

Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise*
c/o 110 West 27th Street, Hamilton, ON, L9C 5A1

REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD EDMONTON 2019

Introduction:

The Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise* (SCBP, hereinafter referred to as the Committee) hereby submits a report on its activities regarding the mandate given by General Synod Dunnville, 2016. Throughout the report, references to the Committee's mandate are provided based on the various articles published in the *Acts General Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches – Dunnville, ON, 2016*.

We give thanks to the LORD for allowing us to work together as Committee to fulfill the mandate given to us by General Synod Dunnville. The 2014 *Book of Praise* continues to be well received by the churches, and also by others. This is evidenced by the fact that over the past years we have received and granted numerous copyright requests to make use of a variety of Psalms and Hymns (and even some prose sections) from the *Book of Praise* in other publications. What a blessing that our humble efforts are serving to facilitate the praise and worship of our great and awesome God by members in our churches and beyond!

Overview of the report:

For ease of reading, the report is divided into four sections. Each section deals with one key element of the Committee's mandate, and is organized under headings and sub headings with specific references to the *Acts 2016*:

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SECTION ONE

Mandate received from General Synod Dunnville, 2016

1.0 Implementation of GS decisions re. changes in the *Book of Praise*:

In addition to working with all aspects of the mandate as reported below, the Committee has implemented the decisions made by General Synod 2016 as follows:

1.1 Article 54 – Appeal of Dunnville re: GS 2013 Art. 101 Rec. 4.1

As per Recommendation 4.3 – Reinstatement of 2010 Forms of Subscription, the Committee has reinstated the wording of the subscription form in the third printing of the *Book of Praise*.

2.0 Fostering Awareness (*Acts*, Art. 127)

The Committee notes with gratitude the many expressions of interest in our *Book of Praise*. During the past three years, the Committee has continued to respond to various requests for information regarding the *Book of Praise*, and also dealt with a number of requests to copy, in whole or in part the Psalms and Hymns as well as other parts of the *Book of Praise*. These requests originated from within as well as from outside of our federation of churches. The Committee is delighted that there remains considerable interest at home and abroad in the Anglo-Genevan Psalter.

The Committee continues to maintain its website as part of its efforts of promotion and awareness for the *Book of Praise*. The website can be found at www.bookofpraise.ca.

The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to foster an increased awareness of the existence of the *Book of Praise*, among others in the English-speaking world, be continued. Further, the Committee requests that Synod mandate the Committee to continue maintaining the Committee website at www.bookofpraise.ca.

3.0 Contact with Australian Sister Churches (*Acts*, Art.127)

3.1 Official Communication

General Synod Dunnville 2016 mandated the Committee to maintain contact with the Australian Deputies, particularly in order to assist in the FRCA's pursuit of a possible Australian version of the *Book of Praise*. The Committee assisted the FRCA Deputies in (among others) the following ways:

3.1.1 Dr. J. Smith met with the Australian deputies when he was in Australia in April, 2016 in order to answer questions that they had at the time.

3.1.2 The Committee granted permission to the deputies to approach Premier Printing to obtain access to the files of the 2014 *Book of Praise* to cut down on their need to create their own original files for printing. (It should be noted that while we expressed a willingness to share these files, the Committee did not by that fact relinquish its copyright to the *Book of Praise*, nor share that copyright with the Australian churches. As such any changes that they might wish to make would need to be done with permission of individual copyright holders).

- 3.1.3 The Committee granted permission to the Australian Deputies to alter the text of the Psalms and Hymns by capitalizing pronouns that are not currently capitalized. We did urge the deputies to consider past decisions of Canadian Reformed Synods on this matter as they deliberated their proposal.
- 3.1.4 The Committee granted permission to the deputies to alter spelling to adjust from current Canadian English spelling to reflect Australian English spelling.
- 3.1.5 The Committee (as best it could) provided assistance in understanding copyright issues surrounding some of the hymns for which we do not own copyright.

3.2 Recent decisions by the FRCA Synod (June 2018)

3.2.1 The following relevant decisions were gleaned from the approved draft Acts of Synod Bunbury 2018 found at <http://synod.frca.org.au/2018/acts/>:

1. To adopt and produce an Australian version of the Canadian *Book of Praise* that:
 - a. includes the Psalms and Hymns of the 2014 Canadian *Book of Praise*, including the 19 additional hymns;
 - b. includes creeds, confessions, and liturgical forms as found in the 2014 Canadian *Book of Praise*, with adopted changes made by the FRCA, as well as the Australian Church Order. This includes the changes identified by Deputies in 1.2.4 and 1.2.5 of the Report, as well as the changes decided by Synod Albany 1987 Art 100;
 - c. makes use of the ESV translation of the Bible;
 - d. does not capitalise the personal pronouns for God.
2. To call this song book “Australian *Book of Praise: Anglo-Genevan Psalter*”, subject to approval from the Standing Committee of the *Book of Praise* of the Canadian Reformed Churches, with Deputies for the *Book of Praise* being granted the liberty to select an appropriate title in the event that the SCBP of the CanRC declines to grant such approval.
3. To appoint a Standing Committee for the Australian *Book of Praise* (SCABP) consisting of 4 members to:
 - a. act as the legal entity within the FRCA to deal with copyright matters, as required;
 - b. produce in a timely manner a version of the Australian *Book of Praise* as authorised by Synod 2018, and as described in Article 60 of these Acts, and make such a version also available in a digital format suitable for use on mobile devices;
 - c. request Premier Printing to act as the publisher for the Australian *Book of Praise* and request Pro Ecclesia to become the Australian distributors;
 - d. maintain good contact with the *Standing Committee for the Publication of the Book of Praise* of the Canadian Reformed Churches;

- e. receive, scrutinise and evaluate correspondence from the churches, provide advice where required, and to make recommendations to the next synod as to the validity of any suggestions made. Concurrent with the committee's work, proposals from the churches would follow the ecclesiastical route (Art 30 CO); and
- f. report to the next synod in accordance with Rules for Synods regarding Deputies.

3.3 Request to Continue Mandate

The Committee takes note of these developments, and requests Synod that the mandate to maintain contact with our Australian sister churches and to assist them as they prepare an Australian version of the *Book of Praise* be continued.

4.0 **Corporate Status (Acts, Art. 127)**

The Committee has maintained its status as a corporation; all necessary documents for this purpose have been kept up to date. This also includes filing the Annual Income Tax forms with Revenue Canada. This is a legal requirement even though the Committee does not operate under an annual budget, and the Corporation does not generate an income or profit.

The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to maintain its corporate status be continued for the purpose of protecting the interests of the Canadian Reformed Churches in matters concerning the *Book of Praise*.

5.0 **Communication to the Churches regarding copyright issues (Acts, Art. 127)**

Over the past three years, the Committee has assisted individual churches with questions about copyright, particularly surrounding projection and live streaming. Further, the Committee also sent a communication to all of the churches on May 27, 2017 addressing these questions in a general way for the benefit of all of the churches.

6.0 **Maintain Archives and Website (Acts, Art. 127)**

6.1 Archives

The Committee continues to maintain archives at our permanent address, in the Theological College library. Rev. C. Bosch has for many years been our archivist, but recently asked to be relieved of this task. Dr. J. Smith has been found willing to take over this responsibility. Further, in order to maintain the integrity of the archives, the Committee has taken a decision to implement tri-annual inspections of the archives in the September/October before General Synod. Since the archives are housed at CRTS, Sr. Margaret Alkema (librarian for CRTS) agreed to assist the Committee with these inspections. There is no archives inspection report available for this report as this decision was made just prior to creation of this report, and so the first inspection report will be made to General Synod 2022.

6.2 Website

As mentioned previously in this report, the Committee continues to maintain its website as part of its efforts of promotion and awareness for the *Book of Praise*. The website can be found at www.bookofpraise.ca.

6.3 Request to Formally Thank Rev. C. Bosch

The Committee requests that Rev. C. Bosch be formally thanked for his work as archivist for the Committee.

6.4 Request to Continue Mandate

The Committee requests that the mandate to maintain the archives and website be continued.

7.0 **Monitor Development of a Joint OPC-URCNA Songbook (Acts, Art. 127)**

The OPC and URCNA churches completed the publication and printing of the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* (TPH) in the spring of 2018. As the TPH Committee was working through copyright issues, access to the psalterhymnal.org website was restricted during the time leading up to publication. This meant that the Committee had to wait until such time that publication was completed before we could begin our work of reviewing the song book in order to *provide the churches with a sense of this new song book's composition, quality, and theological accuracy* (Acts, Art. 127 Rec. 5.6.6). The Committee was able to obtain copies of the TPH in August 2018, after which we set out to fulfill this part of our mandate.

7.1 Inclusion of Book of Praise material in Trinity Psalter Hymnal

Prior to publication, the OPC-URCNA Committee approached the Committee with a request to include the following Psalms from the *Book of Praise* in the Psalms section of the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* (TPH):

- Psalm 68 (#68A in TPH)
- Psalm 89 (#89A in TPH)
- Psalm 97 (#97A in TPH)
- Psalm 98 (#98B in TPH)
- Psalm 105 (#105B in TPH)
- Psalm 150 (#150A in TPH)

The Committee granted the OPC-URCNA Committee's request to use these Psalms in all printings and editions including electronic and digital format editions of *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* and in promotional materials developed to promote the Hymnal, with the provision that the OPC-URCNA Committee is not permitted to make changes to the text of said Psalms unless specific permission to that effect is secured in writing from the Committee. The Committee waived any royalties for the use of these Psalms in the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*.

The Committee had opportunity to review proofs of these Psalms, and submitted a list of corrections to the OPC-URCNA Committee to ensure that the final version in the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* would be correct.

In addition, it should also be noted that the following Psalms currently in the *Book of Praise* under copyright by Dr. W. Helder were also included in the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*:

Psalm 47 (#47B in TPH)
Psalm 101 (#101B in TPH)
Psalm 119 (#119A in TPH)

Further, the rhymed version of the Lord's Prayer (Hymn 63 in the *Book of Praise*) by Rev. G. Ph. van Popta was also included in the Hymn section of the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* (#521 TPH).

7.2 Review of *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*

While the Committee received letters from a number of churches requesting that we comment on the suitability of the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* for adoption by the churches, we feel that this exceeds our mandate. We have been asked by Synod to provide a general sense of the book's composition, quality and theological accuracy.

With this in mind, we conducted a cursory study of the songs in the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*, in the first place because our mandate did not ask for an in-depth study, and also in part because we were not able to obtain copies until August of 2018, and so were restricted in our ability to perform an in-depth analysis and still be ready to report to Synod 2019. We reviewed all of the Psalms, and took a sampling of about 80 Hymns in order to complete our mandate in regards to the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*.

As a result of our review, we provide the following observations:

7.2.1 General

7.2.1.1 The preface to the Psalter is very good. It clearly acknowledges that there is much new musical material in the book, and provides helpful musicological instruction for congregations and musicians alike.

7.2.1.2 The book contains a wide variety of useful indexes.

7.2.2 Psalms

7.2.2.1 Every Psalm has at least one complete rendering of the Psalm (either in one melody or split over multiple melodies).

7.2.2.2 On the whole, each rhymed Psalm is a faithful rendering of its corresponding biblical text.

7.2.2.3 We express special appreciation for the text renditions of the Psalms that were created by the OPC-URCNA Committee. Poetically they appear to be quite well done, and it is evident that much work has gone into ensuring faithfulness to the text of Scripture.

7.2.2.4 The text of the rhymed psalms includes the corresponding verse numbers from the Bible, a helpful addition.

7.2.2.5 We did note that some melody choices for the Psalms are jarring because:

- 7.2.2.5.1 they have strong associations with well-known hymns, or are melodies found in classical music (e.g. #30, #63A, #67B, #90A, #102A, #104A, #116A, #145C); or
- 7.2.2.5.2 they are Genevan melodies that were repurposed for other Psalms (e.g. #52 uses Genevan 77, #119S uses Genevan 110).
- 7.2.2.6 We observe that a number of the Psalms contain archaisms (e.g. #84C, #102B, #117C, #118B) and others retain the name Jehovah (e.g. #96, #98C, #117A, #117C).

7.2.3 Hymns

- 7.2.3.1 We found at least 30 hymns from the *Book of Praise* that have been used in the Hymn section of the TPH. Some of these have different melodies, or textual variations, while others are identical to the hymns in the *Book of Praise*.
- 7.2.3.2 We appreciate that there is a strong Christological emphasis in the hymn section.
- 7.2.3.3 A benefit of the large number of hymns is that a broad range of topics is covered well.
- 7.2.3.4 Where the OPC-URCNA Committee contributed original texts to the hymns, these are generally well done (e.g. #296, #302, #401, #490).
- 7.2.3.5 The text of the hymns is taken from a broad range of time from the early Christian Church to modern times. The melody range appears to be largely from the 16th century to present day, with a preponderance of melodies from the 19th century.
- 7.2.3.6 While there are many worthy hymns, some of the Principles and Guidelines appear to be inconsistently applied:
 - 7.2.3.6.1 Guideline 1: some hymns could be argued to have questionable theology (e.g. #163, #452). Further, in some hymns direct lines are drawn from events described in the Bible, and applied to believers as if Christians today are participants in the event (e.g. #365, #505, #515).
 - 7.2.3.6.2 Guideline 7: some hymns are not free from individualism (e.g. #272), sentimentality (e.g. #309, #471) and artificiality (e.g. #450, #477).
 - 7.2.3.6.3 Guideline 10: melodies for some of the hymns appear to be borrowed from music that suggests places and occasions other than the Church and the worship of God. For example, #422, #427, #532 are based on the symphonic melody ‘*Finlandia*’ by Jean Sibelius, #253 is based on the symphonic melody ‘*Ode to Joy*’ from Ludwig von Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, #67B, #226, and #241 are based on the melody ‘*Thaxted*’ found in the ‘*Jupiter*’ movement of Gustav Holsts’s ‘*The*

Planets', and #403 is based on Joseph Haydn's 'Austrian Hymn' (also used for 'Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles')

7.2.3.7 The size of the Hymn section will make it challenging for the churches to maintain their principle that the Psalms should have the principal place in the worship service (c.f. Art. 39 of the URCNA Church Order, and Principles and Guidelines #2).

7.2.3.8 Some hymns struck us as being better suited to individual worship than for use in corporate worship (e.g. #431, #500).

7.2.3.9 At least one hymn that was rejected by General Synod Burlington 2010 (*Acts*, Art. 138) is found in the TPH (#406 = Augment #16).

With this report completed, the Committee requests Synod to declare that we have fulfilled our mandate as it regards the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*. Further we request that if Synod would like a more in-depth evaluation of the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* with a view to use in the Canadian Reformed Churches, such a review not be done by the Committee because of tension between such a mandate and our existing mandate to maintain and promote the *Book of Praise*.

8.0 Receive, Scrutinize and Evaluate Correspondence from the Churches (*Acts*, Art. 127)

In addition to correspondence from the churches related to the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* (noted in 7.2) as well as related to proposals for changes to the Hymn Section (noted in 9.0), we have received some correspondence related to Hymn 1 that we are currently evaluating, with a view to submitting material to the next General Synod if the Committee feels that the recommendation would be of benefit.

9.0 Seek, Receive, Evaluate and Recommend Proposals for Changes to the Hymn Section (*Acts*, Art. 127)

On May 2, 2018 the Committee sent a letter to the churches inviting them to submit hymns that they judge worthy of consideration to be submitted to a future General Synod for inclusion in the *Book of Praise*. Since that letter, a number of letters containing feedback and/or submissions have been received, and other churches have indicated that they are preparing a submission. As we are only in the beginning stages of this process, the Committee does not have any recommendations to make to General Synod Edmonton 2019 regarding any specific hymns at this time. In light of this, the Committee asks that the mandate to seek, receive, evaluate and recommend proposals for changes to the hymn section to be compiled for possible submission to a future Synod be maintained.

10.0 Publication, Contract, Printing and Distribution (*Acts*, Art. 127)

10.1 Publication

Since General Synod Dunnville, Premier Printing was authorized to proceed with a third printing of the *Book of Praise*. In between print runs, the Committee maintains a list of corrigenda, which are submitted to Premier Printing for inclusion in the next

print run. Corrigenda items include formatting changes, punctuation and other minor corrections.

The Committee enjoyed an in-person meeting with Br. William Gortemaker of Premier Printing on September 7, 2018 at CRTS. This was very beneficial in terms of allowing the Committee members to meet the publisher and discuss some practical matters surrounding our relationship as Committee and Publisher and the work of publishing and printing the *Book of Praise*. The Committee hopes to be able to hold such meetings again in the future when opportunity arises.

10.2 Contract

General Synod Dunnville mandated the Committee to negotiate a contract renewal with Premier Printing with an expiry date of February 28, 2022. However, as we discussed this matter with Premier Printing, particularly in relation to the Committee's mandate to make as much of the *Book of Praise* available online as possible, it became evident that there is a tension between protecting the investment that our publisher makes in layout and publishing of the print and digital editions of the *Book of Praise*, and making this material available online. Having the content of the *Book of Praise* available online could result in decreased sales of the print and digital versions, potentially restricting Premier's ability to recoup its investment through sales of the book.

In order to resolve this tension, it would seem better to have the churches bear the cost of layout and publishing (through a fixed-price project negotiated with a publisher – in this case Premier Printing), and to have the cost of printing covered simply through the purchase of the books. In this way, Premier Printing does not have to carry the financial burden of layout and publishing and attempt to recoup that through sales of the book. That also frees the Committee and the Churches up to publish the content online, without negatively affecting our publisher's financial investment in the project.

The Committee feels it is important to note that Premier Printing has never seen the *Book of Praise* as a major profit making enterprise in their business, nor has the *Book of Praise* ever been a major source of profit for their business. On the contrary, they have very generously gone over and above what would be reasonably expected of them in order to ensure that the churches have been able to publish the *Book of Praise*, and that individuals have access to both the print and digital versions. As such, the Committee feels that Premier Printing's interests should be respected and protected.

The Committee is grateful to Premier Printing for the ongoing excellent relationship that we have with them, and would like to see this relationship continued in a way that protects their interests as publisher, while at the same time allowing the churches to use and promote its *Book of Praise* in a variety of ways (e.g. through publication of the songs online).

For this reason, the Committee requests that it be authorized to negotiate a new contract with Premier Printing that removes the financial burden of layout and publishing from Premier Printing and places it on the churches, and that the Committee be authorized to (with discretion) make use of funds in the General Fund to cover layout and publication costs through fixed-price projects when such work is required.

Should Synod require clarification on this matter, one or more Committee members can be available via telephone / Zoom / Skype.

10.3 Printing

Deluxe edition:	2016	0
	2017	0
	2018	0
Standard Edition	2016	10,240
	2017	0
	2018	0
Pulpit / Acc. Set	2016	0
	2017	66
	2018	0
<u>Total books printed:</u>		<u>10,306</u>

10.4 Distribution

During the past three years, sales may be summarized as follows:

Deluxe Edition:	
Canada:	381
United States of America	26
<u>International</u>	<u>807</u>
Total Sales – Deluxe Edition	1,277

Standard Edition:	
Canada:	3,912
United States of America	71
<u>International</u>	<u>2,265</u>
Total Sales – Standard Edition	6,248

Pulpit / Accompanist Set:	
Canada:	18
United States of America	5
<u>International</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Sales – Digital Editions	23

Digital / Electronic Editions*:

Canada:	1,408
United States of America	51
<u>International</u>	<u>830</u>
Total Sales – Digital Editions	2,289

* includes individual and corporate purchases

Inventory October, 2018	
Deluxe Edition	1,300
Standard Edition	7,364
<u>Pulpit / Accompanist Set</u>	<u>58</u>
Total Inventory	8,722

Discrepancies between Printed, Distributed and Inventory in each category are due to defects, and copies used by Premier Printing for administrative purposes.

The current retail price for the editions of the *Book of Praise* is broken down as follows (all funds CDN):

Standard Edition:	\$24.00
Deluxe Edition:	\$39.00
Digital Edition – PDF:	\$9.75
Digital Edition – Text:	\$9.75 for personal use, or \$1 per member or student for church/school use

Premier Printing offers a 25% discount for churches and/or schools when placing bulk orders.

11.0 Committee Membership (*Acts*, Article 113)

11.1 Members as appointed by Synod Dunnville (*Acts* Art. 113, Par 7.1) Synod Dunnville appointed Committee members as follows:

A.H. den Hollander (2019)
M. Jongsma (2025)
J. Smith (2022)
D. Wynia (convenor) (2022)

11.2 Completion of the term of Br. A.H. den Hollander

Br. A.H. den Hollander will complete his term at the end of Synod 2019. We are grateful to this brother for his dedicated work on the Committee throughout the years of his term. The Committee recommends that Synod formally thank Br. den Hollander for his work as a member of the Committee.

11.3 Suggested future Membership

The Committee recommends that its membership continue to be set at 4 members. The Committee will provide General Synod with recommendations for a replacement for Br. den Hollander in a separate letter.

SECTION TWO

12.0 Committee Proposals

12.1 Change to Belgic Confession, Article 34

The Committee submitted a supplementary report to General Synod Dunnville, 2016. Due to the fact that this report was received late, it was declared inadmissible. The Committee feels that the proposal to change Belgic Confession, Article 34 as yet warrants consideration by the churches, and so we present it to General Synod Edmonton, 2019 for its consideration:

In consultation with Dr. Jason Van Vliet and Dr. Jannes Smith, the Committee proposes to replace the word ‘*expiation*’ in the first sentence with the word ‘*propitiation*’. The revised text would read as follows:

“We believe and confess that Jesus Christ, who is the end of the law (Rom 10:4), has by his shed blood put an end to every other shedding of blood that one could or would make as a propitiation or satisfaction for sins.”

The following serves as grounds for this recommendation:

1. It is clear that the change from ‘propitiation’ to ‘expiation’ occurred in the work leading to the 1984 *Book of Praise*. A look in the archives of the Committee reveals a draft page of Belgic Confession Article 34 which had the old ‘propitiation’ which was scratched out in pen and ‘expiation’ was written above it. All the draft copies after that have ‘expiation’. There is no explanation for the change. There is simply a note in brackets that whereas the French & Latin of the Belgic Confession have both ‘propitiation and satisfaction’ the Corpus Reformatorum only has the latter, i.e., ‘satisfaction’. That is interesting but it doesn’t answer the question why ‘propitiation’ was changed to ‘expiation’.
2. Bakhuizen van den Brink clearly indicates that both the French & Latin have ‘propitiation’, while the Dutch has a word that could mean more generally ‘atonement’ but certainly could mean ‘propitiation’ as well. So, as far as faithfulness to the original is concerned, ‘propitiation’ would be the better way to go.
3. The RSV has ‘expiation’ in 6 passages; the ESV (to which the rest of the *Book of Praise* 2014 is aligned) in none. Of these six, three times RSV has the verb ‘make expiation’. Of these three the ESV once has ‘cleanses’ (Deut. 32:43), once ‘make atonement’ (2 Sam. 21:3), and once ‘make propitiation’ (Heb. 2:17). The other three times the RSV has the noun ‘expiation’, and in all three the ESV changes it to ‘propitiation’ (Rom. 3:25, 1 Jn. 2:2, 4:10). Making the recommended change to Article 34 ensures a closer alignment with the ESV.
4. It should also be said that in Belgic Confession Article 34 the word ‘propitiation’ (or ‘expiation’, as we have it presently) is speaking most directly about Old Testament sacrifices. As the text says, the shedding of Christ’s blood puts an end to all other shedding of blood “*that one could or would make as a propitiation or*

satisfaction for sins.” The only drawback with translating ‘propitiation’ here is that when the person in the pew reads his Old Testament in ESV or NIV84 he will not see that word ‘propitiation’ anywhere. The word is always ‘atonement’, or ‘atoning sacrifice’. For that reason it might be easier to have “*one could or would make as an atonement or satisfaction for sins.*”

5. Even after taking the comment in #4 into consideration, the best solution may still be to switch back to the word ‘propitiation’. It is true to the original. It is better than ‘expiation’. And even though ‘propitiation’ may take some explanation, it’s not so bad if God’s people need to learn some (new) vocabulary to appreciate the riches of Christ’s work for us.
6. In Walter A. Elwell, ed., *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Grand Rapids, Baker, 1984), p. 888, a discussion on the word ‘propitiation’ concludes that “*the consistent Bible view is that the sin of man has incurred the wrath of God. That wrath is averted only by Christ’s atoning offering. From this standpoint his saving work is properly called propitiation.*” Both this discussion and the ESV’s scrubbing of ‘expiation’ in favour of ‘propitiation’ suggest that ‘expiation’ has problematic associations in theological debate.

SECTION THREE

13.0 Committee Address

The Committee served as the address to which correspondence regarding the *Book of Praise* could be directed. The Committee requests that the mandate to receive, scrutinize and evaluate the contents of correspondence from the churches be continued and to report to the next General Synod as to the validity of the suggestions made.

13.1 Permanent Mailing Address

Standing Committee for the *Book of Praise* (SCBP)
c/o Theological College
110 West 27th Street
Hamilton, Ontario, L9C 5A1

13.2 Email Address

In addition to the regular mailing address, correspondence may be sent electronically to: bookofpraise@canrc.org.

13.3 Meetings and Place of Meeting

The Committee regularly met at the facilities of the Theological Seminary, our official address. Since publishing the report to Synod Dunnville the Committee has met 6 times. All meetings were conducted in excellent harmony.

13.4 Archives

The Committee’s central archives are maintained at our permanent address, in the Theological College library. Dr. J. Smith has been found willing to serve as archivist. The Committee requests that Synod mandate that the Committee archives continue to be kept in this way.

SECTION FOUR

14.0 Acknowledgments and Summary of Requests

14.1 Acknowledgments

As the Committee worked out its mandate in the past 3 years, some expert advice was required in specific areas. The Committee is grateful that such advice was always provided when requested. The Committee therefore wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the contributions of the following individuals in their respective areas of expertise:

Dr. W. Helder (Hamilton, ON) for ongoing input on language and poetry related issues.

Rev. G. Ph. Van Popta (Hamilton, ON) for input and advice related to past operation and decisions of the Committee.

Dr. J. Van Vliet (Hamilton, ON) for advice in creeds and confessions.

Rev. C. Bosch (Burlington ON), for serving as archivist for the Committee.

Sr. M. Alkema (Hamilton, ON), for her willingness to inspect the archives of the Committee.

14.2 Summary of Requests

14.2.1 Re: Par 2.0: The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to foster an increased awareness of the existence of the *Book of Praise*, among others in the English-speaking world, be continued.

14.2.2 Re: Par 3.3: The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to maintain contact with our Australian sister churches be continued.

14.2.3 Re: Par 4.0: The Committee requests Synod that the mandate to maintain its corporate status be continued for the purpose of protecting the interests of the Canadian Reformed Churches in matters concerning the *Book of Praise*.

14.2.4 Re: Par 6.4: The Committee requests that the mandate to maintain the archives and website be continued.

14.2.5 Re: Par 7 (end of section): The Committee requests that Synod declare that we have fulfilled our mandate as it regards the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*. Further we request that if Synod would like a more in-depth evaluation of the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* with a view to use in the Canadian Reformed Churches, such a review not be done by the Committee because of tension between such a mandate and our existing mandate to maintain and promote the *Book of Praise*.

14.2.6 Re: Par 9.0: The Committee requests that the mandate to seek, receive, evaluate and recommend proposals for changes to the hymn section to be compiled for possible submission to a future Synod be continued.

14.2.7 Re: Par. 10.2: The Committee requests that it be authorized to negotiate a new contract with Premier Printing that removes the financial burden of layout and publishing from Premier Printing and places it on the churches, and that the Committee be authorized to (with discretion) make use of

funds in the General Fund to cover layout and publication costs when such work is required.

14.2.8 Re: Par 6.3: The Committee requests that Synod formally thank Rev. C. Bosch for his work as archivist for the Committee.

14.2.9 Re: Par 11.2: The Committee requests that Br. A.H. den Hollander be formally thanked for his work on the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

The Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise*:

Arie H. den Hollander, secretary/treasurer

Martin Jongsma

Dr. Jannes Smith

Richard Wynia, convenor