

Standing Committee for the Publication of the Book of Praise  
c/o 110 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton, ON, L9C 5A1

## **REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD DUNNVILLE 2016**

### ***Introduction:***

The Standing Committee for the Publication of the Book of Praise (SCBP, hereinafter referred to as the Committee) hereby submits a report on its activities regarding the mandate given by General Synod Carman, 2013. Throughout the report, references to the Committee's mandate are provided based on the various articles published in the *Acts General Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches – Carman, MB, 2013*.

The Committee expresses deep gratitude to the LORD for His care and guidance as we worked to fulfill all aspects of the mandate given by the churches. The highlight of the work came with the publication of the 2014 *Book of Praise* as authorized by Synod Carman in Article 186 of the Acts of Synod. As we stated in our letter to the churches when the publication was made available for purchase, this was a momentous occasion for us as Committee, and certainly no less so for the Canadian and American Reformed Churches! We are grateful for the tremendous amount of feedback, encouragement and cooperation that the Committee has received from the churches throughout the past 13 years, as well as the good guidance and leadership from the General Synods that were convened during this time. Above all we offer our praise and gratitude to our Heavenly Father for providing the churches with an up-to-date Psalter that will be used to praise His most Holy Name!

In connection with the completion and publication of the 2014 *Book of Praise*, the Committee is seeking the privilege of the floor at General Synod Dunnville 2016 in order to formally present the 2014 *Book of Praise* to General Synod. This request is made formally in the report below.

### ***Overview of the report:***

For ease of reading, the report is divided into four sections. Each section deals with one key element of the Committee's mandate, and is organized under headings and sub headings with specific references to the *Acts 2013*:

## **SECTION ONE**

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## SECTION ONE

### Mandate received from General Synod Carman, 2013

#### 1.0 Implementation of GS decisions re. changes in the *Book of Praise*:

In addition to working with all aspects of the mandate as reported below, the Committee has implemented the decisions made by General Synod 2013 as follows:

##### 1.1 Article 101 Forms

###### 1.1.1 Recommendation 4.1.1 – Forms of Subscription

The Committee published the following changes in the Forms of Subscription on pg. 661 (as indicated in bold italics):

*Form for use in the local congregation – paragraph 3:* “If at any time in the future it should happen that we would disagree with this doctrine or any part of it, we promise that we will not propose, teach, preach or publish our opinion, either publicly or privately; rather, ***we will first submit this to the church via her assemblies for judgment.*** We are willing to submit to their decision; if we refuse we will by that very fact be suspended from our office.....”

*Form for use at Classis – paragraph 3:* “If at any time in the future it should happen that we would disagree with this doctrine or any part of it, we promise that we will not propose, teach, preach or publish our opinion, either publicly or privately; rather, ***we will first submit this to the church via her assemblies for judgment.*** We are willing to submit to their decision; if we refuse we will by that very fact be suspended from our office.....”.

###### 1.1.2 Recommendation 4.2.2 – Form for the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

The Committee implemented the following change in the form on pg. 605 (as indicated in bold italics):

In order that we might firmly believe that we belong to this covenant of grace, the Lord Jesus Christ during his last Passover instituted the holy supper. He gave the bread and the cup to his disciples in remembrance of him.<sup>6</sup> ***He taught us to understand that as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we are reminded and assured of his hearty love and faithfulness towards us. It is a sure pledge that he has given his body and shed his blood for us; otherwise we would have suffered eternal death. He nourishes and refreshes our hungry and thirsty souls with his crucified body and shed blood to everlasting life as certainly as this bread is broken before our eyes and this cup is given to us and we eat and drink in remembrance of him.***

1.1.3 Recommendation 4.3.1 – Form for the Solemnization of Marriage  
In the prayer of the marriage form, 2nd par., “We pray you, grant them your Holy Spirit.....” was corrected to read: “***We pray that you will grant them your Holy Spirit...***” (p. 630).

1.1.4 Recommendation 4.3.2 – Form for the Solemnization of Marriage  
The committee consulted with Dr. G.H. Visscher for assistance, and upon his recommendation changed the word ‘maintain’ to ‘***care for***’.

## 1.2 Article 103 Index of Scripture References

### 1.2.1 Par 4

The Committee has included the Index of Scripture References on page 676 of the *Book of Praise*, immediately following the Index of First Lines.

## 1.3 Article 125 Confessions and Church Order

### *Heidelberg Catechism*

#### 1.3.1 Recommendation 4.1.1

The introduction to the Heidelberg Catechism was changed as follows: “The National Synods of the sixteenth century adopted it as one of the doctrinal standards of the Reformed churches,...”

#### 1.3.2 Recommendation 4.1.4

In answer 10, the word ‘displeased’ was changed to the word ‘angry’.

#### 1.3.3 Recommendation 4.1.8

In answer 75, the words ‘everlasting life’ were changed to ‘eternal life’.

#### 1.3.4 Recommendation 4.1.9

The font size for the text of the Heidelberg Catechism was changed to be the same size as it is in the other confessions.

### *Belgic Confession*

#### 1.3.5 Recommendation 4.2.1

The word ‘symbolical’ was removed from the introduction to the Belgic Confession.

#### 1.3.6 Recommendation 4.2.2

The words ‘in the following year’ were removed from line 9 of the introduction.

#### 1.3.7 Recommendation 4.2.3

In Article 3, the word ‘impulse’ was changed to ‘will’.

*Canons of Dort*

1.3.8 Recommendation 4.3

The introductory words to the Rejection of Errors (chapter 1) were corrected as follows: “Having explained the true doctrine of divine election and reprobation....”

*Church Order*

1.3.9 Recommendation 4.4

In Article 59, the word ‘engrafted’ was changed to ‘incorporated’

1.4 Article 151 Revision of Psalms

1.4.1 Recommendation 4.3 – Psalm 3

The committee consulted with musical advisors regarding Psalm 3, line 2, second last note. In accordance with their advice, no change was made.

1.4.2 Recommendation 4.5 – Psalm 17 stanza 5

The revised stanza was implemented as follows:

*They like a lion crave their prey.  
Rise up, O LORD, rise up to show them  
the sword you draw to overthrow them.  
Now with your hand snatch me away  
from those who trust in earthly treasure,  
who have in this life their reward.  
O gorge them and their offspring, LORD,  
with bitter fruits in fullest measure.*

1.4.3 Recommendation 4.6 – Psalm 18 stanza 8

Line 5 of this stanza was changed as follows:

*The shrewd and crafty you outdo in cunning.*

1.4.4 Recommendation 4.8 – Psalm 20 stanza 2

While Synod proposed to change the wording in line 3 to *May songs in celebration shouted*, Synod did not mandate the committee to make this change, instead asking the committee to *consider* making the change. The suggested word ‘shouted’ does not rhyme with the word ‘granted’ in line 1. We also note that the change that was proposed originally came from the churches. After careful consideration, the following change was adopted:

*May songs in celebration chanted.*

- 1.4.5 Recommendation 4.10 – Psalm 25 stanza 6  
The revised stanza was implemented as follows:

*Who, then, serves the LORD and fears him?  
God will guide him all his days,  
teaching him what path to follow,  
leading him in righteous ways.  
Then will he know happiness,  
and his children God will favour:  
all the land they will possess  
as their heritage forever.*

- 1.4.6 Recommendation 4.11 – Psalm 30 stanza 1  
The following revision was implemented in lines 2 and 3:

*Out of the depths you lifted me;  
you healed me and you kept my foes*

- 1.4.7 Recommendation 4.13 – Psalm 44 stanza 1  
The following revision was implemented in lines 4-6:

*You drove out na-tions proud and bold;  
you crushed them with your might-y hand.  
Your own you plant-ed, made them flour-ish.*

- 1.4.8 Recommendation 4.14 – Psalm 57 stanza 3  
The following revision was implemented in lines 3&4:

*Alarmed was I when foes against me banded  
to set a snare, but to their great surprise*

- 1.4.9 Recommendation 4.16 – Psalm 71 stanza 2  
The following revision was implemented in lines 5&6:

*Protect me from their power:  
you are my strength and tower.*

- 1.4.10 Recommendation 4.17 – Psalm 81 stanza 6  
The revised stanza was implemented as follows:

*“In a thundercloud  
I, the LORD, addressed you;  
my support I vowed,  
and you also saw  
how at Meribah  
I was there to test you.*

- 1.4.11 Recommendation 4.18 -- Psalm 81 stanza 11  
The following revision was implemented in line 6:

*tru-ly their de-fend-er!*

- 1.4.12 Recommendation 4.19 – Psalm 89 stanza 10  
The following revision was implemented in line 2:

*highest of earthly kings, in fame surpassed by none.*

- 1.4.13 Recommendation 4.21 – Psalm 90  
Stanzas 1 and 2 were replaced with a revised stanza 1 as follows (returning to the 1984 version with archaisms removed):

*Lord, you have been since you shaped all creation,  
our dwelling place in every generation.  
Before the mountains were brought forth and grounded  
and you the earth and world had formed and founded,  
from everlasting stood your holy throne;  
to everlasting you are God alone.*

- 1.4.14 Recommendation 4.22 – Psalm 92  
Synod instructed the Committee only to consider sentence length. Changing the sentence structure would require a complete overhaul of what is essentially the familiar wording first introduced in the 1972 edition of the *Book of Praise*. The Committee did not have the ability to determine whether or not this would meet with the approval of the churches, since the definitive edition would be published ahead of Synod 2016. Consequently, the Committee decided not to make any changes.

- 1.4.15 Recommendation 4.23 – Psalm 93 stanza 3  
The following revision was implemented in line 2:

*more mighty than the breakers of the sea*

- 1.4.16 Recommendation 4.24 – Psalm 101 stanza 3  
The following revision was implemented in line 2:

*All deeds of faith-less men I hate sin-cere-ly.*

- 1.4.17 Recommendation 4.26 – Psalm 103 stanza 1  
The Committee considered Grand Valley’s suggestion to go back to “benefit” and “pit” as in the 1984 BoP, but decided not to implement it, for the following reasons:  
Regarding line 6, while it is true that both the NIV and ESV have “pit” in Ps 103:4, the Hebrew noun *shachath* means pit, pit of death, Sheol; pit of

perdition or perdition, destruction (Clines' Dictionary of Classical Hebrew). Since the context has to do with rescue from death, the APV's rendition "death's abyss" is an acceptable interpretation. Furthermore, the rest of line 6 ("who redeems your life") is closer to the Hebrew than in the 1984 version ("who saves you and redeems you").

Regarding line 3, again it is true that both the NIV and the ESV have "benefits" which rhymes well (though not perfectly) with "pit". Here the Hebrew word is *gamul*, which is sometimes translated as "benefit" but properly means "recompense", here "all his recompenses" (Clines' Dictionary of Classical Hebrew). Often it refers to God's retribution upon the wicked, repaying them according to their deeds, but here the context is positive, referring to God's gracious dealings with those he loves. Hence "deeds of love and grace" is a good interpretation, and "grace" also rhymes well (though not perfectly) with "abyss". Further, the rest of the line ("do not forget") sounds more modern than the 1984 wording ("forget not").

#### 1.4.18 Recommendation 4.28 – Psalm 118 stanza 6

Dr. W. Helder was asked for input into this recommendation, and he offered the following:

Synod asked the Committee to revert to the 1984 version of Psalm 118, stanza 6, line 5. In Psalm 118 practically all English Bible translations speak of "the day that the LORD has [or hath] made." The tense of the verb also has the present in focus. In the wording "the day that the LORD made" something is lost because the focus on the past. The sound of the present perfect also flows better. Hence the APV formulation: "This is the day he has created."

Grand Valley asks why "LORD" was taken out of Psalm 118:6, but it does not specify where this word should be inserted. "LORD" also happens to be left out of line 4. If it is Grand Valley's understandable desire to reduce such omissions and to include "LORD" more frequently, would the following adaptation of lines 3-4 not offer a suitable solution?

*This is a marvel unexpected,  
the doing of the LORD alone.*

The advantage of this version is that "God" can be replaced with the covenant name "LORD" and that the present perfect can be retained. Incidentally, many will be pleased to see the word "doing" used in line 4 since it is found in the ESV as well as in the NASB and NKJV.

In two respects the revision now proposed is closer to the biblical text. Presumably both synod and Grand Valley would therefore be pleased with it.

The Committee decided to adopt the recommended change.



- 1.4.19 Recommendation 4.29 – Psalm 119 stanza 34  
The following revision was implemented in line 1:

*Forever fixed in heaven is your word;*

- 1.4.20 Recommendation 4.30 – Psalm 119 stanza 38  
The following revision was implemented in line 2

*for all your precepts I have been observing.*

- 1.4.21 Recommendation 4.31 – Psalm 120 stanza 1  
The following revision was implemented in line 2:

*and cry to him for his protection:*

- 1.4.22 Recommendation 4.32 – Psalm 123 stanza 1  
The following revision was implemented in line 7:

*so do our eyes look to our Mas-ter's face*

- 1.4.23 Recommendation 4.33 – Psalm 136 stanza 10  
The following revision was implemented in line 1:

*Sihon of the Amorites,*

- 1.4.24 Recommendation 4.34 – Psalm 148 stanza 4  
Dr. W. Helder provided input into this recommendation as follows:

Since the committee's recommended change incorrectly associates "praise and splendour with "his saints" instead of "his people's horn", Synod directed the committee to implement the following change as per Burlington-Rehoboth:

*He raised his people's horn on high,  
which Israel, his faithful nation  
did praise in joyful celebration.*

The point raised by Burlington-Ebenezer and Burlington-Rehoboth seems helpful in making sense of a difficult text. However, the auxiliary verb form "did praise" in Burlington-Rehoboth's suggestion is an archaic element that is best avoided. Also, it is not clear whether the "which" clause is intended to modify "horn" (from which it is separated by the words "on high") or whether it somehow applies more loosely and colloquially to line 4 as a whole (i.e. to the action of raising the horn). Both are significant stylistic flaws, but they can easily be eliminated without detracting from the essentials of Burlington-Rehoboth's proposal. The wording of synod's consideration suggests that

synod is mainly concerned about the meaning and that it would therefore find the following formulation acceptable:

*He raised his people's horn on high,  
made it for Israel, his nation,  
the theme of praise and celebration.*

The Committee decided to adopt the recommended change as proposed by Dr. Helder.

- 1.4.25 Recommendation 4.35 – Musical notation of the last note of each Psalm. Our musical advisors have given recommendation to leave the brevis in place. We presently use the notation of the Liedbook voor de Kerken, which also uses the brevis.

#### 1.5 Article 171 Changes to Hymn Texts

##### 1.5.1 Recommendation 4.2 – Hymn 1

Synod mandated the committee to change “heaven and earth” to “heav’n and earth”. The Committee noted, however, that we are not using contractions anywhere else in the *Book of Praise*, but are using ligatures instead. The Committee decided to change “heaven and earth” to “heaven and earth”.

##### 1.5.2 Recommendation 4.3 – Hymn 1

In line 12, the word ‘thence’ was changed to ‘there’.

##### 1.5.3 Recommendation 4.5 – Hymn 8

The committee implemented the change mandated by Synod to make the singing of the “Amen” standard (i.e., remove brackets, asterisk, and the phrase “may be sung with Amen-cadence”). This also meant that the brevis over the word Ghost needed be removed. In consultation with our musical advisors, a decision was made to change this note to a whole note.

##### 1.5.4 Recommendation 4.6 – Hymn 17: 1

The following revised stanza was implemented:

*My soul does mag-ni-fy  
the Lord, for he Most High  
has shown to me his fa-vour.  
I praise him with my voice;  
my spir-it does re-joice  
in him, my God and Sav-iour.*

Note: this also necessitated an update to the authorship and copyright for this Hymn. The following change was made: *St. 1: 1967, William W. J. VanOene, © 1984, SCBP. St. 2-6: © 2009, William Helder.*

1.5.5 Recommendation 4.11 – Hymn 56: 3  
The word ‘straight’ was replaced with ‘strait’.

1.5.6 Recommendation 4.12 – Hymn 58  
The text of this hymn was revised as follows:

1. *Our children, LORD, as covenant heirs,  
are baptized in your name,  
for they your stead-fast promise share,  
which you to us pro-claim.*

2. *Such children Jesus did embrace  
while dwelling here below;  
to us and ours, O God of grace,  
the same compassion show.*

3. *As they grow up, keep them secure  
from worldly snares, we pray;  
O let them to the end endure  
in every righteous way.*

1.5.7 Recommendation 4.14 – Hymn 77:  
The text of this hymn was revised as follows:

1. *We praise you, O God, our Re-deem-er, Cre-a-tor;  
in grate-ful de-vo-tion our tri-bute we bring.  
We lay it be-fore you, we kneel and a-dore you;  
we bless your ho-ly name, glad prais-es we sing.*

2. *We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;  
through life’s storm and tempest our Guide you have been.  
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.*

3. *With voices united our praises we offer;  
our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.  
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us;  
to you, our great Redeemer, fore’er be praise.*

1.5.8 Recommendation 4.15 – Hymn 78: 2  
Lines 3 & 4 were changed to read as follows:

*Have you not seen? All that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining.*

## 1.6 Article 171 Revision of Hymn Tunes

### 1.6.1 Recommendation 4.2.2 – Hymn 2

The 1984 musical notation (old Hymn 1B) was reinstated with the exception of breath marks.

### 1.6.2 Recommendation 4.2.5 – Hymn 12

The 1984 musical notation (old Hymn 8) was reinstated with the exception of breath marks.

### 1.6.3 Recommendation 4.2.6 – Hymn 18

The 1984 melody was reinstated, with the exception that the rest which is after line 5 in the 1984 melody was moved to line 6.

### 1.6.4 Recommendation 4.2.10 – Hymn 30

This hymn was reverted back to the notation in the Augment.

### 1.6.5 Recommendation 4.2.11 – Hymn 31

Hymn 31B was deleted, and Hymn 31A was renamed Hymn 31. The 1984 musical notation (old Hymn 26) was reinstated with the exception of breath marks.

### 1.6.6 Recommendation 4.2.13 – Hymn 37

The 1984 musical notation (old Hymn 29) was reinstated.

### 1.6.7 Recommendation 4.2.14 – Hymn 40

The fermatas at the end of lines 3 and 6 were reinstated.

### 1.6.8 Recommendation 4.2.17 – Hymn 47

The 1984 musical notation (old Hymn 36) was reinstated with the exception of breath marks.

### 1.6.9 Recommendation 4.2.18 – Hymn 48

The 1984 melody (old Hymn 37) was reinstated.

### 1.6.10 Recommendation 4.2.19 – Hymn 49

A breath mark was inserted at the end of line 2

### 1.6.11 Recommendation 4.2.21 – Hymn 53

The fermatas at the end of lines 2, 4 and 9 were reinstated

### 1.6.12 Recommendation 4.2.24 – Hymn 65

The 1984 melody (old Hymn 48) was reinstated.

### 1.6.13 Recommendation 4.2.27 – Hymn 73

Fermatas were inserted after lines 2, 4 and 6.

1.6.14 Recommendation 4.2.28 – Hymn 74  
Fermatas were inserted after lines 2 and 4.

1.6.15 Recommendation 4.2.31 – Hymn 78  
Notation was reverted to the 1967 Supplement (in line 1, measure 3; line 2, measure 3; line 3, measure 3 and line 3 measure 4 the dotted quarter note, 8<sup>th</sup> note, quarter note combinations were replaced with 3 quarter notes).

## 1.7 Article 185 Bible Translation in the Prose Section

1.7.1 The Committee changed the NIV quotations in the prose section of the *Book of Praise* to the ESV. As a result of this change in Bible translation, some of the prose sections needed to be updated to address issues of grammar, consistency or clarity of the text. These changes are itemized in the following points.

### 1.7.2 Belgic Confession – Article 21

Lines 9 – 15: The proper words, in ESV translation, read: “*like a lamb that is led to the slaughter.*” This may be problematic for the grammar and meaning of the whole. To address this, the following wording was adopted: “For it is written, *upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. He was like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and was numbered with the transgressors* (Is 53:5, 7, 12), and condemned as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, though he had first declared him innocent.” This wording flows smoothly and also agrees closely with both the APV (which quotes the NIV) and the 1984 BoP (which quotes the RSV).

Lines 15-16: the first-person quotation from Ps 69:4 does not make much sense in the context of the article. Since ESV here agrees exactly with RSV, a decision was made to go back to the wording of the 1984 BoP: “*He restored what he had not stolen.*” The 1984 version has it in italics, but since it is not a direct quotation, a decision was made to leave italics out. The text reference will now read: “He restored what he had not stolen (Ps 69:4).”

### 1.7.3 Lord’s Day 26, Answer 71

In Titus 3:5 the NIV has “rebirth” but the ESV has “regeneration” as in the RSV. Although it is not a direct quotation and although we are not mandated to change the non-quoted language of the prose section to reflect the ESV, in this case it is a direct reference to Scripture. Since the change to “rebirth” was likely prompted by the NIV, here there is merit to change it back to “regeneration.” Note too that the APV has retained the word “regeneration” in Q. 73, which refers back to A. 71. In order that these would be harmonized, and for the reasons given above, the word “rebirth” has been changed to “regeneration”.

#### 1.7.4 Canons of Dort, Chapter 1, Article 10

The beginning of the quotation from Romans 9 needs to be clarified in order to make clear who “*they*” refers to. The 1984 BoP here had “(the children)”. We suggest “(the twins)” (APV = NIV), which is even more clear. Further, the reference to Rom 9:11-13 is in the wrong place since the quotation extends to *Esau I have hated*. (This was a mistake in the APV as well.) It makes sense to move the reference to the end of the quotation, and then add Gen. 25:23 and Mal. 1:2-3 after it, since the latter are quotations within a quotation. Thus the second half of this article is revised as follows (close to 1984 BoP): For it is written: *though they (the twins) were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad*, and so on, *she (namely, Rebekah) was told, “The older will serve the younger.” As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated”* (Rom 9:11-13; cf. Gen 25:23; Mal 1:2-3).

#### 1.7.5 Abbreviated Form for the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Under the section entitled Invitation and Admonition, second paragraph first sentence, the words “and do not repent *from* them” were changed to “and do not repent *of* them” in order to be consistent with the ESV which renders this phrase as “repent of” rather than “repent “from”. Three language experts (Dr. K. Dieleman, Dr. B. Faber and Dr. W. Helder) confirmed that this is the correct usage of the phrase. Additionally, earlier in this section (first sentence) the form already uses the phrase “repent of”.

## 2.0 Publication, Printing and Distribution (*Acts*, Art. 102; Article 186 )

### 2.1 Publication

As authorized in Article 186, Recommendation 4.1.2, the Committee on July 17, 2014 gave Premier Printing the green light to begin printing the 2014 *Book of Praise*. On September 23, 2014 the churches were informed by way of letter that the 2014 *Book of Praise* was available for purchase from Premier Printing. 4 editions were made available to the churches:

- 1.) A faux-leather bound ‘Deluxe’ Edition
- 2.) A hard cover ‘Standard’ Edition
- 3.) A ‘Pulpit/Accompanist’ Set which is coil bound. It comes in two separate volumes (Psalms and Hymns/Prose).
- 4.) An interactive ‘Digital’ Edition in the form of a tagged PDF. At a later date, Premier also produced a ‘Text-Only’ edition suitable for use in projection, text-searches, or copying/pasting.

In accordance with Article 186, Recommendation 4.2.1 the music section of the *Book of Praise* is published in melody-only format.

As per Recommendation 4.2.4 of the same article, the committee is currently investigating the feasibility of producing a coil-bound version of the prose section only. Feasibility will be determined based on demand from the churches, and the cost of producing such an edition.

The Committee requests the privilege of the floor at General Synod Dunnville 2016 in order to officially present the 2014 *Book of Praise* to Synod.

2.2 Contract

Presently the Committee operates under contractual relationship with Premier Printing Ltd., Winnipeg MB. This contract expires on February 28, 2017. The Committee seeks the approval from Synod to negotiate the continuation of this contract for an additional five (5) years with an expiry date of February 28, 2022.

2.2 Printing

Deluxe edition:	2014	5,655
	2015	0
Standard Edition	2014	13,139
	2015	10,376
Pulpit / Acc. Set	2014	165
	2015	58
<u>Total books printed:</u>		<u>29,393</u>

2.3 Distribution

During the past three years, sales may be summarized as follows:

Deluxe Edition:

Canada:	2,870
United States of America	13
<u>International</u>	<u>32</u>
Total Sales – Deluxe Edition	2,915

Standard Edition:

Canada:	17,413
United States of America	208
<u>International</u>	<u>29</u>
Total Sales – Standard Edition	17,650

Pulpit / Accompanist Set:

Canada:	197
United States of America	4
<u>International</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Sales – Digital Editions	201

Digital / Electronic Editions:

Canada:	2,933
United States of America	24
<u>International</u>	<u>97</u>
Total Sales – Digital Editions	3,054

\* includes individual and corporate purchases

Inventory October, 2015	
Deluxe Edition	2,722
Standard Edition	5,845
Pulpit / Accompanist Set	20
Total Inventory	8,587

There is a small discrepancy between Printed, Distributed and Inventory in each category. This is due to defects, and copies used by Premier Printing for administrative purposes.

The current retail price for the editions of the *Book of Praise* is broken down as follows (all funds CDN):

Standard Edition:	\$24.00
Deluxe Edition:	\$39.00
Digital Edition – PDF:	\$9.75
Digital Edition – Text:	\$9.75 for personal use, or \$1 per member or student for church/school use

Premier Printing offers a 25% discount for churches and/or schools when placing bulk orders.

### 3.0 Fostering Awareness (*Acts*, Art. 186)

The Committee notes with gratitude the many expressions of interest in our *Book of Praise*. During the past three years, the Committee responded to various requests for information regarding the *Book of Praise*, and also dealt with a number of requests to copy, in whole or in part the Psalms and Hymns as well as other parts of the *Book of Praise*. These requests originated from within as well as from outside of our federation of churches. The Committee is delighted that there remains considerable interest at home and abroad in the Anglo-Genevan Psalter.

The Committee published press releases in *Clarion*, *Christian Renewal* and *Una Sancta* in order to keep the churches informed about the progress of the work of the Committee.

The Committee website also received an extensive overhaul to function as a better tool for promotion and awareness for the *Book of Praise*. The website can be found at [www.bookofpraise.ca](http://www.bookofpraise.ca).

As per Recommendation 4.2.2 of this Article, a Resource section was added to the Committee website. This section contains links to recommended harmonizations for the Genevan Tunes. Most notably, a PDF of harmonizations of all 150 Psalms and Hymns (including short preludes and postludes) composed by br. Dennis Teitsma of Grace Canadian Reformed Church in Winnipeg was made available via the website as well. Br. Teitsma very generously insisted that this PDF be offered free of charge. For those who desire to have these arrangements in a book form, professionally printed copies of a



spiral-bound book of all 150 Psalms and 85 Hymns with laminated covers are available for the cost of printing (\$12) plus shipping.

The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to foster an increased awareness of the existence of the *Book of Praise*, among others in the English-speaking world, be continued. Further, the Committee requests that Synod mandate the Committee to continue maintaining the Committee website at [www.bookofpraise.ca](http://www.bookofpraise.ca).

#### **4.0 Contact with Australian Sister Churches (Acts, Art.196)**

##### **4.1 Official Communication**

General Synod Carman 2013 mandated the Committee to maintain contact with the Australian Deputies, particularly in order to assist in the FRCA's pursuit of a possible Australian version of the Book of Praise. To that end the Committee sent a letter to the Australian Deputies on October 25, 2013, updating them on our progress towards the publication of the definitive version of the *Book of Praise*, and "*offering our aid in providing clarity as you consider the possibility of publishing your own worship book. We look forward to hearing from you how we might be able to assist you in this way. At the same time, in the spirit of ongoing fellowship with the FRCA, we continue to offer you the use of our Book of Praise, both the current Authorized Provisional Version and the definitive version to be published soon.*" Subsequent to this letter, the Australian Deputies took us up on our offer of assistance, and we were able to support them on a number of occasions (by formal letters and by informal email correspondence) in answering practical questions pertaining to the potential publication of their own *Book of Praise*.

##### **4.2 Recent decisions by the FRCA Synod (June 2015)**

4.2.1 The following decisions were gleaned from the approved draft Acts of Synod Baldivis 2015 found at <http://synod.frca.org.au/2015/acts/>:

- a. To encourage the churches to use the 2014 Canadian *Book of Praise* for the interim.
- b. To appoint new deputies with a mandate to develop an Australian Version of the Canadian *Book of Praise* and present it to the next Synod that:
  - i. contains the Psalms and Hymns of the 2014 Canadian *Book of Praise* that are approved for use in the FRCA and not to include any unapproved hymns;
  - ii. incorporates changes to the creeds, confessions and liturgical forms as made by the FRCA, as well as the Australian Church Order;
  - iii. to prepare two versions, one using the NKJV for all Scripture quotations and capitalising all pronouns referring to God, the other retaining the ESV without capitalisation;
  - iv. contains a list of all hymns with the corresponding numbers of the hymns in the Canadian *Book of Praise*.

- c. The deputies were also mandated to work through all legal and practical matters related to this project.
- d. Further, the Australian deputies were mandated to solicit feedback from the churches and propose suggested names for an Australian version of the *Canadian Book of Praise*.
- e. Finally, the deputies were mandated to maintain good contact with the Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise* of the Canadian Reformed Churches, alerting the churches of any proposed changes.

The Committee takes note of these developments, and requests Synod that the mandate to maintain contact with our Australian sister churches and to assist them in their pursuit of an Australian version of the *Book of Praise* be continued.

## **5.0 Corporate Status (Acts, Art. 104 par. 4)**

5.1 The Committee has maintained its status as a corporation; all necessary documents for this purpose have been kept up to date. This also includes filing the *Annual Income Tax* forms with Revenue Canada. This is a legal requirement even though the Committee does not operate under an annual budget, and the Corporation does not generate an income or profit.

The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to maintain its corporate status be continued for the purpose of protecting the interests of the Canadian Reformed Churches in matters concerning the *Book of Praise*.

## **6.0 Committee Membership (Acts, Articles 111, 177)**

6.1 Members as appointed by Synod Carman (Acts Art. 111, Par 4.4 Art. 177, Par 7)  
Synod Carman appointed committee members as follows:

A.H. den Hollander (2022)  
C.J. Nobels (2016)  
J. Smith (2019)  
G. Ph. Van Popta (convener) (2016)  
D. Wynia (2022)  
Alternate: M. Jongsma (2022)

6.2 Passing into glory of br. Christiaan J. Nobels

On April 18, 2015 our br. Christiaan Nobels was promoted to glory after a courageous battle with cancer. The Committee is grateful to this brother for the dedication and care that he brought to his work for the churches. We were thankful with him that the Lord allowed him as yet to see the completion and publication of the *Book of Praise* 2014, a project that was so very dear to his heart. He was also able to compose a complete set of preludes for each of the Psalms in the *Book of Praise*, which he made available for free download through his website at [www.christiaannobels.com](http://www.christiaannobels.com). We commend his wife sr. Caroline Nobels, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren into the continuing care of our

heavenly Father. The Committee recommends that Synod formally thank sr. Nobels for her late husband's work as a member of the Committee.

6.3 Completion of the term of Rev. G. Ph. van Popta

Rev. G. Ph. van Popta will complete his term at the end of Synod 2016. We are grateful to this brother for his dedicated work on the Committee throughout the years of his term. The Committee recommends that Synod formally thank Rev. van Popta for his work as a member of the Committee.

6.4 Suggested future Membership

Now that the *Book of Praise* revisions are complete and the 2014 edition of the *Book of Praise* has been published, the workload of the Committee is not as great as in previous years. The Committee therefore recommends the following:

appoint M. Jongsma for three 3-year terms (2025)

appoint D. Wynia as convenor in the place of G. Ph. van Popta

## SECTION TWO

### 7.0 **Corrections Made As a Result of Proof Reading**

In the course of proof reading the manuscripts for the 2014 *Book of Praise*, a few items that required correction were noted. These are itemized as below, along with rationale for the corrections.

7.1 Table of Cross References to the Three Forms of Unity

The following cross references were added/modified:

L.D. 35	96	25, 32	-
	97	25	-
	98	7, 25	III/IV, 17; V, 14

Rationale: This decision was made based on the following input from Dr. J. Van Vliet:

a. Lord's Day 35 emphasizes that in worship we don't use visual images in order to worship God through them; BC 25 helps us in this by showing that although there were more visual things involved in OT worship, we now live in the fulfillment in Christ. For example, worship in the Roman Catholic Church is highly visual and in many respects it has failed to grasp the significance of what we confess in BC 25. Said in other terms, the Roman Catholic Church is still stuck liturgically in the OT (priests with vestments, altars, incense, candles, etc.)

b. Lord's Day 35 also contains the regulative principle of worship and that is also captured, in a slightly different way, in the second (final) paragraph of BC 25.

7.2 Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 40, A105

Footnote 3: Mt 26:52 was moved from footnote 3 to footnote 4. Three reasons for this change:

- a. The point of Jesus' words is not that Peter was recklessly endangering himself, but that Peter was giving himself a role that properly belonged to the government.
- b. The placement of this proof text in the original (see Bakhuizen van den Brink, p. 211) suggests that it was intended as proof for the doctrine that the government bears the sword
- c. The 1972 edition had it in footnote 4, but the 1984 revision inadvertently placed it in footnote 3, where it has been ever since. Since this was probably a mechanical error, it is within the general mandate of the Committee to make this correction.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **8.0 Committee Address**

The Committee served as the address to which correspondence regarding the *Book of Praise* could be directed. The committee requests that the mandate to receive, scrutinize and evaluate the contents of correspondence from the churches be continued and to report to the next General Synod as to the validity of the suggestions made.

#### 8.1 Permanent Mailing Address

Standing Committee for the *Book of Praise* (SCBP)  
c/o Theological College  
110 West 27th Street  
Hamilton, Ontario, L9C 5A1

#### 8.2 eMail Address

In addition to the regular mailing address, correspondence may be sent electronically to: [bookofpraise@canrc.org](mailto:bookofpraise@canrc.org).

#### 8.3 Meetings and Place of Meeting

The committee regularly met at the facilities of the Theological Seminary, our official address. Since publishing the report to Synod Carman the committee has met 8 times. All meetings were conducted in excellent harmony.

#### 8.4 Archives

The Committee's central archives are maintained at our permanent address, in the Theological College library. Rev. C. Bosch continues to serve as archivist. The Committee requests that Synod mandate that the SCBP archives continue to be kept in this way.

## SECTION FOUR

### 9.0 Acknowledgements and Summary of Requests

#### 9.1 Acknowledgements

As the Committee fulfilled its mandate to publish the 2014 *Book of Praise*, some expert advice was required in specific areas. The Committee is grateful that such advice was always provided when requested. The Committee therefore wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the contributions of the following individuals in their respective areas of expertise:

Dr. W. Helder (Hamilton, ON) for ongoing input as individually mandated items from Synod Carman were implemented.

Mr. F. Ezinga (Langley, BC) for advice in music related issues.

Mr. M. Jongsma (Hamilton, ON) for advice in music related issues.

Dr. K. Dieleman (Lansing, IL) for advice in language related issues.

Dr. B. Faber (Hamilton, ON) for advice in language related issues.

Dr. J. Van Vliet (Hamilton, ON) for advice in creeds and confessions, proof texts.

Dr. G.H. Visscher (Hamilton, ON) for advice in scriptural language in liturgical forms.

Rev. C. Bosch (Burlington ON), for serving as archivist for the Committee.

#### 9.2 Summary of Requests

- 9.2.1 Re: Introduction and Par 2.1: The committee seeks the privilege of the floor at General Synod Dunnville 2016 in order to officially present the 2014 *Book of Praise* to General Synod.
- 9.2.2 Re: Par 2.2: The committee seeks the approval from Synod to negotiate the continuation of this contract for an additional five (5) years with an expiry date of February 28, 2022.
- 9.2.3 Re: Par 3.0: The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to foster an increased awareness of the existence of the Book of Praise, among others in the English-speaking world, be continued.
- 9.2.4 Re: Par 3.0: The Committee requests Synod to mandate the Committee to continue maintaining its website at [www.bookofpraise.ca](http://www.bookofpraise.ca).
- 9.2.5 Re: Par 4.2: The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to maintain contact with our Australian sister churches be continued.
- 9.2.6 Re: Par 5.1: The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to maintain its corporate status be continued for the purpose of protecting the interests of the Canadian Reformed Churches in matters concerning the *Book of Praise*.
- 9.2.7 Re: Par. 6.2: The Committee recommends that Synod thank sr. Caroline Nobels for the work her late husband br. Christiaan Nobels performed as member of the Committee.
- 9.2.8 Re: Par 6.3: The Committee recommends that Synod thank Rev. G. Ph. van Popta for his work as a member of the Committee.
- 9.2.9 Re: Par. 6.4: The Committee proposes that Synod decide to:  
Appoint br. M. Jongsma for three 3-year terms (2025)

Appoint Rev. D. Wynia as convenor in the place of Rev. G. Ph. van Popta.  
9.2.10 Re: Par 8.4: The Committee requests that the mandate to maintain the  
archives of the SCBP be continued.

Respectfully submitted,

The Standing Committee for the Publication of the Book of Praise:

Arie H. den Hollander, secretary/treasurer  
Dr. Jannes Smith  
George Ph. van Popta, convenor  
Richard Wynia