

Report on the Finances of Synod Neerlandia

See Article 63 of these Acts for the details of the financial report. Below is the audit letter.

Canadian Reformed Church at Barrhead

July 14, 2003

General Synod 2004 of the Canadian Reformed Churches

Esteemed Brothers,

As per our appointment by Synod Neerlandia 2001, we audited the finances of Synod 2001. Please find attached a copy of the record of deposits and payouts as well as a financial statement of the Synod. In our audit we found all of the funds accounted for and proper accounting for funds was in place. Bank statements provided reconciled to funds received and expenses paid out. All cheques were included in the package that we received from Synod Neerlandia.

The only matter that might be of concern is the lack of receipts received from delegates requesting reimbursement. We found that a good percentage of expenses were paid without receipts being presented. We are not sure if GST paid out is to be claimed back or if the records of Synods are subject to Revenue Canada audits; in either case we are certain that the records would be found lacking. We recommend that a standardized request for reimbursement form be created, which delegates should fill out when requesting reimbursement for expenses paid. Also, receipts should be required to be included with these requests.

In His service,

Br. Melvin Hoeksema, Vice- Chairman

Br. John Dykstra, Clerk

Article 61

Reopening

The chairman reopened Synod in plenary session, asking everyone present to sing Hymn 41:1,2. The roll was called and all were present.

Address: Rev. J. Ferguson (OPC)

On behalf of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Rev. J. Ferguson addressed Synod. Rev. J. De Gelder spoke some words in response. Both addresses can be found in the appendices of these *Acts*.

Article 62

CPEU re: A Common Songbook

Committee 2 presented its proposal on the report of the CPEU re: a Common Songbook. After several rounds of discussion, the committee took back its proposal for further consideration.

Article 63

Finance Committee Synod Neerlandia 2001

Committee 3 presented its proposal concerning the Finance Committee Synod Neerlandia 2001. After several rounds of discussion, the following was **adopted**:

1. Material

- 1.1. Report of the Finance Committee Synod Neerlandia 2001
- 1.2. Report of an audit from the church at Barrhead

2. Admissibility

The reports are admissible.

3. Observations

- 3.1. The Finance Committee for Synod Neerlandia 2001 reports that the total expenses were \$16,821.02. The committee itemizes this as follows:

Office supplies	\$1,093.18
Miscellaneous	608.06
Rental/Leases	1,211.73
Travel/Accommodations East	6,364.38
Travel/Accommodations West	3,502.62
Postage	429.11
Kitchen	2,799.04
Bank charges	66.70
GST paid	746.21

- 3.2. The church at Barrhead reports that, upon auditing the books, everything was found to be in good order.
- 3.3. The church at Barrhead expresses its concern with respect to the lack of receipts received from delegates requesting reimbursements. Barrhead recommends "that a standardized request for reimbursement form be created that the delegates should fill out when requesting reimbursement for expenses paid. Also receipts should be required to be included with the requests."

4. Considerations

- 4.1. Synod receives with thankfulness the audit report by the church at Barrhead.
- 4.2. Synod notes that financial reports of previous synods included the printing of the *Acts*. The report of the Finance Committee Synod Neerlandia does not include this item.
- 4.3. Regarding the concern of the church at Barrhead, Synod notes that Synod Neerlandia considered that the Finance Committee should assure that there is financial accountability. In light of this task, the Finance Committee should consist of at least three members.
- 4.4. Synod agrees with the recommendation of the church at Barrhead to make a standardized form for reimbursement. Synod also agrees with the church at Barrhead that it is important to include all possible receipts along with the request for reimbursements. Synod notes that the

church at Chatham is already using a form for reimbursements. The church at Chatham should give a copy of this sheet to the convening church of the next General Synod.

5. Recommendations

Synod decide:

- 5.1. To accept the report of the Finance Committee Synod Neerlandia 2001 and thank the committee for the work done.
- 5.2. To accept the audit report of the church at Barrhead, and thank the church at Barrhead for the work done.
- 5.3. To appoint a Finance Committee for Synod Chatham 2004, consisting of the brs. Mike De Boer, J. Holsappel and R. van Middelkoop.
- 5.4. To charge the Finance Committee to submit a report to the next General Synod.
- 5.5. To appoint the church at Kerwood to audit the books of the Finance Committee of Synod 2004 and report to the next General Synod.

Article 64

CRCA re: Indonesian Churches, Reformed Church in New Zealand and General Mandate

Committee 3 presented its proposal on the report of the CRCA re: the Indonesian Churches, the Reformed Church in New Zealand and General Mandate. After several rounds of discussion, the committee took back its proposal for further consideration.

Article 65

Synodical Correspondence

Committee 1 presented its proposal on the letter from the church at Burlington-East re: synodical correspondence. After a round of discussion, the following was **adopted**:

Material

Letter from the church at Burlington-East re: synodical correspondence

Admissibility

This letter is declared admissible.

3. Observation

The church at Burlington-East proposes to dispense with the procedure of acknowledging synodical correspondence and conveying the decision of synod with respect to it.

4. Consideration

Synod considers this practice common courtesy. It also encourages interaction from the churches with the material of the broader assemblies.

5. Recommendation

Synod decide not to accede to the proposal of the church at Burlington-East.

Article 66

Assessment for the General Fund

Committee 1 presented its proposal on the letter from the Emmanuel Church at Guelph re: Assessment for the General Fund. After a round of discussion, the following was **adopted**:

1. Material

Letter from the Emmanuel Church at Guelph re: Assessment for the General Fund

2. Admissibility

This letter is declared admissible.

Observation

The church at Guelph requests that the assessment for the General Fund be approved by Synod itself (just like classical assessments are approved at Classis).

Considerations