

VI ART. 54
** not listed in agenda*

The Committee on Relations with Churches Abroad of The Canadian Reformed Churches

Secretary:

Rev. E. Kampen
7949-202A St.
Langley, B.C. V2Y 1W8
Canada
Tel/fax: (604) 888-1087
E-mail: ekampen@canrc.org

March 9, 2001

General Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches
to be convened May 1, 2001
Neerlandia, AB

Esteemed Brothers:

We submit this letter as an appendix to our Report as we received a request from "The Pilgrim Reformed Churches in East Nusa Tenggara, **Indonesia** (GGRM NTT) to have a "contact relationship" with the Canadian Reformed Churches.

From the information provided we observe the following:

- The GGRM recognized the Canadian Reformed Churches as a true church at their 1999 Synod on the island of Rote;
- These churches are the fruit of Dutch missionary efforts;
- These churches have adopted the Reformed Confessions and Church Order;
- In 1995 there was a separation from a segment that turned out to be more evangelical and liberal;
- They have ecclesiastical relations with the Free Reformed Churches in Australia and the Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland- Vrijgemaakt;
- Some of their young men have studied (Rev. Y. Dethan), or are studying (br. Edwer Dethan) at our college in Hamilton;
- They give Rev. A.J. Pol, currently minister in Carman, MB as a reference;
- Delegates from the churches have attended the ICRC, of which they are a member, in 1993 and 1997.

We ask Synod to consider the following:

- While the official information came only recently, it would seem brotherly with respect to the GGRM NTT to give direction at this time rather than wait another three years till the next Synod;
- While we do not have detailed knowledge of these churches, there is the recognition of two sister churches and a reference of a minister serving in our federation, Rev. A.J. Pol;
- We have links via the training for the ministry at our Theological College in Hamilton.

We recommend that Synod mandate the CRCA to:

- gather more information about the GGRM;
- inform the GGRM of our Rules for Ecclesiastical Fellowship and ask if they can live in a relationship with those rules;
- discuss with representatives of the GGRM how they envision a relationship between two federations so far apart geographically can be meaningful;
- come with recommendations to the next Synod.

May the Lord grant you wisdom in all the matters before you.

On behalf of the CRCA,



Rev. E. Kampen