

APPENDIX VII A

Standing Committee for the *Book of Praise* of the Canadian Reformed Churches

REPORT TO THE SYNOD OF CLOVERDALE, 1983

Esteemed brethren,

Although Synod Smithville 1980 adopted the revised Psalm and Hymn sections and gave our Committee the mandate to prepare for the printing of the "definitive *Book of Praise*," the new edition has not yet appeared. After we began our work, it gradually became clear that we could not immediately proceed with publication. Time was needed to familiarize ourselves with all aspects of our instructions, especially since in a number of ways the new mandate to publish the *Book of Praise* lacked a precedent that we could follow. In 1980 for the first time a committee appointed by Synod was directly given the task to find the best way to arrange for the publication of the "final edition." At our meetings we explored several possible approaches and obtained both legal and professional advice from a variety of sources. More details are presented later in this report, but we are very pleased to state already at this point that as the outcome of our investigation we were able to accept a carefully formulated publishing contract tailor-made to the requirements of the Churches. We are now ready to proceed with the final steps of actual publication.

1. THE PSALM AND HYMN SECTIONS

While the above mentioned investigation was in progress, the Committee took advantage of the time made available by the postponement of publication and continued with some final changes and corrections. Most of these involved minor improvements in language, punctuation, and prosody as well as a few adjustments in the music of the Hymns. A list of the more significant of these changes is to be found in Appendix A.

Our mandate also included the instruction to take into account the following statement: "An alternate melody for Hymn 1 is desirable" We have done so by including a rhymed version of the Apostles' Creed (numbered as Hymn 2 in the final edition). It is a three-stanza rendering in modern English, similar to the four-stanza version which has long been in use in our Dutch sister Churches and which has been retained in their new *Gereformeerde Kerkboek*. When the new rhyming was published last year, it received a favourable response, also from experts. The text of this Hymn is provided in Appendix B.

We were furthermore instructed to replace the new rhyming of *Te Deum* (Hymn 2 in the 1979 Hymn Section) with Hymn 46 in the old edition. Our Committee urgently requests Synod's permission not to implement this decision. The English used in old Hymn 46 does not meet the standard set for the rest of the revised *Book of Praise*. The previous committee spent many hours — indeed, years — in an attempt to eliminate flaws such as we find in this Hymn. It may be of interest in this connection that the Deputies Church Book of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia state in their report to Synod 1983 that the new version is an "improved rhyming of *Te Deum*." On their recommendation, the Synod of Kelmescott subsequently adopted it. For a substantiation of the charge that old Hymn 46 is replete with weaknesses, see Appendix C.

In March 1981, when we were still under the impression that the new *Book of Praise* could be published within a few months, we found ourselves in the difficult position of having to include in the final edition a Hymn which is grammatically and stylistically unacceptable. Because we could not make our predicament known to a general synod, we approached the consistories for advice. Almost all of them replied. Although many felt that nothing could be done to resolve the problem before Synod 1983, a large majority indicated their agreement with our view. Soon afterwards, as a result of the postponement of publication, the problem lost its urgency for the time being. We are pleased that Synod can now give the matter the attention it requires.

2. ASPECTS OF PUBLICATION

The publication of the *Book of Praise* has been planned in such a way that financing, production, and distribution have been delegated by legal agreement to Premier Printing Ltd., however, the Committee, on behalf of the Churches, retains the ultimate control as required by our mandate. A copy of this agreement is attached as Appendix D, but its main points can here be summarized as follows:

- a. The agreement remains in force for five years from the date of the first printing.
- b. All ownership of and control over the compilation and publication or any aspect whatsoever of the *Book of Praise* will at all times be vested in the committee.
- c. The publisher is to keep the Churches supplied with as many copies as they will need.
- d. No changes are to be made in the text of the *Book of Praise* without the written consent of the committee.
- e. Premier Printing Ltd. is to publish the *Book of Praise* at its own expense. Thus the Committee will not need to borrow funds or be involved in administrative duties.
- f. The retail price of the *Book of Praise* is to be mutually agreed upon by the Committee and the Publisher.
- g. The Publisher agrees to make full disclosure of the cost of producing and publishing the *Book of Praise*. The Publisher is to provide the Committee with an annual statement showing the number of copies printed and sold.

The possibility of having the *Book of Praise* published and produced in The Netherlands was investigated but, after a careful weighing of all the pros and cons, rejected as not being in the best interest of the Churches. Other Canadian firms were considered as well, but they were not able to offer the advantages that we will enjoy with Premier.

The Psalm and Hymn sections have been typeset and proofread and are ready to be printed. As soon as Synod (a) informs the Committee of its decisions regarding the *Book of Praise*, (b) stipulates which new versions, if any, of creeds, forms, or Church Order should be included, and (c) provides the Committee with the text of such versions, the final steps can be taken and the new edition can appear early in 1984. D.V.

3. INCORPORATION

With the authorization of Synod Smithville, at the suggestion of the previous Committee, and on the advice of legal counsel, the present Committee became a corporation. Registered as #516 455 Ontario Ltd., it is officially known as the Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise* of the Canadian Reformed Churches. By being incorporated the Committee, on behalf of the Churches, will be better able to protect the interests of the Churches in all matters concerning the *Book of Praise*.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. The Committee invited the members of the previous Committee to a meeting to seek their advice in matters of publication. It was agreed that Mr. M.M. DeGroot and the Rev. G. VanDooren would continue to do the work formerly done by the so-called Publication Committee (i.e., the subcommittee which the previous Committee, in accordance with its synodical mandate, had appointed to serve as publisher and distributor of the old edition of the *Book of Praise*). These two brethren continued in this function until supplies were depleted. The transitional period mentioned in the Acts of Synod Smithville thus came to a natural conclusion.
- b. The work of preparing the music, especially of the hymns, for printing was delegated to two of the members of the Committee who formed a music subcommittee. They had the benefit of advice from several sources, including our musical adviser, Mr. M.M. DeGroot, as well as experts in The Netherlands.
- c. Since the Committee was not involved in financial transactions, no financial statement is included in this report and there was no need to ask the Church of Brampton to audit any books.
- d. It was not possible for any of the members of the Committee to represent the Churches at the Conference on Psalmody.

5. CONCLUSION

We are thankful that all our discussions and investigations were marked by a spirit of harmony and we hope that our work may be a blessing to the Churches.

Respectfully submitted,
J. DeJong
W. Helder
M. Kampen
C. van Halen-Faber
J.G. VanHuisstede

APPENDIX A

Changes in addition to those listed in the report to Synod Smithville:

Psalm Section

Ps. st. l.

- 9 4 1 For ever reigns the LORD alone;
10 2 7 Thy laws on high do not restrain or curb him.
46 1 8 The LORD is near, our fears He stills.
74 12 1 Nor for Thy covenant have, O LORD, regard,
13 1 Rise up, O God, rise and defend Thy cause:
87 2 4 With those who know Me as their LORD and Saviour.
121 1 2 From where comes all my aid
4 6 From this time forth, for ever.
127 1 2 Its builders toil in useless pain;
146 2 5 And his plans that very day
6 Waste when he returns to clay.
(changed back to old version)
133 1 2 When brothers live together in communion!
150 1 5 Sing and shout His praise uprightly.

Hymn Section

H. st. l.

- 9 3 3 And those who have no might He will
4 1 Though youths grow weary and may fall,
2 Though young men strive in vain,
5 3 They'll neither falter nor grow faint
23 3 1 To Thee be power divine ascribed,
2 For wondrous are Thy ways,
3 And Thine be wisdom, glory, might,
4 And everlasting praise
7 1 Let all that dwell in heaven above
31 1 5 Lo, He went up, our glorious Head,
35 1 3 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
6 Again I say, Rejoice! Rejoice!
(refrain changed in all stanzas)
46 1 1 We thank Thee, Father, who hast planted
3 True knowledge, faith, and life immortal
(changes necessitated by new tune for Hymn 46)
2 6 Was in the broken bread made one,
47 6 4 Our debtors' trespasses forgive.
7 1 Into temptation lead us not,
54 4 1 We know that when our Lord appears,
5 4 As He, our Lord, is pure.

55 1 2 Before admiring eyes.

(Synod Smithville changed "John's" in 1. 2 to "our"; however, the use of "our" does not fit in with the use of the past and past perfect tenses in this hymn.)

It is further recommended that

- a. the tune of Hymn 37 be retained. It is the view of musical experts that this old Dutch melody is very suitable for inclusion in our *Book of Praise*. Also, the committee considers this tune appropriate for the text of the Hymn as a whole;
- b. the tune of Hymn 39 be replaced with that of Gezang 9 (Avondzang), which is the melody chosen by the authors and used for this Hymn in the Free Reformed Churches of Australia;
- c. the tune of Hymn 46 be replaced with that of "Daar is uit 's werelds duistre wolken," since the present tune is already used for three Psalms and one other Hymn.

In conclusion it is to be noted that

- a. aside from the improvements and corrections proposed in the present report, the Psalms and Hymns have already been adopted by Synod Smithville 1980;
- b. the committee has implemented the decision of Synod Smithville to use the *Liedboek voor de kerken* as an "example for lay-out and music notation."

APPENDIX B

A Rhymed Version of the Apostles' Creed

1. In God, our heavenly Father, I believe—
Almighty Ruler, all-victorious,
Creator of both heaven and earth,
Whose holy Name is great and glorious.
An I believe in Christ our Lord,
God's only Son, the Incarnate Word;
I trust in Him, our faithful Saviour,
Sent to redeem a world forlorn;
Who was conceived by God the Spirit
And of the virgin Mary born.
2. Our Lord was under Pilate crucified;
The burden of God's wrath He carried.
Rejected and despised by men,
He died for us, and then was buried,
Descending into death's domain.
But He the third day rose again;
He to His heavenly throne ascended,
At God's right hand, and He, our Head,
Shall come again with power and glory
To judge the living and the dead.
3. In God the Holy Spirit I believe—
Through whom we are a new creation.
And I believe a catholic Church,
One holy Christian congregation;
The true communion of all those
Whom God once as His people chose;
The full forgiveness of transgressions,
Release from sin and mortal strife;
The resurrection of the body,
And glorious, everlasting life.

APPENDIX C

Part I: Critical Evaluation of Old Hymn 46

Stanza 1

We praise Thee, Lord our God, we magnify Thy name
That every creature here Thy splendour may proclaim.

According to these lines we magnify God's name *that* (i.e., so that, in order that) every creature may proclaim His splendour here. In stating this to be the primary reason for our praise, the opening sentence does not correctly announce the theme of the Hymn.

Sing, choir of angels, sing His mighty work and wonder.

Are the angels asked to sing and to wonder? Or are they to sing His work and wonder? The construction is awkward and ambiguous.

Yes, Thou art three times holy, Lord of our salvation.

It is doubtful whether "three times holy" is an adequate rendering of "holy, holy, holy."

May earth and heaven be Thy glory's revelation.

Can heaven and earth be that revelation? This line does not express what is apparently intended: "May heaven and earth reveal Thy glory." One may further object that in the original version both heaven and earth *do* reveal God's glory.

Stanza 2

From all the saints on high Thine shall the glory be.

The relationship between "*the* glory" and the saints "from" whom it "shall . . . be" remains vague because of the weak, unidiomatic English used in this line.

Martyrs and prophets shall in all eternity,
Together with Thy church of every tongue and nation:
Bring Thine immortal Name their boundless admiration.

The martyrs and prophets appear not to belong to "Thy church." More important, the expression "to bring admiration" is not idiomatic English. Besides, "admiration" is a rather inadequate term in this context. It is not reverent to say that one "admires" God.

Stanza 3

Father, to Thee we sing with high exultant voice,
Praise to Thine only Son, the Saviour of Thy choice;
Praise to Thy Spirit, whom Thy hand has sent to guide us
To be the Source of Light which on the road abides us.

- a. If we try to follow the faulty grammatical structure of this sentence, we arrive at the following pattern: "Father, to Thee we sing praise to Thy Son, praise to Thy Spirit." This awkward arrangement is not acceptable English.
- b. ". . . the Source of Light which on the road abides us." One may ask what "*the* road" is here. More important if "abides" is used transitively (i.e., with a direct object), it means "wait for." The Spirit is thus described as a Source of Light which waits for us on the road — obviously not the intended meaning.

Thy Church will sing Thy Name, where Thou hast called and bound her.

The word "bound" is somewhat ambiguous. It could be taken as a reference to captivity. Note also that according to the Belgic Confession the Church is "not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place."

Thine everlasting care bends like a wall around her.

Some have pointed out that a wall is not a very good wall if it bends, but we could perhaps overlook this as an example of poetic licence.

Stanza 4

Thee, Christ our Lord, be praise in all eternity
Hail Father's only Son, His glorious Majesty!

Since Christ is addressed in the first line, the same is probably intended in the second line. If so, a comma would have to be inserted: "Hail, Father's only Son," Unfortunately, then it is even less clear to whose Majesty the author is referring — the Father's or the Son's?

As we were lost in guilt and cursed with sin's damnation

One wonders what "cursed with sin's damnation" really means. At best, this expression is an example of redundancy, characteristic of the bombastic quality of the Hymn as a whole.

To conquer death and doom and agony infernal

This is another good example of the above-mentioned quality. Besides, the three nouns (death, doom, agony) are not presented in an order that makes sense.

Stanza 5

Now is Thy throne in splendour at Thy Father's side

The expression "Now is Thy throne in splendour" is weak, unidiomatic English.

Till Thou shalt call Thy flock, the faithful of all ages.

The author probably means, "Till Thou shalt call together, or assemble, Thy flock." The flock to which the faithful of all ages belong has already been called.

Conclusion: Some of the above listed objections obviously carry more weight than others, but it should be clear that from a grammatical and stylistic point of view old Hymn 46 is definitely not acceptable.

Part II: The Original *Te Deum* in English Translation

We praise Thee, O God, we confess Thee to be the Lord.

The whole earth worships Thee, the eternal Father.

To Thee all angels, heaven and all the powers, cherubim and seraphim cry aloud with unceasing voice,

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory."

The glorious company of the apostles, the praiseworthy band of the prophets, the white-robed army of the martyrs praise Thee.

The holy church throughout the whole world confesses Thee the Father of an infinite majesty; Thine adorable, true, and only Son; also the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

Thou didst take upon Thee to set man free. Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When Thou hadst overcome the sting of death, Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to those who believe.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father: we believe that Thou shalt come as judge.

We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with Thy saints in everlasting glory.

Save Thy people, O Lord, and bless Thine inheritance.

Govern them and lift them up forever.

Day by day we bless Thee and praise Thy Name world without end.

Deign, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Let Thy mercy be on us, O Lord, as we have trusted in Thee.

In Thee, O Lord, have I trusted; I shall never be confounded.

Attributed to Nicetas
(late fourth century)

APPENDIX VII B

APPENDIX D

THIS AGREEMENT made in duplicate this the 17th day of September, 1982,
BETWEEN:

516455 ONTARIO LTD., a corporation incorporated under the laws of the Province of Ontario, carrying on business as Standing Committee for the Publication of The Book of Praise of the Canadian Reformed Churches,
hereinafter referred to as "the Committee"

OF THE FIRST PART

and

PREMIER PRINTING LTD., a corporation incorporated under the laws of the Province of Manitoba,
hereinafter referred to as "the Publisher,"

OF THE SECOND PART

WITNESSES AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS the Committee has compiled material known as *The Book of Praise*, and is desirous of producing and publishing the said *Book of Praise*:

AND WHEREAS the Publisher has indicated a desire to provide for the printing and publishing of the said *Book of Praise*.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Except as hereinafter expressly provided, all ownership and control in, to and over the compilation and publication or any aspect whatsoever of the *Book of Praise* shall at all times be vested in the Committee.
2. This Agreement is intended to provide only for the production and publication of the *Book of Praise* as a whole, and shall not apply in any way to the publication or production of portions only of the *Book of Praise*, and such partial production or publication shall be subject of further agreement between the Publisher and the Committee.
3. The laws of the Province of Ontario shall at all times apply to this Agreement in determining the respective rights and obligations of the parties to this Agreement, and irrespective of the parties' residence and the place of execution of this Agreement.
4. In the event of the insolvency, receivership, bankruptcy or assignment for the benefit of creditors or liquidation of the Publisher for any cause whatsoever, all rights granted herein shall revert to the Committee, and the Committee shall be entitled to receive free of charge, the paste-up, art work, and all masked negatives, or such other material as may be required for the printing of the *Book of Praise*.
5. a. The term "produce" or any form thereof, shall, for the purpose of this Agreement include typesetting, music engraving, printing and binding.
b. The term "publish" or any form thereof, shall, for the purpose of this Agreement include selling and distributing.

AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH AND PRODUCE

6. The Committee hereby grants to the Publisher, subject to the terms of this Agreement and any renewal thereof, the exclusive right to publish and produce the *Book of Praise* in book form in the English language.
7. The Publisher shall keep the Canadian Reformed Churches and their English-

speaking sister Churches supplied with copies of the *Book of Praise* according to their needs. The number of copies to be produced from time to time shall be decided upon in consultation with the Committee.

8. No changes, additions or alterations in or to the text of the *Book of Praise* shall be made by the Publisher without the written consent of the Committee, and the Publisher shall act with the approval of the Committee with respect to all matters of quality and design, and in particular, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the selection of type, paper, cover, colour and method of binding.
9. The Publisher shall publish and produce the *Book of Praise* at its own expense, as soon as, in its opinion conditions permit, so long as it is not prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond its control.

FINANCIAL TERMS

10. The Publisher shall use its best efforts to provide the *Book of Praise* to purchasers at a reasonable price, and shall be entitled to retain the revenues generated by the sale of the *Book of Praise*, provided that
 - a. the retail price of the *Book of Praise* shall be determined from time to time upon the mutual written agreement of the Committee and the Publisher, and
 - b. the Publisher shall make frank and full disclosure of its cost of producing and publishing the *Book of Praise* to the Committee.
11. Excess profits, if any, which may be realized from unanticipated sales, over and above the reasonable cost of production and publication, shall be paid to the Committee to be used by it in whatever manner and for whatever purpose it may see fit.
12. The Publisher shall endeavor to provide the *Book of Praise* to be purchased at a lower price by collective bodies such as churches and schools.
13. The Publisher shall not commence any new printing without first consulting the Committee and without having received from the Committee a statement in writing setting out whether or not, and if so, which, changes are to be made to the contents of the *Book of Praise*.
14. The Publisher shall render annual statements up to the first day of the month preceding such accounting dates, which statements show in detail the number of copies printed, the number sold directly to Canadian Reformed Churches and schools and the number sold elsewhere.

ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY

15. The Publisher shall advertise the availability of the *Book of Praise* in folders and advertisements distributed throughout the English-speaking world.
16. The Publisher shall provide the Committee with a number of free copies as agreed upon from time to time so as to enable the Committee to distribute these to selected periodicals and to use them for other promotional purposes.

DURATION AND TERMINATION

17. If the Publisher should at any time during the existence of this Agreement fail to comply with or fulfill any of the terms or conditions thereof, this Agreement shall terminate at the option of the Committee and all rights granted herein shall revert to the Committee.
18. This Agreement shall remain in force for five (5) years from the publication date of the first printing of the *Book of Praise* under this Agreement, and thereafter from time to time as agreed upon by the Committee and the Publisher, and this Agreement shall be binding upon the successors in business and assigns of the parties hereto.
19. This Agreement may be terminated by either the Committee or the Publisher by twelve (12) months' notice in writing, and upon termination, the paste-up, art work, and all masked negatives, or such other material as may be required for the print-

ing of the *Book of Praise* shall be surrendered to the Committee, at no cost to the Committee.

20. Upon termination of this Agreement by the Committee, the Publisher shall be entitled to deplete his existing stock, and the Committee shall not interfere with the Publisher's efforts, and shall not publish or advertise a new edition until existing stock is depleted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have hereto affixed their corporate seals as attested by their respective signing officers, this the day of October, 1982.

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED
in the presence of:

516455 ONTARIO LTD.

Per:

PREMIER PRINTING LTD.

Per:
