



Day 5 — Morning Session
Monday, May 16, 2022

Article 54 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session. The chairman observed all synod members were present. He welcomed everyone, including fraternal delegates and observers. He had those present sing Psalm 36:3, read Philippians 2:12-18, and led in opening prayer.

The chairman informed the meeting of some housekeeping matters in relation to proceedings during the evening session.

Article 55 – Acts

The prepared articles of the *Acts* were corrected and adopted.

Article 56 – CRTS – Board of Governors

Committee 3 presented draft 1 of a report on the Board of Governors Report (8.2.4) and related matters. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for refinement.

Article 57 – SCBP (Standing Committee for the *Book of Praise*)

Committee 1 presented draft 1 of a report on the Report of the Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise* (8.2.2) and related materials. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for refinement.

Article 58 – Appeal against GS 2019 Art. 115 (*Hymn Cap*)

Committee 1 presented draft 2 of a report on the appeal of the Winnipeg-Redeemer CanRC against GS 2019 Art. 115 (8.6.1.1). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for refinement.

Synod adjourned for committee work until 3:00pm.

Day 5 — Afternoon Session
Monday, May 16, 2022

Article 59 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session. The chairman had the meeting sing Psalm 103:7. He observed that all synod members, except one, were present.

Article 60 – Appeal against GS 2019 Art. 141 - Confidential

Article 61 – CRTS (Board of Governors)

1. Material

- 1.1 Report of the Board of Governors (BoG) of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS) (8.2.4.1);



- 1.2 Appointments to BoG (Finance and Property Committee) (8.2.4.3);
- 1.3 Letter from Toronto-Bethel (8.3.4.8), expressing a concern regarding the proposed update to Bylaw 12 Sections 3.8. It urged caution in making decisions by email.

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The submissions were declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

- 3.1 To receive the report, as well as all its appendices;
- 3.2 To acknowledge the expiration of the terms of office of Rev. M. VanLuik and brs. C. Medemblik and F. Oostdyk and to express gratitude for their work;
- 3.3 Pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Act and Section 3.04 of By-Law 12, to appoint, elect or re-appoint six active ministers to hold office until the next General Synod and to appoint at least three substitutes from each Regional Synod area, keeping in mind that the By-laws prohibit anyone from serving more than three consecutive terms:
 - 3.3.1 To relieve Rev. R. Schouten (from RSW) of his duties on the Board of Governors due to health concerns. GS 2022 expresses its gratitude to Rev. Schouten for his faithful service;
 - 3.3.2 To re-appoint as governors, for a term lasting until the next General Synod: from RSW, Rev. J. Poppe and Rev. J. Slaa; from RSE, Rev. J. Louwerse;
 - 3.3.3 To re-appoint as governor, for a term lasting until the second subsequent General Synod: from RSE, Rev. C.J. VanderVelde;
 - 3.3.4 To appoint as governors for a term lasting until the third subsequent General Synod: from RSW, Rev. J. VanSpronsen (first alternate: Rev. D. Vandeburgt; second alternate: Rev. D. DeBoer); from RSE, Rev. J. Temple (first alternate: Rev. B. DeJong; second alternate: Rev. T. Wierenga);
- 3.4 Pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Act and Section 3.04 of By-Law 12, to appoint, elect or re-appoint five non-ministerial governors and to appoint at least two substitutes, keeping in mind that the By-laws prohibit anyone from serving more than three consecutive terms:
 - 3.4.1 To re-appoint as non-ministerial governors for a term lasting until the next General Synod: Brs. K. VanVeen and P. Vandersluis;
 - 3.4.2 To re-appoint as non-ministerial governor for a term lasting until the second subsequent General Synod: Br. A. Datema;
 - 3.4.3 To appoint as non-ministerial governor for a term lasting until the third subsequent General Synod: Brs. A. Bartels and H. Post (alternates: Brs. M. Bork and P. Broekema, in that order);
- 3.5 To request the churches to continue to remember in their prayers the needs of: Mrs. G. Deddens, Mrs. M. DeJong, Dr. & Mrs. N.H. Gootjes, Dr. & Mrs. C. VanDam and Dr. & Mrs. G. Visscher;
- 3.6 To give leave to the Board to appoint Dr. J. VanVliet as principal for the years 2022-2025;
- 3.7 To give leave to the Board to grant tenure to Dr. T. VanRaalte;



- 3.8 To approve the proposed updates to Bylaw 12 Sections 3.8 and 13.01 (The complete texts of the proposed updates can be found on pages ten and eleven of the CRTS Board of Governors Report to GS 2022);
- 3.9 To approve all other decisions and actions of the Board and of its committees for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 until the date of this Report:
 - 3.9.1 To authorize the Board of Governors to review current policies regarding admission standards for mature students (see: Strategic Planning – BoG Report pg.7), recognizing that any proposed changes would need to interact with the decisions of GS 1980 (Art. 44, Section II);
- 3.10 To express gratitude for the support received from the Free Reformed Churches in Australia;
- 3.11 To consider the audited financial statements and the report of the Auditors for the previous fiscal periods; to relieve the Treasurer of the Board of all responsibilities for these fiscal periods; to support and recommend the reappointment of DBK Accounting as Auditor until the next General Synod, subject to the discretion and direction of the Board;
- 3.12 To acknowledge with gratitude, the financial contributions of the Women’s Savings Action to the well-being of the Seminary.

4. Grounds

- 4.1 Re: 3.8: The proposed update to the bylaw simply provides a process for dealing with proposed resolutions which was already in place for communication by regular mail, by making it applicable to email correspondence. Further, the proposed update to the Bylaw requires a quorum;
- 4.2 Re: 3.9.1: Though the decision of GS 1980 (Art. 44) prohibits those who have not obtained a Bachelor’s degree from being admitted to the M.Div. program, there is merit in undertaking a review of this policy as part of the long term strategic planning of CRTS.

The following synod members abstained from voting and asked that this be recorded: Rev. J. Slaa and Rev. C.J. VanderVelde, both as members of the Board of Governors, Elder G. Bartels, Rev. J. Temple.

Article 62 – Appeal against GS 2004 Art. 115 and GS 2019 Art. 142 (*Hymn Cap*)

1. Material

- 1.1 Appeal of the Winnipeg-Redeemer CanRC (8.6.1.1) against GS 2004, Art. 115 and GS 2019 Art. 142 re: Hymn Cap:
 - 1.1.1 Winnipeg-Redeemer appeals the decision of GS 2004 Art.115 “to set the limit of hymns at 100” and the decision of GS 2019 Art. 142 to mandate the SCBP “to compile a list of such hymns keeping in mind that at this time the final number of hymns in the *Book of Praise* should not exceed 100 (as per GS 2004);”
 - 1.1.2 This appeal presents two new grounds for removing the limit of 100 hymns: (1) A limit on the number of hymns does not ensure a predominant place of Psalm-



singing in the liturgy of the Reformed churches, and (2) the limit of 100 hymns is quite arbitrary.

2. Admissibility

2.1 The appeal is declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

3.1 To deny the appeal of the Winnipeg-Redeemer CanRC against GS 2004 Art. 115 and GS 2019 Art. 142.

4. Grounds:

- 4.1 The appeal does not demonstrate how the decisions were in conflict with the Word of God or the Church Order (CO Art. 31);
- 4.2 Previous decisions can be revisited as proposals substantiated by new grounds (CO Art. 33).

Article 63 – SCBP (Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise*)

Committee 1 presented draft 2 of a report on the Report of the Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise* (8.2.2) and related materials. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back, given an amendment, for refinement.

Article 64 – Appeal against RSE 2019 Art. 9

1. Material

1.1 Appeal of Toronto-Bethel against RSE 2019 Art. 9 (8.6.3.1) which contains the decision to declare admissible a late submission by the Orangeville CanRC.

2. Admissibility

2.1 The appeal was declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

3.1 To deny the appeal of the Toronto-Bethel CanRC against RSE 2019 Art. 9.

4. Grounds

- 4.1 By including the word “ordinarily” in their regulation (D) concerning appeals, the RSE regulations allow for exceptions to the submission date of material while at the same time guarding against the danger of setting a precedent of admitting late submissions as a “common practice”;
- 4.2 There are no RSE regulations concerning the treatment of late submissions, the distinction between “late” and “extremely late” submissions, the requirement to give notice of the intention to send a late submission, or the need to respect the busy schedules of the men who volunteer their time to serve as delegates to Regional Synod;
- 4.3 As a deliberative major assembly, the delegates of RSE have the right to decide whether to receive late or even extremely late submissions from the churches:



- 4.3.1. RSE 2019 Art. 9 Cons. 1 indicates that the question of whether the delegates had time to properly deal with the appeal was dealt with by the delegates who were present;
- 4.3.2. RSE 2019 Art. 9 Cons. 2-3 indicate that the delegates of RSE 2019 received and accepted the reasons that Orangeville had provided.

Article 65 – Appeal against RSE 2020 Art. 13 (*Language of questions in Liturgical Forms*)

Committee 4 presented draft 1 of a report on an appeal against RSE 2020 Art. 13 (*Language of questions in Liturgical Forms*). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for refinement.

Synod adjourned for committee work until 7:00pm.

Day 5 — Evening Session

Monday, May 16, 2022

Article 66 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session. The chairman had the meeting sing Psalm 119:40. He observed that all synod members were present.

Article 67 – CRTS (Board of Governors)

The chairman welcomed Dr. Reuben Bredenhof, the faculty, staff, retired professors, and their spouses to the session. Dr. Bredenhof, newly appointed professor of Ministry and Mission, addressed the assembly and audience. The chairman spoke some words in response. Next, Dr. Jason Van Vliet, principal of the CRTS, addressed Dr. Bredenhof and the assembly. Finally, Dr. Arjan De Visser, present professor of Ministry and Mission, addressed Dr. Bredenhof and the assembly. The chairman spoke some words in response, thanking Dr. De Visser for his years of service since the 2004/2005 academic year. The chairman announced Synod's decision to grant leave to the Board of Governors to grant tenure to Dr. Ted VanRaalte.

Article 68 – Closing Devotions

The chairman made some announcements regarding agenda items and housekeeping matters. Rev. Vermeulen read 1 Peter 1:13-25 and led in closing prayer, giving thanks and offering prayer for the labours of those involved with CRTS. He then had those present sing Psalm 134:3 as a song of blessing for Dr. Bredenhof and Psalm 150 to close the session.

Synod adjourned until 9:00am the next day.