

S U P P L E M E N T to the Report of Deputies
for contact with the Christian Reformed Church,
page 19,E, and page 23, E.

* * *

Recommendations:

1. That Synod expresses its gratitude to the Lord for the brotherly spirit in which apparently our contact with the Canadian Reformed Churches is being carried on, and the hope that it ultimately may lead to a union of those who to such a great extent are one in the confession of the Biblical Truth.

ADOPTED.

2. (a) That the regulations of Synod 1963 regarding the calling and admitting of ministers from other denominations, Acts 1963, p. 22, 2a(6) be changed to read:

- (6) When a congregation decides to call a minister from another denomination, the consistory shall include with the call letter a transcript (available from the Stated Clerk of Synod) of these deliverances:

- (a) The position of the Christian Reformed Church, taken in 1867 and 1881, regarding oathbound societies.
- (b) The doctrinal deliverances on common grace of 1924 and 1959-1961.
- (c) The resolutions of 1928 and 1951 relating to worldly amusements.

The consistory shall inform the pastor elect that acceptance of the call implies his promise to abide by these deliverances mentioned under (a), and as to the deliverances mentioned under (b) and (c), to respect, in the exercise of his ministerial office in the Christian Reformed Church, these deliverances as statements which have been and, if understood in their historical context, still are of great value in refuting certain errors in doctrine and life.

- (b) That the regulations of Synod 1963, Acts 1963, p. 24 2-b(8) be changed to read:

- (8) Before Classis may declare the applicant eligible for call in our churches, Classis shall furnish him with a transcript of these deliverances:

- (a) The position of the Christian Reformed Church, taken in 1867 and 1881, regarding oathbound societies
- (b) The doctrinal deliverances on common grace of 1924 and 1959-1961.
- (c) The resolutions of 1928 and 1951 relating to worldly amusements.

Grounds:

1. Synod has made a distinction between the position of the Christian Reformed Church regarding oathbound societies and the doctrinal deliverances on common grace (Acts 1960, p. 114) and the resolution relating to worldly amusements (Acts 1966, p. 32, Art. 61).
2. It is hoped that this will facilitate the efforts to come toward unity with the Canadian Reformed Churches.

ADOPTED.

CONCLUSIONS OF UTRECHT.

Recommendations:

- 1. That Synod declare that the "Conclusions of Utrecht", as adopted in 1908, have no longer the status of binding doctrinal deliverances within the Christian Reformed Church.

Grounds:

- a. Synod declared in 1962 that the Conclusions of Utrecht "shall not be used as a test for membership or holding office in the Christian Reformed Church, nor as a test for admitting ministers to the Christian Reformed ministry" (Acts of Synod 1962, p. 108).
- b. This declaration will facilitate the efforts of Synod through its Committee for Contact with the Canadian Reformed Churches to hopefully come to unity with these churches.
- c. This declaration will take away an obstacle that hinders the Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands to enter into a sister-relationship with our Church.

ADOPTED.

- 2. That Synod declare this to be the answer to the communications from Classis Toronto and Classis Alberta North.

ADOPTED.

- 3. That Synod refer the letter of the Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken, dated April 20, 1968, to the Committee for Inter-Church Relations for further action.

ADOPTED.

* * *