1924*.

Re: Report of Deputies ad VI, pp. 23-26, on the CHURCH ORDER

Considerations:

Although your committee is of the opinion that, when the Church Order of the Christian Reformed Church is compared with our own, many questions arise as to various rules and regulations, we are happy with the Deputies (Report p. 26) that the originally proposed Church Order was not adopted because of its “hierarchical overtones”, and that in the final reading of the new Church Order “the crucial articles have retained their Reformed character”.

Conclusion:

Adoption of Recommendations I–IV (See Acts) means that the points B, 2, a, b and d of the mandate given by General Synod Edmonton 1965 need not be repeated in the mandate for deputies to be appointed to continue the contact with the Christian Reformed Church.

Re: Report of Deputies ad VII, pp. 26-32, on CORRESPONDENCE WITH CHURCHES ABROAD

Your committee fully agrees with Deputies (p. 32) that “the discussions did not come to a conclusion” with regard to the correspondence of the Christian Reformed Church with other Churches in general and with the Synodical “Gereformeerde Kerken” in particular.

Some Churches have sent overtures to Synod asking that this matter of correspondence from now on be the central issue in our contact with the Christian Reformed Church. See below.

(N.B. On page 32 of the Report of Deputies sub E, last line, “Conclusions” must be “considerations”.)

Deputies request Synod to express itself on the question on page 31 in their Report, sub 8. (See Acts, *Recommendation V.*)

Observations:

Your committee appreciates the detailed and pointed questions 1-9 (pp. 27-29) of the Deputies. However, the answers given by the Contact Committee are far from satisfactory; too much is left in the dark. In a continued contact much is to be clarified. Deputies rightly state that this matter has by no means come to a conclusion.

Having arrived at this point, your committee has to ask your attention for the following facts:

1. General Synod Hamilton 1962 sent an urgent Appeal to the Christian Reformed Church with two serious warnings:

- a. against the apostasy in the Synodical "Gereformeerde Kerken";
- b. against the draft for a new Church Order.

Synod 1963 of the Christian Reformed Church, however, did not enter into, nor deal with the substance of the Appeal:

As to b: Notwithstanding the words in the Appeal (pp. 8,9), we read in the Acts (1963, Art. 144, II,d): "Since we are not in official correspondence with this denomination, your Committee judges that the letter from these Christian brethren does not enter into Synod's consideration of the revision of the Church Order."

As to a: Synod 1963 of the Christian Reformed Church interpreted this warning as being (only) "a desire for correspondence" with the Christian Reformed Church. The Appeal never spoke about this but urged the Christian Reformed Church to safeguard herself against detrimental influences, and to reconsider her decision of 1949 regarding the split in the Netherlands.

Conclusion:

Up till now the Christian Reformed Church did not enter into the substance of the Appeal.

2. Deputies directed three pertinent questions to the Contact Committee (Report p.13).

It is clear that our Deputies, by means of these questions, tried to bring the Christian Reformed Church to the admission, not only that they had done the wrong thing regarding the "split" in the Netherlands, but also that their own decisions of 1962 regarding the *Conclusions of Utrecht 1905/1908* were a factual condemnation of the "doctrinal binding" imposed upon the believers by the Synodical "Gereformeerde Kerken".

Your committee states that

- a. the Report itself does not speak about any answers from the side of the Christian Reformed Church to these three questions;
- b. the Christian Reformed Contact Committee promised to bring this up in a report to Synod 1967;
- c. the Contact Committee's report (Agenda for Synod 1967, Reports 15, pp. 55) does not mention the three questions;
- d. the Acts of Synod 1967 do not mention them either (Acts, Art. 100, p. 66);

- e. again, bypassing the substance of the Appeal, the Contact Committee placed the matter of contact with the Canadian Reformed Churches before its Synod as a “request for communication”.
3. In 1968 the “Gereformeerde Kerken (Vrijgemaakt)” sent an urgent appeal to the Christian Reformed Church that she “still is being called to judge both the Liberation and the development since then” (Acts of Synod 1968, Supplement 22-A, p. 317).

Synod 1968 of the Christian Reformed Church dealt with this letter from our sisterchurches in this manner (note especially the latter part!): “It is not fitting nor right that we should convey judgments held by one Christian church against another Christian church. Our committee might better be advised to kindly counsel the Gereformeerde Kerken, Art. 31”.

Conclusion:

The above proves that the Christian Reformed Church did not enter into the matter of her correspondence with the Synodical “Gereformeerde Kerken”, either on our request or on the request of our sisterchurches. It is clear that a continued contact with the Christian Reformed Church has to be concentrated on efforts to bring her to the insight and admission that the issue of correspondence is the vital one.

Your committee recommends (see below) that this be the very centre of a new mandate.

Re: Overtures from the Churches etc.

Observations:

- a. Several overtures speak about the necessity of placing the matter of correspondence with Churches abroad in the centre (see communication of the Church at Burlington, Ont., overtures of the Church at Edmonton, Alta, and of the Church at Winnipeg, Man.). Your committee came to the same conclusion when dealing with the Report of Deputies.
- b. As to the question whether the contact with the Christian Reformed Church has to be continued, these overtures diverge. Some answer in the negative (the Church at Winnipeg, the request of Mr. E. Witten); others in the affirmative (the Church at Burlington, Ont., Brampton, Ont., Edmonton, Alta, the Regional Synod of Ontario 1968).
- c. The grounds given by those in favour of appointing new Deputies are:
 - aa. the work of our Deputies has proven fruitful (Burlington, Regional Synod of Ontario);
 - bb. the most important issue has yet to be dealt with (Burlington);
 - cc. we have a prophetic calling towards the Christian Reformed Church. “In a continuation of contact a call to return from a dangerous path must be heard from us.” (Burlington);
 - dd. “we may expect the blessing of the LORD on such a prophetic witness” (Burlington);
 - ee. “our Churches need a clear and unequivocal answer from the Christian Reformed Church to the questions mentioned in the Report of Deputies, p.13 (Edmonton);

- ff. the mandate given by General Synod Edmonton 1965 is not yet completed (Edmonton, Regional Synod of Ontario);
 - gg. new items have to be added, e.g. the Church at Edmonton suggests to ask such questions as: "Does the Christian Reformed Church abide by the Reformed Confession concerning the Church in matters of 'Ecumenity'?; does the Christian Reformed Church maintain the Confession in the doctrine of salvation overagainst errors?" (e.g. "Dekker-case"). (cf. also the gist of Burlington's letter)
- d. The grounds against the appointment of new Deputies, but in favour of sending another Appeal are:
- aa. General Synod Edmonton 1965 deviated from the (good) course of General Synod Hamilton 1962 (the Church at Winnipeg, Man.);
 - bb. the Christian Reformed Church misinterpreted the Appeal by calling it "a desire to enter into contact" (id.);
 - cc. there is a "totally different approach" to correspondence by the Christian Reformed Church since 1944; now this Church feels "ecumenical responsibilities towards all Churches" (id.);
 - dd. a view of the Church has been adopted by the Christian Reformed Church which hinders a right appreciation of the reformation of the Church in the past (id.);
 - ee. we do not need to "examine how their and our Churches are to enter into . . . the unity of the Church" (mandate Synod Edmonton 1965), because "already the Synod of Hamilton 1962 knew well enough what had to be done in that matter, as she explained in her Appeal" (id.);
 - ff. the Christian Reformed Church did not repent from "openbare grove zonden" (Mr. Witten; see below).

Evaluation of the "pros" and "cons"

I "Cons"

- a. Your committee has to admit that General Synod Edmonton 1965 did not sufficiently take into consideration that the Christian Reformed Church, in appointing "a special Contact Committee to communicate with the Canadian Reformed Churches with a view to establishing a closer relationship with these Churches", failed to enter into the substance of the Appeal 1962.
- b. It has to be admitted that the answers of the Contact Committee (see Report of Deputies, p. 30) do not give the complete picture of the attitude of the Christian Reformed Church regarding her approach of various Churches on the foundation of a theory of "pluriformity" that can hardly be reconciled with the Reformed Creeds about the Church (Belgic Conf., Art. 28, 29).
- c. It has to be pointed out to the Christian Reformed Church that the Canadian Reformed Churches do not accept the Report on Correspondence to Synod 1944 of the Christian Reformed Church when it says that all other Churches are "all and severally manifestations of the one and indivisible Body of Christ" (page 357); and that the "churches of Christ can be roughly divided into four groups", including the Oriental

Churches, the Roman Catholic Church and the non-Reformed Protestant churches (p. 358).

- d. On the other hand, however, the same Report to Synod 1944 makes a clear distinction between:
- A. faithful Reformed Churches, which are “ecclesiastically identical with ourselves” (p. 350); with them the “full” correspondence is to be intensified “on the basis of what was determined with reference to this matter in 1898” (p. 361). These rules still stand (p. 332).
 - B. “Reformed Churches that are delinquent”; “correspondence with these churches is designed to reclaim these faulty churches and to restore them with God’s help to their original and Reformed character” (p. 350, 351).
- e. From these considerations your committee *concludes* that the Church at Winnipeg is mainly (and rightly so) concerned with putting the matter of correspondence in the centre with a view not only to “1944” of the Netherlands, but also to “1944” as mentioned under b, c, d. It may become necessary to inform the whole Christian Reformed Church about our biblical objections to its course, if they do not reach this Church via the contact of our Deputies with the Contact Committee. Your committee, however, is not convinced that for the above reasons Synod should not appoint Deputies any more but should decide to send another Appeal. Within the context of mandate 1965 all the objections that have been mentioned can and must be discussed now that our Churches themselves have decided to start this kind of contact.
- f. Mr. E. Witten’s grounds have not convinced your committee.

ad a:

“het toesluiten van haar kansels voor de getrouwe profeten Ds. D. van Dijk en wijlen Prof. K. Schilder.” K. Schilder, however, wrote in “De Reformatie” of 26 Mei 1939: “Niet de handelingen van eertijds, doch de houding van heden beslist . . . De zoon zal niet dragen de ongerechtigheid der vaderen. Met elke volgende generatie moet men om Christus’ wil willen spreken, teneinde de situatie opnieuw op te nemen.” See also the admission of the Contact Committee (Report Deputies, p. 32): “Indeed we made a judgment and passed a verdict after 1944” etc.

ad b:

“het niet toesluiten van haar kansels voor de valse profet Prof. Kuitert”.

Prof. Kuitert did not represent the Synodical “Gereformeerde Kerken” at the Christian Reformed Synod 1968 (see Acts). Mr. Witten does not give evidence that this Professor was admitted to a Christian Reformed pulpit during his stay in the U.S.A. and Canada.

ad c and d:

Your committee remarks: the matter of correspondence with either the Synodical or the Liberated Churches is exactly the issue why our Churches already in 1952 decided to approach the Christian Reformed

Church. It was the principle issue in the Appeal 1962 which has now come to the fore in the (unfinished) contact that our Deputies had with the Contact Committee since 1965. Therefore c. and d. cannot be a ground not to complete this contact.

II "Pros"

After the above remarks your committee does not see the need of going into the details of the various overtures. These have to be taken up in the mandate to be given to new Deputies for contact with the Christian Reformed Church together with some valuable contributions, mentioned sub I "Cons".

(For *Recommendations*, see the Acts)

SUPPLEMENT 11-A (Ag. Report I, 2; Arts. 155, 172) REPORT OF DEPUTIES AD ARTICLE 19 C.O.

Esteemed Brethren:

1. Deputies are very happy to report that they not only had to collect the money for the General Fund, but that they could also distribute it.

2. Three brethren requested financial aid. The first brother (communicant member of the Church at Edmonton, Alta) asked support commencing September 15, 1967. This brother studies at our own Training for the Ministry under the guidance of the teachers of our own churches. He is married and has 5 children. The deputies granted a support of \$390.00 per month.

A few churches were criticizing deputies for granting this large amount. These churches were of the opinion that deputies went beyond their mandate in supporting the family too. Deputies do not want to go into the question whether the churches should criticize deputies by approaching them directly. Deputies are of course willing to give information to the churches when asked, but they feel that they have to give account of their duties to the General Synod, and it is their modest opinion that the churches should go with complaints to the same address.

Deputies realized that this was an exceptional case. There are not many students with such a family. Article 19 Church Order does not give any guidance in this respect. It does not say whether it applies to unmarried or to married students, either with or without a family. Nor is it indicated whether the support should be limited to the study-expenses or not. (For instance in Holland in many cases room and board were also included.) Because Art. 19 does not give any specific direction, deputies felt free to grant this request for aid in the hope that the General Synod will give instructions for similar cases that might turn up in the future.

3. Deputies also received in September 1967 a request for aid from a brother of the Church at Burlington, Ont. This brother studies at the Theologische Hogeschool of our sister-churches in Kampen. He requested \$100.00 per month. The deputies ad Article 19 C.O. of Classis Ontario North gave him \$600.00 per 6 months. Your deputies were asked to support this student and to restitute the \$600.00 out of the General Fund.

Deputies did not grant this request. They are of the opinion that the General Fund was set up for students who study at our own Training for the Ministry only. Deputies do not agree with the decision of Classis Ontario North of December 1967 that deputies did go beyond their mandate by reading certain restrictions in it. It should be mentioned at this point that none of the deputies are aware of any mandate given by the Synod 1965. They received a letter from the 2nd clerk stating that they were appointed as deputies, but no instructions were given. They were not even asked whether they could accept the appointment. Two of the deputies were delegates to Synod 1965. They do not remember that any mention was made then about aid to students studying at other Seminaries. The grounds for the decision in Article 147 of the Acts of Synod 1965 do not make mention of it either. Deputies are of the opinion that if Synod 1965 had had other Seminaries in mind it would have undermined the future of our own training for the Ministry.

4. A third request for aid was received in February 1968 from a brother in Edmonton, Alta, who is studying at the University for his B.A. degree. He is intending to carry on with his study in Theology at the Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia (U.S.A.) in September 1968. This request was refused on the same grounds as mentioned in section 3 of this report.

5. Deputies requested the churches for one collection in 1966 and 1967, and 75 cts. per member was asked for the year 1968. The money came in very slowly and often far too late. Deputies are sorry to say that the co-operation of many churches was disappointing. At the time of closing this report there are still 4 churches which did not remit the one collection of 1967 (Ottawa, Toronto, New Westminster and Smithers). The result was that the brother who received support could not be paid in time. A request in C.R.M. did not greatly improve matters. Neither did the letters which were sent to the churches.

6. Deputies are of the opinion that some regulations have to be made to advise prospective students when, where and how to apply for aid. We enclose a concept-regulation, which could serve as a guideline for the General Synod.

7. Deputies came to the conclusion that if deputies want to work effectively, they should live close together. They deal with financial matters which are quite difficult to decide by correspondence. This General Fund was a temporary set-up. If Synod decides to carry on with it, deputies advise Synod to appoint a church for this purpose. This would be in our opinion the most effective solution and the least expensive one.

8. Deputies in the West and East both met twice. A mileage allowance of 6c per mile was established.

9. A statement of Receipts and Disbursements as of May 1, 1968, is enclosed with this report. The Balance as of May 1, 1968, is \$25.81. Deputies are eight weeks behind in paying the needy student.

Respectfully submitted (May, 1968).
E.C. Baardman, New Westminster, B.C.
M. Louwerse, Abbotsford, B.C.

M. VanGrootheest, Fergus, Ont.
H. VanVeen, Fergus, Ont.
A. J. Ytsma, Chatham, Ont., Sec. Treas.

SUPPLEMENT 11-B
(Ag. Report I, 2b; Arts. 155, 172)
SUPPLEMENT REPORT OF DEPUTIES AD ARTICLE 19 C.O.

Esteemed Brethren:

Deputies are able to give some information concerning their work after their first report dated May, 1968.

They were glad that after the first report, which was sent to the churches, some more money came in. However, the situation at the date of this report is bad again. The brother involved has been supported until July 15, 1968, so that the deputies are three months behind in paying him. It can be seen from the following additional financial statement that the balance at hand on October 15, 1968, is \$17.82. Furthermore, it struck deputies that some of the larger churches (Burlington, New Westminster and Smithville) did not yet pay anything in 1968.

After May 15, 1968, one brother requested aid. He intends to study at the Westminster Seminary. Deputies did not grant his request on the same grounds as mentioned in Section 3 of their May report.

The student who receives aid moved from Edmonton to Calgary where he assists the congregation in pastoral work. Therefore his support was reduced from \$390.00 to \$300.00 monthly.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

| Name of Church | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | Total |
|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Watford | \$ 4.94 | \$ 27.33 | | |
| Abbotsford | 35.07 | 30.65 | | |
| Barrhead | 6.38 | 6.90 | 40.00 | |
| Brampton | 25.00 | 25.00 | 90.75 | |
| Burlington | 92.35 | 131.76 | | |
| Chatham | 44.72 | 41.47 | 243.75 | |
| Cloverdale | 50.00 | 50.00 | 271.00 | |
| Coaldale | 29.41 | 33.43 | 115.00 | |
| Calgary | | 45.00 | | |
| Carman | 27.38 | 35.29 | | |
| Edmonton | 49.83 | 56.55 | 464.20 | |
| Fergus-Guelph | 25.15 | 33.05 | 67.00 | |
| Grand Rapids | 26.69 | 31.95 | 34.44 | |
| Hamilton | 30.00 | 48.80 | 225.00 | |
| Houston | 27.27 | 28.21 | 97.50 | |
| London | 9.02 | 13.56 | | |
| Neerlandia | 15.00 | 11.95 | 63.70 | |
| New Westminster | 77.25 | | | |
| Ottawa | | 15.88 | | |
| Orangeville | 29.83 | 30.00 | 242.25 | |
| Smithville | 57.97 | 61.53 | | |
| Smithers | 50.00 | 50.00 | 122.29 | |
| Toronto | 67.50 | 75.00 | 80.00 | |
| Winnipeg | | 32.44 | 99.24 | |
| Matheson | | | 20.00 | |
| Interest | 1.87 | 17.44 | 0.69 | |
| Totals: | \$782.63 | \$933.19 | \$2276.81 | \$3,992.63 |

Disbursements:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|------------|
| Aid to Needy Student | | \$3900.00 | |
| Mileage deputies | | 39.60 | |
| Administration, Exchange, etc. | | 35.21 | \$3,974.81 |
| Balance on October 15, 1968 | | | \$ 17.82 |

With fraternal greeting,
On behalf of the Deputies,
A. J. Ytsma (Secr.-Treasurer).

SUPPLEMENT 12

(Art. 179)

Church Order of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Draft Translation

- Art. 1 To maintain good order in the Church of Christ it is necessary that there be: offices, assemblies, supervision of doctrine, sacraments and ceremonies, and Christian discipline;
of which matters the following articles treat in due order.

OF THE OFFICES

- Art. 2 The offices are of four kinds:
of the Ministers of the Word, of the Doctors, of the Elders, and of the Deacons.
- Art. 3 No one though he be a Doctor, Elder or Deacon, shall be permitted to enter upon the Ministry of the Word and the Sacraments without having been lawfully called thereunto.
And when anyone acts contrary thereto, and after being frequently admonished does not desist, the Classis shall judge whether he is to be declared a schismatic or is to be punished in some other way.
- Art. 4 The lawful calling of those who have not previously been in office (both in the cities and in rural districts) consists:
First in the *election* by the Consistory and the Deacons, after preceding prayers, with due observance of the regulations locally in use or established by the Consistory for this purpose,
and of the ecclesiastical ordinances, that only those can for the first time be called to the Ministry of the Word who by the Classis in which they live have been examined in a preparatory examination;
and furthermore in Churches with no more than one Minister also with the advice of Classis or of the counselor appointed for this purpose by the Classis, where such practice has been in use up till now;
Secondly, in the *examination* both of doctrine and life, which shall be conducted by the Classis, to which the call must be submitted for approval, and which shall take place in the presence of the Deputies of the Regional Synod or of some of them;
Thirdly, in the *approbation* by the members of the local Church, when, the name of the Minister having been announced in the Church for two successive Sundays, no lawful objection arises;
Finally, in the public *ordination* before the Congregation, which shall take place with appropriate stipulations and interrogations, admonitions and prayers and by the imposition of hands by the officiating Minister (and by other Ministers who are present) agreeably to the Form in use for that purpose.
- Art. 5 Ministers who are already in the Ministry of the Word, who are called to another Congregation (both in the cities and in the rural districts) shall likewise be called in the aforesaid manner by the Consistory and the Deacons, with due observance of the regulations being locally in use or established by the Consistory for this purpose, and of the general ecclesiastical ordinances for the eligibility of those

who have served outside the Canadian Reformed Churches and for the repeated calling of the same Minister during the same vacancy; in Churches with no more than one Minister also with the advice of Classis or of the counselor appointed for this purpose by Classis, where such practice has been in use up till now; and further in all Churches with the approval of the Classis, to which the aforesaid Ministers called shall show good ecclesiastical testimonials of doctrine and life, and with the approval of the members of the local Church, when, the name of the Minister having been announced for two successive Sundays, no lawful objection arises; whereupon the Ministers called shall be installed with preceding stipulations and prayers, agreeably to the Form in use for this purpose.

Art. 6 No Minister shall be at liberty to serve in any private manor, institutions of mercy or otherwise, unless he be previously admitted in accordance with the preceding articles, and he shall, no less than others, be subject to the Church Order.

Art. 7 No one shall be called to the Ministry of the Word, without being stationed in a particular place, except he be sent to organize the Church in a certain place.

Art. 8 Teachers, artisans or others who have not pursued the regular course of study, shall not be admitted to the Ministry unless there is assurance of their exceptional gifts, godliness, humility, modesty, good intellect and discretion, as also gifts of public address.

When such persons present themselves for the Ministry, the Classis (if the Regional Synod approve) shall first examine them, and in accordance with the results of the examination let them privately speak a word of edification for some time, and further deal with them as it shall deem edifying, according to the general regulations adopted by the Churches for this purpose.

Art. 9 Novices, priests, monks, and others who have left some sect, shall not be admitted to the Ministry except with great caution and carefulness, and also after having been well tested for some time.

Art. 10 A Minister, once lawfully called, may not leave the Congregation with which he is connected, to accept a call elsewhere, without the consent of the Consistory, together with the Deacons, and knowledge on the part of the Classis; likewise no other Church may receive him until he has presented a proper certificate of dismissal from the Church and the Classis where he served.

Art. 11 On the other hand, the Consistory, representing the Congregation, shall also be bound to provide for the proper support of its Ministers, and shall not dismiss them without the knowledge and approbation of the Classis and of the deputies of the Regional Synod.

Art. 12 Inasmuch as a Minister of the Word, once lawfully called as described above, is bound to the service of the Church for life, he is not allowed to enter upon another vocation, except for great and weighty reasons, which the Classis shall note and judge; which judgment the Classis shall not pass without the knowledge and approbation of the Deputies of the Regional Synod.

Art. 13 Ministers, who by reason of age, sickness, or otherwise, are rendered incapable of performing the duties of their office, shall nevertheless retain the honour and title of a Minister, and the Church which they have served shall provide honourably for them (likewise also for the widows and orphans of Ministers in general).

- Art. 14 If any Minister, for the aforesaid or any other reason, is compelled to discontinue his service for a time, which shall not take place without the advice of the Consistory, he shall nevertheless at all times be and remain subject to the call of the Congregation.
- Art. 15 No one, neglecting the Ministry of his Church or being without a fixed charge, shall be permitted to preach indiscriminately without the consent and authorization of Synod or Classis. Likewise, no one shall be permitted to preach or administer the Sacraments in another Church without the consent of the Consistory of that Church.
- Art. 16 The office of the Ministers is to continue in prayer and in the ministry of the Word, to dispense the Sacraments, to watch over their brethren, the Elders and Deacons, as well as over the Congregation, and finally, with the Elders, to exercise Church discipline and to see to it that everything is done honourably and in good order.
- Art. 17 Among the Ministers of the Word equality shall be maintained with respect to the duties of their office and also in other matters as far as possible according to the judgment of the Consistory, and if necessary, of the Classis; which equality shall also be maintained among the Elders and the Deacons.
- Art. 18 The office of the Doctors or Professors of Theology is to expound the Holy Scripture and to vindicate the sound doctrine against heresies and errors.
- Art. 19 The Churches shall exert themselves, as far as necessary, that there be students of theology who are supported by them.
- Art. 20 In the Churches where there are persons who according to Article 8 have been judged competent to be prepared for the Ministry of the Word, it may be arranged that for their training they speak an edifying word.
- Art. 21 The Consistories everywhere shall see to it that there are good teachers who shall not only teach the children reading, writing, languages, and arts, but also instruct them in godliness and the Catechism.
- Art. 22 The Elders shall be chosen by the judgment of the Consistory and the Deacons, according to the regulations that are in use locally or that are for that purpose established by the Consistory. In pursuance of these regulations every Church shall be at liberty, according to its circumstances, to give the members of the Congregation an opportunity to direct attention to suitable persons; and further to present to the Congregation for election as many Elders as are needed, in order that they, after being approved and agreed upon by the Congregation (and unless any obstacle arise) be installed with public prayers and stipulations; or present a double number to the Congregation and thereupon install the one-half chosen by it, in the aforesaid manner, agreeably to the Form in use for this purpose.
- Art. 23 The office of the Elders, in addition to what was said above in Article 16 to be their duty in common with the Ministers of the Word, is to take heed that the Ministers, together with their fellow-Elders and Deacons, faithfully discharge their office, and do the work of visiting as time and circumstances may demand for the edification of the Congregation both before and after the Lord's Supper, in order particularly to comfort and instruct the members of the Congregation, and also to exhort others in respect to the Christian Religion.

- Art. 24 In the election, approbation, and ordination of the Deacons the same manner shall be followed as was stated concerning the Elders.
- Art. 25 The office peculiar to the Deacons is diligently to collect alms and other contributions of charity, and after mutual counsel, faithfully and diligently to distribute the same to the poor, not only to those who belong to the Congregation but also to strangers, as their needs may require it; to visit and comfort the distressed and to exercise care that the alms are not misused; of which they shall render an account in the Consistory, and also (if anyone desires to be present) before the Congregation, at such a time as the Consistory may see fit.
- Art. 26 In places where others are devoting themselves to the care of the poor, the Deacons shall endeavour to maintain good relations with them to the end that the alms may all the better be distributed among those who have greatest need.
- Art. 27 The Elders and Deacons shall serve two or more years according to local regulations, and a proportionate number shall retire each year. The retiring office-bearers shall be succeeded by others unless the circumstances and the well-being of any Church, in the execution of Articles 22 and 24, render a re-election advisable.
- Art. 28 As the office of Christian civil Authorities is to promote in every way the Holy Ministry, to commend the same to their subjects by their own example, and whenever need arises to lend a helping hand to the Ministers, Elders, and Deacons, and to protect them in the maintenance of their good order, so all Ministers, Elders, and Deacons are in duty bound diligently and sincerely to impress upon the whole Congregation the obedience, love, and respect which is due to civil Authorities; and all office-bearers of the Church shall set a good example in this respect for the Congregation, and endeavour by due respect and communication to secure and retain the favour of the civil Authorities towards the Church, in order that, each doing his duty in the fear of the Lord, all suspicion and distrust may be prevented, and good harmony may be maintained for the welfare of the Churches.

OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSEMBLIES

- Art. 29 Four kinds of ecclesiastical assemblies shall be maintained: the Consistory, the Classis, the Regional Synod, and the General Synod.
- Art. 30 In these assemblies no other than ecclesiastical matters shall be transacted and that in an ecclesiastical manner. In major assemblies only such matters shall be dealt with as could not be finished in minor assemblies, or such as pertain to the Churches of the major assembly in common.
- Art. 31 If anyone complains that he has been wronged by the decision of the minor assembly, he shall have the right to appeal to a major ecclesiastical assembly, and whatever may be agreed upon by a majority vote shall be considered settled and binding, unless it be proved to conflict with the Word of God or with the articles decided upon in this General Synod, as long as they are not changed by another General Synod.
- Art. 32 The proceedings of all assemblies shall begin by calling upon the Name of God and be closed with thanksgiving.

- Art. 33 Those who are delegated to the assemblies shall bring with them their credentials and instructions, signed by those sending them, and they shall have a vote in all matters, except such as particularly concern their persons or Churches.
- Art. 34 In all assemblies there shall be not only a president, but also a clerk to keep a faithful record of all things worthy to be recorded.
- Art. 35 The office of the president is to state and explain the business to be transacted, to see to it that everyone observe due order in speaking, to silence the captious and those who are vehement in speaking; and to properly discipline them if they refuse to listen. Furthermore his office shall cease when the assembly has been ended.
- Art. 36 The Classis has the same jurisdiction over the Consistory as the Regional Synod has over the Classis and the General Synod over the Regional.
- Art. 37 In all Churches there shall be a Consistory composed of the Ministers of the Word and the Elders, who, at least in larger Congregations, shall as a rule meet once a week. The Minister of the Word (or the Ministers, if there be more than one, in turn) shall preside and regulate the proceedings.
- Art. 38 In places where the Consistory is to be constituted for the first time or anew, this shall not take place except with the advice of the Classis. And wherever the number of Elders is small the Deacons may be added to the Consistory by local regulation; this shall invariably be done where the number is less than three.
- Art. 39 Places where as yet no Consistory can be constituted shall be placed by the Classis under the care of a neighbouring Consistory.
- Art. 40 Likewise the Deacons shall meet, wherever necessary, every week to transact the business pertaining to their office, calling upon the Name of God; whereunto the Ministers shall take good heed and if necessary they shall be present.
- Art. 41 The classical meetings shall consist of neighbouring Churches that respectively delegate, with proper credentials, a Minister and an Elder to meet at such time and place as was determined by the previous classical meeting. Such meetings shall be held at least once in three months, unless great distances render this inadvisable. In these meetings the Ministers shall preside in rotation, or one shall be chosen to preside; however, the same Minister shall not be chosen twice in succession.
- Furthermore the president shall, among other things, present the following questions to all delegates: whether in their Churches the Consistory meets regularly; where the Church discipline is exercised; whether the poor and schools are cared for; and lastly, whether there is any matter in which they need the judgment and help of the Classis for the proper government of their Church. And finally, at the last meeting before the Regional Synod, delegates shall be chosen to attend said Synod.
- Art. 42 Where there are more than one Minister in a Church, also those not delegated according to the foregoing article shall have the right to attend Classis with advisory vote.
- Art. 43 At the close of the classical and other major assemblies, censure shall be exercised over those who in the meeting have done something worthy of punishment, or who have scorned the admonition of the minor assemblies.

- Art. 44 The Classis shall also authorize at least two of her oldest, most experienced and competent Ministers to visit all the Churches in the cities as well as in rural districts once a year, unless the great distances render this inadvisable, and to take heed whether the Ministers, Consistories, and schoolteachers faithfully perform the duties of their office, adhere to the sound doctrine, observe in all things the adopted order, and properly promote as much as lies in them, through word and deed, the upbuilding of the Congregation, and also of the youth, to the end that they may in good time fraternally admonish those who are found to be negligent in anything, and may by their advice and assistance help direct all things unto the peace, upbuilding, and greatest profit of the Churches and Schools. And each Classis may continue these visitors in service as long as it sees fit, except when the visitors themselves request to be released for reasons about which the Classis shall judge.
- Art. 45 It shall be the duty of the Church in which the Classis and likewise the Regional or General Synod meets to furnish the following meeting with the Acts of the preceding one.
- Art. 46 Instructions concerning matters to be considered in major assemblies shall not be written until the decisions of previous Synods touching these matters have been read, in order that what was once decided be not again proposed, unless a revision be deemed necessary.
- Art. 47 Every year (or if need be more often) some neighbouring Classes, as much as possible belonging to the same Province, shall meet, to which Regional Synod each Classis shall delegate two Ministers and two Elders, which number may be set at three by a Synod which consists of only three or four Classes. If the region of the Regional Synod consists of two classical districts the number of delegates shall be at least three Ministers and three Elders. At the close of both the Regional and the General Synod some Church shall be empowered to determine with the advice of Classis the time and place of the next Synod.
- Art. 48 Each Synod shall be at liberty to solicit and maintain contact with its neighbouring Synod or Synods in such manner as they shall judge most conducive to general edification.
- Art. 49 Each Synod shall also delegate some to execute everything ordained by Synod and in case of difficulties to extend help to the Classes. This should be done in such a manner that as far as possible for the various matters different groups of deputies are appointed. At least two or three of these deputies shall also supervise all peremptory examinations of future Ministers. And all those deputies shall keep proper record of all their actions to report thereof to Synod, and if demanded, to give account of these actions. Furthermore, they shall not be discharged from their service before and until Synod itself discharges them.
- Art. 50 The National Synod shall ordinarily be held once every three years (unless there is an urgent reason to convene one sooner). Each Regional Synod shall delegate four Ministers and four Elders. Further, the Church which is charged with setting the time and place of the General Synod shall decide about the time and place with the advice or approval of its Regional Synod if according to the judgment of a Regional Synod the General Synod is to be convened within the space of three years.

(The articles 51 and 52 have been deleted. For convenience's sake we retain the original numbering of the articles.)

OF THE DOCTRINE; SACRAMENTS AND OTHER CEREMONIES.

- Art. 53 The Ministers of the Word of God and likewise the Professors of Theology (and this also behooves the other Professors and Schoolteachers) shall subscribe to the Three Forms of Unity of the Canadian Reformed Churches, and the Ministers of the Word who refuse to do so shall *de facto* be suspended from their office by the Consistory or Classis until they shall have given a full statement of their reasons, and if they obstinately persist in refusing, they shall be deposed from their office.
- Art. 54 Likewise the Elders and Deacons, and those who by a Classis are admitted as a Candidate for the Ministry, shall subscribe to the aforesaid Forms of Unity.
- Art. 55 To ward off false doctrines and errors that multiply exceedingly through heretical writings, the Ministers and Elders shall use the means of teaching, of refutation, of warning, and of admonition, as well in the Ministry of the Word as in Christian teaching and in family-visiting.
- Art. 56 The Covenant of God shall be sealed unto the children of the Christians by Baptism, as soon as the administration thereof is feasible, and such in the public assembly when the Word of God is preached.
- Art. 57 The Ministers shall do their best and work to the end that the father present his child for Baptism. And in the Congregations where besides the fathers also god-fathers or witnesses are taken at Baptism (which custom, being in itself permissible, shall not be changed lightly) it is proper that such be taken who adhere to the pure doctrine and are of a pious conduct.
- Art. 58 In the ceremony of Baptism, both of children and of adults, the Minister shall use the Forms of the Institution and the Use of Baptism, respectively, drawn up for that purpose.
- Art. 59 Adults are through Baptism incorporated into the Christian Church and accepted as members of the Church, and are therefore obliged also to partake in the Lord's Supper, which they shall promise to do at their Baptism.
- Art. 60 The names of those baptized, together with those of the parents and witnesses, and likewise the date of Baptism, shall be recorded.
- Art. 61 None shall be admitted to the Lord's Supper except those who, according to the usage of the Church with which they unite themselves, have made a profession of the Reformed Religion, besides being reputed to be of a godly conduct, without which also those who come from other Churches shall not be admitted.
- Art. 62 Every Church shall administer the Lord's Supper in such a manner as it shall judge most conducive to edification; provided however, that the outward ceremonies as prescribed in God's Word be not changed and that all superstition be avoided, and that at the conclusion of the sermon and the usual prayers, the Form for the Administration of the Lord's Supper with the prayer for that purpose, shall be read.
- Art. 63 The Lord's Supper shall be administered at least ever two or three months.
- Art. 64 The administration of the Lord's Supper shall take place only where there is supervision of Elders, according to the ecclesiastical order and in a public gathering of the Congregation.

- Art. 65 Funeral sermons or funeral services shall not be instituted.
- Art. 66 In time of war, pestilence, general calamities, and other great afflictions, the pressure of which is felt throughout the Churches, a day of prayer shall be proclaimed by the Churches appointed for that purpose by the Latest General Synod.
- Art. 67 The Churches shall observe, in addition to the Sunday, also Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. The observance of second feast-days and of Ascension Day is left in the freedom of the Churches.
- Art. 68 The Ministers everywhere shall on Sunday, ordinarily in the afternoon service, briefly explain the sum of the Christian Doctrine, comprehended in the Catechism, which at the present time is accepted in the Canadian Reformed Churches, so that as much as possible the explanation shall be annually completed, according to the division of the Catechism itself.
- Art. 69 In the Churches the 150 Psalms shall be sung, and the Hymns, maintained and adopted for ecclesiastical use by the Synod of Middelburg in 1933.
- Art. 70 Since it is proper that the matrimonial state be confirmed before Christ's Church, according to the Form in use for that purpose, the Consistories shall attend to it.
- 1)
- 1) the observance of this article is left in the freedom of the Churches
(National Synod of Homewood, 1954, Art. 74)

OF THE CENSURE AND ECCLESIASTICAL ADMONITION

- Art. 71 As Christian discipline is of a spiritual nature, and exempts no one from civil trial or punishment by the civil authorities, so besides civil punishment there is also need of ecclesiastical censure, to reconcile the sinner with the Church and his neighbour, and to remove the offense out of the Church of Christ.
- Art. 72 In case anyone sins against the purity of doctrine or piety of conduct, as long as the sin is of a private character, not giving public offense, the rule clearly prescribed by Christ in Matthew 18 shall be followed.
- Art. 73 The secret sins of which the sinner repents, after being admonished by one person in private or in the presence of two or three witnesses, shall not be laid before the Consistory.
- Art. 74 If anyone, having been admonished in love concerning a secret sin by two or three persons, does not give heed, or otherwise has committed a public sin, the matter shall be reported to the Consistory.
- Art. 75 The reconciliation of all such sins as are by nature of a public character, or have become public because the admonitions of the Church were despised, shall take place (upon sufficient evidence of repentance) in such form and manner as the Consistory shall deem conducive to the edification of each Church. Whether in particular cases this shall take place in public, shall in Churches where there is only one Minister, and when there is a difference of opinion about it in the Consistory, be considered with the advice of two neighbouring Churches.
- Art. 76 Whosoever obstinately rejects the admonition of the Consistory, and likewise he who has committed a public or otherwise gross sin, shall be suspended from the Lord's Supper. And if he, having been suspended, after repeated admonitions, shows no sign of repentance, the Consistory shall at last proceed to the extreme remedy, namely, excommunication, agreeably to the Form adopted for that

purpose according to the Word of God. But no one shall be excommunicated except with preceding advice of Classis.

- Art. 77 After the suspension from the Lord's Supper and subsequent frequent admonitions, and before proceeding to excommunication, the obstinacy of the sinner shall be publicly made known to the Congregation, the offense explained together with the care bestowed upon him, in reproof, suspension from the Lord's Supper, and repeated admonition, and the Congregation shall be exhorted to speak to him and to pray for him. There shall be three such admonitions. In the first the name of the sinner shall not be mentioned that he be somewhat spared. In the second, with the advice of Classis, his name shall be mentioned. In the third the Congregation shall be informed that (unless he repent) he will be excluded from the fellowship of the Church, so that his excommunication, in case he remains obstinate, may take place with the tacit approbation of the Church. The interval between the admonitions shall be left to the discretion of the Consistory.
- Art. 78 Whenever anyone who has been excommunicated desires to become reconciled to the Church in the way of penitence, it shall first be announced to the Congregation, either before the celebration of the Lord's Supper, or at some other opportune time, in order that (provided no one can mention anything against him to the contrary) he may with profession of his conversion be publicly reinstated, according to the Form in use for that purpose.
- Art. 79 When Ministers of the Divine Word, Elders or Deacons, have committed any public, gross sin, which is a disgrace to the Church, or worthy of punishment by the civil Authorities, the Elders and Deacons shall immediately by preceding sentence of their Consistory and that of the nearest Church, be suspended or expelled from their office, but the Ministers shall only be suspended. Whether these shall be entirely deposed from office, shall be subject to the judgment of the Classis, with the advice of the Deputies of the Regional Synod mentioned in Article 11.
- Art. 80 Furthermore among the gross sins, which are worthy of being punished with suspension or deposition from office, these are the principal ones: false doctrine or heresy, public schism, public blasphemy, simony, faithless desertion of office or intrusion upon that of another, perjury, adultery, fornication, theft, acts of violence, habitual drunkenness, brawling, filthy lucre; in short, all sins and gross offenses, which render the perpetrators infamous before the world, and which in any private member of the Church would be considered worthy of excommunication.
- Art. 81 The Ministers of the Word, Elders and Deacons, shall exercise Christian censure among themselves and in a friendly spirit admonish one another with regard to the discharge of their office.
- Art. 82 To those who depart from the Congregation, an attestation or testimony concerning their profession and conduct shall be given by the Consistory, signed by two, or in the case of attestations given under the seal of the Church, signed by one.
- Art. 83 Furthermore, to the poor, departing for sufficient reasons, so much money for traveling shall be given by the Deacons as they deem adequate. The Consistory

and the Deacons shall, however, see to it that they be not too much inclined to relieve their Churches of the poor with whom they would without necessity burden other Churches.

Art. 84 No Church shall in any way lord it over other Churches, no Minister over other Ministers, no Elder or Deacon over other Elders or Deacons.

Art. 85 Foreign Churches whose usages differ from ours in non-essentials shall not be rejected.

Art. 86 These Articles, relating to the lawful order of the Church, have been so drafted and adopted by common assent, that they may and ought to be altered, augmented or diminished, if the profit of the Churches demand it. However, no particular Congregation, Classis, or Synod shall be at liberty to do so, but they shall show all diligence in observing them, until it be otherwise ordained by the General or National Synod.

P.S.

The Synod of Middelburg 1933 added to the Church Order of Dort an article that in the newer editions of the Dutch Church Order has been inserted as art. 84 whereafter the numbering of the last articles follows as 85, 86 and 87.

Our Canadian Reformed Churches have adopted as ecclesiastical order the Church Order of Dort and never felt themselves bound by synodical decisions of our Sisterchurches since Dort. The article of Middelburg 1933 has been left out, but here follows its translation in the English language:

The Churches, meeting in Classes, Regional Synods, and General Synods, form together as many corporate bodies with respect to what belongs to the Churches respectively of that Classis, Regional Synod or General Synod in common. As such they are legally represented both by the respective Classes, Regional Synods, and General Synods, and by the Deputies who are appointed, instructed, and dismissed by those assemblies, and are in all their actions bound by their instruction.

CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES STATISTICS

CLASSIS ONTARIO – NORTH

BRAMPTON, Ontario

Address churchbuildings: HWY. 10 (3 miles west of Brampton)

Address church: Mr. P. Schoon, 8 Gretna Dr., Brampton, Ontario

Membership: families: 24, Total 121, Confessing members: 56.

Minister: vacant.

BURLINGTON, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: 607 Dynes Rd., Burlington, Ontario

Address church: Mr. B. J. Harsevoort, 1335 Grahams Lane, Burlington, Ontario

Membership: families: 201, Total: 993, Confessing members: 459.

Ministers: G. VanDooren, M.Th., 541 Emeraldstreet, Burlington, Ontario. D. VanderBoom, 2433 Lakeshore Rd., Burlington, Ontario.

FERGUS–GUELPH, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: Belsyde Rd., Fergus, Ontario

Address church: Mr. H. Hutten, 185 Tower Street, Fergus, Ontario

Membership: families: 59, Total membership: 344, Confessing members: 141.

Minister: M. VanBeveren, 350 St. David Street South, Fergus, Ontario.

MATHESON, Ontario

Canadian Reformed House Congregation

Address: Mr. H. Metzlar, Gen. Del., Matheson, Ontario. **Membership:** Families: 4, Total membership: 33, Confessing members: 9.

ORANGEVILLE, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: C-line, Orangeville, Ontario

Address church: Mr. A. Lodder, R.R.2, Orangeville, Ontario

Membership: families: 62, Total membership: 307, Confessing members: 153.

Minister: C. Olij, 221 Elizabeth Street, Orangeville, Ontario.

OTTAWA, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: “Seventh Day Adventist Church”, Corner of Spencer & Carleton Street, Ottawa, Ontario

Address church: Mr. K. J. Werkman, 7 Majestic Dr., Apt. 1, Ottawa, Ontario.

Membership: families: 15, Total membership: 74, Confessing members: 30.

Minister: vacant.

TORONTO, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: 57 Centre Street, Thornhill, Ontario

Address of church: Mr. J. J. Koning, 203 Duncan Rd., Thornhill, Ontario

Membership: families: 128, Total: 572, Confessing members: 279.

Minister: vacant.

CLASSIS ONTARIO – SOUTH

CHATHAM, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: 219 St. Clair Street, Chatham, Ontario

Address church: Mr. John VanDieren, 20 Rosedale Dr., Chatham, Ontario

Membership: families: 61, Total: 338, Confessing members: 149.

Minister: vacant.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., U.S.A.

American Reformed Church

Address churchbuilding: 858 Grandville Ave. S. W., Grand Rapids, Michigan

Address church: Mr. Wm. H. Haan, 2056 - 100 Str. S. W., Byron Centre, Mich., U.S.A. 49315.

Membership: families: 34, Total: 163, Confessing members: 79.

Minister: A. B. Roukema, 834 Worden S. E., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49507, U.S.A.

HAMILTON, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: 166 - 168 West Ave. North, Hamilton, Ontario.

Address church: Rev. W. Loopstra, 859 Scenic Dr., Hamilton 43, Ontario.

Membership: families: 64, Total: 333, Confessing members: 152.

Minister: W. Loopstra, 859 Scenic Dr., Hamilton 43, Ontario.

LONDON, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: Pilgrim Blvd., 457-465 Horton Street, London, Ontario.

Address church: Mr. H. Werkman, 498 Grey Street, London, Ontario.

Membership: families: 14, Total: 94, Confessing members: 39.

Minister: M. VanderWel, 281 Admiral Drive, London, Ontario.

SMITHVILLE, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: Station Street, Smithville, Ontario.

Address church: Mr. W. J. Boot, Box 60, Campden, Ontario.

Membership: families: 137, Total: 739, Confessing members: 306.

Minister: H. Scholten, M. Th., Station Street, Box 76, Smithville, Ontario.

WATFORD, Ontario

Address churchbuilding: "Old Highway 22", 4 miles East of Watford, Ontario.

Address church: Mr. M. Smid, 84 Oxford Street, Strathroy, Ontario.

Membership: families: 19, Total: 105, Confessing members: 42.

Minister: M. VanderWel, 281 Admiral Drive, London, Ontario.

CLASSIS ALBERTA – MANITOBA

BARRHEAD, Alberta

Address churchbuilding: Corner 50th Avenue & 48 Street, Barrhead, Alberta.

Address church: Mr. W. Vogelzang, Box 874, Barrhead, Alberta.

Membership: families: 11, Total: 51, Confessing members: 23.

Minister: vacant.

CALGARY, Alberta

Address churchbuilding: 8 A Street & 2nd Avenue N. E., Calgary, Alberta

Address church: Mr. B. Luhoff, 4928 Worchester Drive, S. W., Calgary, Alberta.

Membership: families: 9, Total: 45, Confessing members: 19.

Minister: vacant.

CARMAN, Manitoba

Address churchbuilding: 118 - 4th Avenue, S. E., Carman, Manitoba.

Address church: Box 164, Carman, Manitoba.

Membership: families: 42, Total: 214, Confessing members: 103.

Minister: C. VanSpronsen, Box 164, Carman, Manitoba.

COALDALE, Alberta

Address churchbuilding: 1310 - 23rd Avenue, Coaldale, Alberta.

Address church: Box 218, Coaldale, Alberta.

Membership: families: 49, Total: 234, Single: 8, Confessing members: 97.

Minister: J. Mulder, 1602 - 23rd Avenue, P. O. Box 218, Coaldale, Alberta.

EDMONTON, Alberta

Address churchbuilding: 12905 - 122 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

Address church: Rev. D. DeJong, 15228 - 81 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

Membership: families: 109, Total: 580, Confessing members: 261.

Minister: D. DeJong, 15228 - 81 Avenue, Edmonton 51, Alberta.

NEERLANDIA, Alberta

Address churchbuilding: Neerlandia, Alberta

Address church: Mr. S. Tuininga, Box 5, Neerlandia, Alberta.

Membership: families: 20, Total: 108, Confessing members: 52.

Minister: vacant.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba

Address churchbuilding: 501 Newton Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Address church: Box 11, Winnipeg 25, Manitoba.

Membership: families: 27, Total: 186, Confessing members: 60.

Minister: H. A. Stel, 85 Elmwood Road, Winnipeg 5, Manitoba.

CLASSIS PACIFIC

ABBOTSFORD, B.C.

Address churchbuilding: Corner McKenzie & King Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

Address church: Box 66, Abbotsford, B.C.

Membership: families: 62, Total: 337, Confessing members: 135.

Minister: L. Moes, King Road, P. O. Box 66, Abbotsford, B.C.

CLOVERDALE, B.C.

Address churchbuilding: 17461 - 60th Avenue, Cloverdale, B.C.

Address church: W. VanderPol, 4148 - 184 Street, R. R.2. Cloverdale, B.C.

Membership: families: 52, Total: 293, Confessing members: 116.

Minister: vacant.

HOUSTON, B.C.

Address churchbuilding: 6th Street, Houston, B.C.

Address church: Box 36, Houston, B.C.

Membership: families: 20, Total 131, Confessing members: 48.

Minister: vacant.

NEW-WESTMINSTER, B.C.

Address churchbuilding: 726 - 12th Street, New-Westminster, B.C.

Address church: Box 70, New-Westminster, B.C.

Membership: families: 106, Total: 509, Single: 17, Confessing members: 238.

Minister: W. W. J. VanOene, 823 Cumberland Street, New-Westminster, B.C.

SMITHERS, B.C.

Address churchbuilding: 15 Avenue - Dominion Street, Smithers, B.C.

Address church: Box 2229, Smithers, B. C.

Membership: families: 46, Total: 247, Confessing members: 100.

Minister: P. Kingma, Box 654, Smithers, B.C.

CONVENING CHURCH FOR THE NEXT GENERAL SYNOD:

New-Westminster.

Address: P. O. Box 70, New Westminster, B.C.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY GENERAL SYNOD, 1968

Board of Governors Theological College:

Address: Rev. D. VanderBoom, 2433 Burlington, Ontario. Tel: 637-8047

Committee of Administration Theological College:

Address: Mr. A. H. Oosterhoff, 2770 Meadowbrook Lane, Windsor 18, Ontario.

Committee for support Theol. Students (Art. 19 C.O.).

Address: Rev. M. VanBeveren, 350 David Street, South, Fergus, Ontario. Tel: 843-1693

Committee for an English Calvinistic Psalter.

Address: P.O. Box 661, Hamilton, Ontario.

Committee on Translation Heidelberg Catechism.

Address: Rev. H. A. Stel, 85 Elmwood Rd., Winnipeg 5, Manitoba. Tel: 533-6837

Committee on Translation and Revision Church Order.

Address: Rev. H. Scholten, Box 76, Smithville, Ontario. Tel: 957-7496

Committee on Correspondence with Churches Abroad.

Address: Rev. H. Scholten, Box 76, Smithville, Ontario. Tel: 957-7496

Committee on Contact Christian Reformed Church.

Address: Rev. G. VanDooren, 541 Emerald Street, Burlington, Ontario. Tel: 634-5032

Committee on Contact Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Address: Rev. L. Selles.

Committee on Revised Standard Version.

Address: Rev. D. DeJong, 15228 - 81 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta. Tel: 489-3210

Church in charge of the Archives: Burlington.

Address: Mr. B. J. Harsevoort, 1335 Grahams Lane, Burlington, Ontario.

Financial Committee General Synod 1968.

Address: Mr. C. Lindhout, 59 Bythia Street, Orangeville, Ontario.

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF THE CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

Staff

Drs. J. Faber, Professor of Systematic Theology; Principal.

F. Kouwenhoven, M. Th., Professor of Old Testament; Clerk.

L. Selles, Professor of New Testament, Dean of Students and Registrar.

H. Scholten, M. Th., Lecturer Church History, Staff-librarian.

G. VanDooren, M. Th., Lecturer Practical Theology, Vice-principal.

Board of Governors

Clerk: Rev. D. VanderBoom, 2433 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, Ontario.

Committee of Administration

Clerk: Mr. A. H. Oosterhoff, 2770 Meadowbrook Lane, Windsor 18, Ontario.

Treasurer: Mr. H. Dantuma, 186 Burloak Drive, Burlington, Ontario. Tel: 634-8966.



Sitting (from left): N. Bronsema, Rev. J. Mulder, Rev. H. Scholten, Rev. W. W. J. VanOene, Rev. M. van Beveren, K. Stam, G. DeBoer.

Standing (from left): Rev. L. Moes, Rev. G. VanDooren, J. VanderVeen, Rev. L. Selles, Rev. Drs. J. Faber, J. Bareman, Rev. H. A. Stel, S. Tuininga, J. Kuik, J. Medemblik.

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Mr. H. Bouwman, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
had to leave Synod because of illness.