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COMMITTEE ON TRANSLATION AND REVISION
CONFSSIONAL AND LITURGICAL FORMS

Hamilton, October 30, 1980.

To the General Synod of the
Canadian Reformed Churches
to be convened at Smithville, Ont.
November 4, 1980.

Esteemed Brethren,

The following mandate was given by Synod Coaldale 1977 to the Committee on Translation and Revision Confessional and Liturgical Forms: Acts, Art.60 Recommendations 3 a,b,c,4,5,6,8.

- 3a. to submit a text of the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort in which such changes have been made in the text that a faithful rendering of the original is obtained and in which all quotations from Holy Writ are given in a correct and up-to-date translation.
- 3b. to submit a correct and up-to-date translation of all quotations from Scripture contained in our Liturgical Forms.
- 3c. to examine and to make use of the report of the Committee for Doctrinal and Liturgical Forms, which was submitted to General Synod, Coaldale, 1977.
4. to revise the Liturgical Forms and to update the language, especially the Form for the Holy Supper and the Form for the solemnization of Marriage.
5. to adopt provisionally a Form for the Ordination/installation of Missionaries and adopt as such the English translation of the Form which our Netherlands sister Churches have inserted in their Gereformeerd Kerkboek published by order of Deputies of the General Synod of the Reformed Churches in The Netherlands at Kampen, 1975, p.424, as this translation is presented to Synod by its advisory committee, and to **establish the final text**.
6. to add to the Form for the Excommunication of non-communicant members a first admonition as adopted by Synod.
8. to have the complete and definite report ready by January 31, 1980, so that copies of these reports can be in the possession of the Churches nine months before the convening of Synod 1980, as provided by the Synod of Orangeville, 1968, Acts art.41.

A. In agreement with this mandate the committee submits to you its report, mailed respectively June 1979, June 1980 and October 1980.

The Report contains:

1. a newly translated text of the Apostles' Creed,
2. a newly translated text of the Articles 1-23 of the Belgic Confession,
3. a newly translated text of the chapters 1-5 of the Canons of Dordt,
4. a revised text of the Liturgical Forms and a new Abbreviated Form for the Administration of the Lord's Supper.
5. a revised text of the Prayers,
6. the final text of the Form for the Ordination (Installation) of Missionaries, cf. Mandate 5.
7. Form for the Excommunication of Non-Communicant Members as adopted by Synod Orangeville 1968 (Acts, Art.80 sub I) and as amended by the addition of a first admonition by Synod Coaldale 1970 (Acts, Art.60, recommendation 6). This form was included by the committee to prevent that it might be left out in an eventual publication of the forms. In agreement with the other forms the word 'admonition' was changed into 'announcement' and the quoted texts were given in the R.S.V. rendering.

- c. to forward five copies of this publication for information to deputies of the sister churches, for correspondence with churches abroad,
- d. to complete the translation and revision of the Creeds and Confessions mentioned sub.B.
- e. to have the proposed text of Creeds and Confessions checked by the language sub-committee,
- f. to forward copies of its report to the churches one year before next Synod,
- g. to inform deputies of the sister churches for correspondence with churches abroad of the proposed text of Creeds and Confessions,
- h. to submit its report to Synod 1983.

F. If so desired, the committee is prepared to give further information on its submission through one or two of its members on the floor of Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

- J. Faber
- H.M. Ohmann
- C. Stam
- G. vanDooren
- L. Selles, convenor.

Hamilton, Ontario,
June 1979.

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To: The Consistories of the Canadian
(American) Reformed Churches.

Esteemed Brethren:

The Committee on Translation and Revision of Confessional and Liturgical Forms appointed by Synod Coaldale 1977, has worked on the discharge of its mandate in monthly meetings since February 1978 with the exception of the months of July and August 1978. Our work is not completed by far. We, nonetheless, submit a first report to you containing the articles of the Creeds, the Forms and the Prayers in a proposed revised version.

By presenting these firstfruits of our labour at this time we hope that you will have ample opportunity to study the proposals and, in case you have remarks or suggestions for improvements, to forward them to us. Correspondence should be sent to:

Prof. L. Selles,
374 Queen Street South,
Hamilton, Ontario. L8P 3T8.

In case the time to discuss your remarks by the Committee becomes too short you are requested to address Synod via the convening Church at Smithville.

Each section of our report is preceded by some introductory or explanatory remarks. Unless otherwise indicated, the Scripture references are given in the wording of the Revised Standard Version. Although the Committee in no way wants to influence future decisions with respect to Bible translations, we checked the respective translations of the texts in the R.S.V. We thought it proper to use a new translation and chose the one of which the use was left in the freedom of the churches. This use of the R.S.V. implies that the 2nd person singular of the personal pronoun and of the possessive pronoun: Thou and Thy, with the required verb endings, has been retained.

The Committee as appointed consisted of Dr. J. Faber, Drs. H. M. Ohmann, Rev. C. Van Dam, Rev. G. Van Dooren and the undersigned. Soon after our meetings started Rev. H. Scholten had to withdraw for health reasons. Rev. Van Dam had to terminate his participation in the Committee work in the fall of 1978 for study reasons and his membership of the Committee in spring 1979 because of his departure to Surrey, B.C. In agreement with the authority given by Synod Coaldale 1977 to fill vacancies the Committee made an appeal to Rev. Cl. Stam. He joined the Committee in February 1979. The Second vacancy could not be filled so far.

With brotherly greetings,
On behalf of the Committee,

J. Faber
H. M. Ohmann
Cl. Stam
G. Van Dooren
L. Selles, Convener.

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSLATION AND REVISION CONFSSIONAL AND LITURGICAL FORMS

To the consistories of the Canadian Reformed and
the American Reformed Church.

Hamilton June 1980.

Esteemed Brethren,

Since the Committee on Translation and Revision of Confessional and Liturgical Forms, appointed by Synod Coaldale 1977, forwarded its first report in June 1979 the committee met monthly in afternoon and evening sessions.

Although Rev. Cl. Stam made his contribution to the work of the committee, he was unable to attend the meetings on a regular basis.

Progress of the work of revision and updating of the language of Creeds, Forms and Prayers was made but the work could not be entirely completed at this time either.

Please find enclosed:

Confession of Faith, art. 14-23.

Canons of Dordt, chapters 2-5.

Liturgical Forms, Form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper,
Abbreviated Form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper,
Form for the Ordination (Installation) of Ministers of the Word.
Form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons,
Form for Readmission into the Church of Christ.

Prayers, Morning Prayer,

Evening Prayer,

Opening Prayer for the Meeting of the Deacons,

Opening Prayer for the Ecclesiastical Assemblies,

Closing Prayer for the Ecclesiastical Assemblies.

With this second harvest Forms and Prayers are finished.

Art. 24-37 of the Confession of Faith, and
The Rejection of Errors of the Canons of Dordt must still be done.

The committee received remarks concerning its first report from
the churches of Calgary, d.d. Apr. 24 '80;

London, d.d. Feb. '80;

Smithers, d.d. Apr. 9, '80;

Smithville, no date.

The committee is thankful for these reactions and will in due time report on them.

The committee sincerely hopes that the extensive, painstaking and at the same time gratifying work of the translation and revision of Creeds, Forms and Prayers under God's blessing may prove to be beneficial for the churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Faber,

H.M. Ohmann, secr.

Cl. Stam,

G. Van Dooren,

L. Selles, Convener.