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**Report to
General Synod Guelph-Emmanuel 2022**

**Committee for
Contact with Churches in North America**

Abbreviations

ARPC	Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church
CanRC	Canadian Reformed Churches
CCCA (1998-2007)	Committee for Contact with Churches in the Americas
CCCNA	Committee for Contact with Churches in North America
CEIR	Committee for Ecumenicity and Inter-church relations (OPC)
CERCU	Committee for Ecumenical Relations and Church Unity (URCNA)
CICR	Committee for Inter-church relations (ERQ)
CGK	Christian Reformed Churches (Netherlands)
CRCA	Committee for relations with churches abroad (CanRC)
CPEU (1998-2019)	Committee for the Promotion of Ecclesiastical Unity (CanRC)
EF	Ecclesiastical Fellowship
ERQ	Reformed Churches of Quebec
FRCA	Free Reformed Churches of Australia
FRCNA	Free Reformed Churches of North America
GA	General Assembly (OPC)
GS	General Synod (CanRC)
HRC	Heritage Reformed Congregations
ICR	Inter-church relations committee (RCUS)
ICRC	International Conference of Reformed Churches
IRC	Inter-church relations committee (RPCNA)
KPCA-K	Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin)
NAPARC	North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council
OPC	Orthodox Presbyterian Church
RCN	Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated)
RCUS	Reformed Church in the United States
RPCNA	Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
URCNA	United Reformed Churches in North America

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55 **Committee for Contact with Churches in North America**
56 **Report to Synod Guelph 2022**

57
58 November 30, 2021

59
60 Beloved brothers in the Lord,

61
62 We respectfully present our report covering the period since GS 2019 (Edmonton-Immanuel).
63 We do so with thanks to God for His blessing upon the brotherly meetings, discussions, and
64 communications that have occurred during the past three years. We trust that the churches will
65 continue to pray for an increase in the unity of the faith among the churches with whom we enjoy
66 ecclesiastical fellowship or other close relations.

67
68 The government restrictions experienced in 2020 and 2021 significantly hampered our inter-
69 church relations and so this report is a little thinner than usual. At the same time, we were able to
70 spend extra time on the combined mandate we received from GS 2019 in Article 149.

71
72 We would like to as yet thank GS 2019 for adopting the recommendation that our General Report
73 be submitted five months in advance of the next synod rather than the usual six months (*Article*
74 *68*, p.61). This proved providential since it allowed us to include in our report the work completed
75 at NAPARC 2021 whereas under the old system we would have had no work to report from either
76 NAPARC 2020 (cancelled) or 2021.

77
78 ***A. General Report***

79 ***1. Introduction***

80
81 ***1.1 Committee Members***

82 General Synod Edmonton 2019 made the following appointments to the CCCNA: (*Acts*
83 *2019*, p. 167):

84
85 Subcommittee East: the Rev. D.W. Vandeburgt (2022), G. Bos (2022), the Rev. M. Jagt
86 (convenor) (2025), J. Temple (2025)

87
88 Subcommittee West: the Rev. S. Vandevelde (2025), H. van Delden (2022), L. Vanderveen
89 (convenor) (2022), P. Veenendaal (2025)

90
91 ***Recommendation:***

92 Brs. Bos, Vandeburgt, van Delden and Vanderveen will complete their terms in 2022. Br.
93 Veenendaal was unable to continue in his work on this committee on account of health reasons
94 and left the committee part way through 2021. We recommend that these brothers be
95 discharged from the CCCNA and thanked for their years of service to the churches as
96 members of this committee. We are particularly grateful that brs. Vandeburgt and van Delden

97 could serve on this committee for 12 years. If General Synod does not adopt the proposal of
98 the CCCNA-CRCA for a newly structured committee it will need to appoint 5 new members
99 to the committee. The CCCNA will be sending a separate letter to GS 2022 with
100 recommendations of who could be appointed to the CCCNA to fill these 5 vacancies.
101

102 **1.2 General activity**

103 Plenary meetings of the CCCNA were held on September 6, 2019, April 14, 2020,
104 October 7, 2020, February 10, 2021, April 21, 2021, September 22, 2021 and November
105 24, 2021. The following brothers functioned as the executive:

- 106 a. Chairman: Rev. M. Jagt
- 107 b. General Secretary: Rev. D. Vandeburgt
- 108 c. Treasurer: Br. H. van Delden
- 109
- 110

111 The two subcommittees appointed by General Synod were maintained and the following
112 division of labour was agreed upon:

- 113
- 114 Subcommittee East: Contact with ARPC, ERQ, FRC, HRC, KPCA and OPC,
- 115 Subcommittee West: Contact with RCUS, RPCNA, URCNA and NAPARC
- 116

117 Minutes of the subcommittee meetings were exchanged via email to promote good
118 communication and mutual scrutiny.
119

120 Four members of our committee were delegated to attend NAPARC in 2019 and three
121 members in 2021. During NAPARC these members met with their counterparts. The
122 meetings were as follows:

- 123 a. ARPC –November 12, 2019; November 11, 2021
- 124 b. ERQ –November 13, 2019;
- 125 c. FRCNA –November 13, 2019; November 10, 2021
- 126 d. HRC –November 12, 2019; November 10, 2021
- 127 e. OPC –November 13, 2019; November 11, 2021
- 128 f. RCUS –November 12, 2019; November 9, 2021
- 129 g. RPCNA – November 10, 2021
- 130 h. URCNA – November 12, 2019; November 9, 2021
- 131

132 Two committee members, brs Vandeburgt and van Delden, were assigned to meet with
133 representatives from the CRCA to fulfill the mandate found in Article 149 of General Synod
134 Edmonton. Their work was reviewed and refined by our plenary and has been jointly
135 submitted as a separate report.
136

137 **2. General Mandate**

138 General Synod Edmonton 2019 (*Acts 2019*, p.61) decided to mandate the CCCNA as
139 follows:
140

- 141 1. To continue contact with all those churches in North America with which we have
142 Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) according to the adopted rules, and in accordance with the
143 mandates described in decisions taken by synod with respect to the churches with which we
144 have ongoing relationships;
145 2. To investigate diligently all the requests received for entering into EF in North America;
146 3. To respond, if possible and feasible, to specific requests made to attend assemblies,
147 synods, or meetings of other churches in North America;
148 4. To report on its findings with suitable recommendations to the next general synod, and
149 to present to the churches a report of its work 5 months prior to the convening of the next
150 general synod.

151
152 For the sake of convenience, here follow the rules for Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) that the
153 committee applies in fulfilling its mandate. These rules were determined by Synod Lincoln
154 1992 (*Acts*, p. 33):

- 155
156 1. The churches shall assist each other in the maintenance, defence and promotion
157 of the Reformed faith in doctrine, church polity, discipline, and liturgy, and be
158 watchful for deviations.
159 2. The churches shall inform each other of the decisions taken by their broadest assemblies,
160 if possible by sending each other their Acts or Minutes and otherwise, at least by sending
161 the decisions relevant to the respective churches (if possible, in translation).
162 3. The churches shall consult each other when entering into relations with third parties.
163 4. The churches shall accept one another's attestations or certificates of good standing,
164 which also means admitting members of the respective churches to the sacraments upon
165 presentation of that attestation or certificate.
166 5. The churches shall in principle open their pulpits for each other's ministers in
167 agreement with the rules adopted in the respective churches.
168 6. In exercising these relations, the churches shall strive to implement also when major
169 changes or additions are being considered to the confessions, church government or
170 liturgy, the churches shall be informed in order that as much consultation can take place
171 as possible before a final decision is taken.
172 7. The churches shall receive each other's delegates at their broadest assemblies and
173 invite them to participate as much as local regulations permit.

174
175 ***Recommendations:***

- 176 1. We advise Synod to deal first with the CRCA-CCCNA report and, that in the absence of
177 Synod adopting the recommendations of this report, the mandate, as stated by GS 2019, be
178 continued for the CCCNA until 2025.
179 2. We advise that in the case of Synod adopting the recommended 'Rules for Ecumenical
180 Relationships' in the CRCA-CCCNA report that the following churches be considered for
181 'Category 2: Corresponding Relationship': the ARPC, FRCNA, HRC and RPCNA.

182 ***3. Subcommittee East***

183 ***3.1 General activity***

184 Meetings of subcommittee East were held on March 12, 2020, September 28, 2020, and
185 November 30, 2020.
186 Rev. M. Jagt served as chairman; Rev. D. Vandeburgt served as recording and
187 corresponding secretary.
188

189 **4. Subcommittee West**

190 **4.1 General Activity**

191 Meetings of Subcommittee West were held on January 21, 2020, September 30, 2020, April 6,
192 2021 and September 21, 2021.
193 At these meetings, br. L. Vanderveen served as chairman; br. H. VanDelden as corresponding
194 secretary, br. P. Veenendaal as recording secretary (until resigning for health reasons) and Rev.
195 S. Vandavelde as vice-all.
196

197 **5. Expenses**

198 From the time of GS 2019, until November 30, 2021, \$14,845.99 has been spent in fulfilling
199 the mandate.

200 Respectfully submitted by your committee,
201

202 Subcommittee East:

203 G. Bos (Winnipeg, MB)
204 M. Jagt (Fergus, ON)
205 J. Temple (Hamilton, ON)
206 D. Vandeburgt (Langley, BC)

Subcommittee West:

H. VanDelden (Winnipeg, MB)
S. Vandavelde (Denver, CO)
L. Vanderveen (Carman, MB)
P. Veenendaal (Winnipeg, MB)

207 **B.1 Report on the CanRC relationship with the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church**
208

209 ***Introduction:***

210 The CanRC does not have EF with the ARPC but is a member of NAPARC together with the ARPC.
211

212 ***Mandate of GS 2019***

213 GS 2019 gave the following mandate to the committee in art. 61:

214 4.1 To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
215 (ARPC)

216 4.2 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general synod.
217

218 ***Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021***

219 **2019:**

- 220 ○ The committee with the ARPC at NAPARC 2019.

221 **2020:**

- 222 ○ There were no meetings with the ARPC in 2020 because of the covid pandemic.

223 **2021:**

- 224 ○ The committee met with the ARPC on November 11, 2021.
225

226 ***Observations:***

- 227 - We continue to enjoy good fraternal dialogue with the ARPC. Our last GS welcomed Rev. Bill
228 Barron as an observer, and he received the opportunity to bring fraternal greetings on behalf of
229 the ARPC. This occasion was reflected on with thankfulness by the ARPC at our 2019 bi-lateral
230 meeting. The ARPC expressed a desire to once again be invited to our upcoming GS.
- 231 - There are about 12 ARPC churches/works in Canada with some ongoing contact at the local
232 level in southern Ontario. As one example, one of our committee members (Rev. Jeff Temple),
233 led worship in an ARPC in Chatham, on October 31, 2021.
- 234 - The ongoing internal struggles of the PCA surrounding the topic of ‘gay Christians’ continue
235 to be watched closely by the ARPC because there is the possibility that some PCA churches
236 will move to the ARPC.
- 237 - The ARPC continues to face challenges around the education of their covenant children.
238 Historically, public schools in the southern US are part of the Christian and American identity
239 and so attending them has been something of a matter of patriotic loyalty; however, in recent
240 years there has been a shift to home-schooling in the ARPC.
- 241 - Like their closest EF church (the RPCNA) the ARPC has women serving in the diaconate. From
242 a historical and exegetical standpoint, the ARPC has viewed the diaconate as a serving office
243 without authority, rather than a ruling office with authority. Whether women serve in this office
244 in the ARPC is a matter of discretion by the local session. On the whole this practice is in
245 decline in the denomination.
246

247 ***Recommendations:***

248 The CCCNA recommends that Synod decide:

- 249 1. To mandate the committee to

250 1.1 To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the ARPC.

251 1.2 To submit its report to the churches five months prior to the convening of the next
252 general synod.
253

254 **Brief description of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church:**

255 Source of church data: NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location (description of political & geographical context)	<i>Canada and the United States (9 Churches in the Canadian Presbytery)</i>		
Origin(s)	<i>1782 / Philadelphia – Union of the Associate Presbytery and the Reformed Presbytery</i>		
Confessional Documents	<i>Westminster Standards</i>		
Number of churches & church plants	<i>Approximately 265</i>		
Membership numbers	<i>Approximately 36,000</i>		
Assemblies, number, frequency	<i>Session</i>		<i>Monthly</i>
	<i>Presbytery</i>		<i>Quarterly</i>
	<i>General Synod</i>		<i>Annually</i>
Training of Theological Students	<i>Erskine Theological Seminary</i>		

256
257 **History of the Relationship:**

258 **General Synod Decisions Relating to the ARPC**

259
260 **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 61**

- 261 ○ Decision
- 262 ■ 4.1 To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the Associate Reformed
263 Presbyterian Church (ARPC)
 - 264 ■ 4.2 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next
265 general synod.
266
- 267

B.2 Report on the CanRC relationship with the Free Reformed Churches of North America

Introduction

The CanRC has a relationship with FRCNA according to their ‘level one’ category. Please note that the Acts of General Synod 2019 are incorrect on the details of “level one” (Art. 148, 2.7). The CanRC is a member of NAPARC together with the FRCNA.

Mandate of GS 2019

GS 2019 gave the following mandate to the committee in art. 148:

- 4.2.1 To keep the churches with which EF has already been established informed of our relationship with the FRCNA and consult with them concerning the FRCNA.
- 4.1.4 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021

2019:

- The committee met with the FRCNA at NAPARC 2019

2020:

- There were no meetings with the FRCNA in 2020 because of the covid pandemic.

2021:

- Two committee members attended the FRCNA synod in September 2021.
- The committee met with the FRCNA at NAPARC 2021.

Observations

- We are thankful to have been warmly welcomed at their most recent Synod and that we could have the privilege of bringing fraternal greetings.
- We continue to be encouraged by developing relationships at a local level in both the Fraser Valley and southern Ontario, including the acceptance by one of our committee members (Rev. Jeff Temple) of an invitation to preach in an FRCNA church on May 30, 2021.
- At NAPARC 2019 the FRCNA provided our committee with some documents and articles to peruse. This material largely focused on the appropriation of salvation and the relationship between Word and Spirit.
- In 2021 we provided a written response that first outlined the history of our relationship with the FRCNA and then provided a variety of confessional statements in order to form a bridge between us.
- The various materials shared led to a robust discussion at our bi-lateral meeting at NAPARC 2021 on such topics as: the varied nature of the people of God, the universal call for all to repent and believe; the objective nature of the covenant, and the very real assurance of salvation that children of God are privileged to know. Moreover, we discussed whether the differences in our preaching were merely a matter of style and emphasis or whether it arose from a fundamentally different perspective on the people of God.
- The FRCNA and the HRC continue to work on merging their federations. Among other matters, the language of the confessions, liturgical forms, a common church order, rules for ecclesiastical

311 fellowship and a blended Psalter are being worked on.¹
 312 - The FRCNA expresses its appreciation for the discussions we have had over the past three years
 313 as well its desire to continue to talk with us more often, and not just at the annual meeting of
 314 NAPARC.

315
 316 **Recommendations**

317 The CCCNA recommends that synod decide:

- 318 1. To mandate the committee to
 319 1.1 To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the FRCNA.
 320 1.2 To submit its report to the churches five months prior to the convening of the next general
 321 synod.

322
 323 **Brief Description of the FRCNA**

324 Source of church data: NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location (description of political & geographical context)	<i>Canada and the United States of America</i>
Origin(s)	<i>Post WW II immigration from CGK in Netherlands</i>
Confessional Documents	<i>Three Ecumenical Creeds Three Forms of Unity</i>
Number of churches & church plants	<i>22</i>
Membership numbers	<i>5416 members of whom 3074 are communicant</i>
General Assembly	<i>Annually</i>
Training of Theological Students	<i>Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary</i>

325
 326 **History of the relationship**

327
 328 The CanRC and the FRCNA had an active working relationship with one another at the federative level
 329 for the period 1998-2008 (see decisions below). This relationship broke down towards the end of that
 330 period. In 2007 the CanRC, in response to certain concerns of the FRCNA, chose to cease pursuing
 331 discussions with the FRCNA until such time as they requested resumption of contact. There was a brief
 332 resumption of contact at NAPARC in 2008 and then a resumption of regular contact beginning in 2017.

333
 334 **General Synod Decisions Relating to the FRCNA**

335
 336 **Acts of Synod 1974, Article 20**

- 337 ○ The Church at Lincoln overtures General Synod 1974 to appoint deputies to establish
 338 contact with the Free (and Old) Christian Reformed Churches of Canada and the USA (this
 339 was the original name of the FRCNA). Synod decided not to grant this request due to
 340 insufficient information about these churches.

¹ For the Psalter revision work of the Protestant, Heritage and Free Reformed Churches go to www.thepsalter.net. There is also a committee working on a supplementary Psalter book that uses modern pronouns and which possibly will draw from other psalters like the Trinity Psalter Hymnal and the RCPNA psalter.

- 341 **Acts of Synod 1977, Article 94**
- 342 ○ The church at Edmonton overtured Synod to add to the mandate of the Committee
- 343 on Correspondence with Churches Abroad “to take up contact with the Free Reformed
- 344 Churches Of North America as requested by the church at Lincoln.”
- 345 Synod denied this request because "no new evidence" for this action was given.
- 346 **Acts of Synod 1995, Article 52**
- 347 ○ Overtures from the church at Aldergrove and the church at Langley requesting Synod
- 348 to appoint a committee to take up contact with the FRCNA with a view to work towards
- 349 a union of our respective churches. The overtures were declared inadmissible on the
- 350 grounds that they had not first come to the minor assemblies.
- 351 **Acts of Synod 1998, Article 98**
- 352 ○ Decision to
- 353 ▪ Take up contact with the External Relations Committee of the FRCNA
- 354 ▪ To initiate fraternal dialogue with the FRCNA with a view towards establishing
- 355 federative unity
- 356 **Acts of Synod 2001, Article 92**
- 357 ○ Decision
- 358 ▪ To acknowledge that the CanRCs have been received into the stage of ‘limited
- 359 contact’ of the FRCNA unity guidelines at the FRCNA Synod, May, 2000, and
- 360 thank the FRCNA for this initiative
- 361 ▪ To receive their delegates at our synods and send copies of our Acts of Synod to
- 362 them.
- 363 ▪ To continue dialogue with the FRCNA with a view to promoting federative
- 364 unity, discussing whatever obstacles there may be on this path
- 365 **Acts of Synod 2004, Article 85**
- 366 ○ Decision to mandate the Committee for the Promotion of Ecclesiastical Unity (CPEU)
- 367 ▪ To continue meeting with the FRCNA with a view to pursuing Ecclesiastical
- 368 Fellowship, while at the same time promoting and maintaining the desire for
- 369 federative unity, discussing whatever obstacles there may be on this path;
- 370 ▪ To explore and discuss the matter of federative unity with the FRCNA using as
- 371 a basis, for example, the document entitled ‘Foundational Principles of
- 372 Reformed Church Government.’;
- 373 ▪ To encourage the FRCNA to be invited to meetings of Canadian Reformed
- 374 classes and synods, and to send copies of the *Acts* of Synod to each other with
- 375 the purpose of pursuing meaningful interactions and discussions with the
- 376 churches at the local level.
- 377 **Acts of Synod 2007, Article 105**
- 378 ○ Decision
- 379 ▪ To cease from pursuing discussions with the FRCNA
- 380 ▪ To ask the CPEU to send a letter to the FRCNA informing it of this decision and
- 381 expressing the desire to resume contact when there is interest from their side.
- 382 **Acts of Synod 2010, Article 30**
- 383 ○ Decision
- 384 ▪ To utilize NAPARC to meet with the brothers from the FRCNA within the
- 385 framework of the basis of the Council

386 ▪ To conclude regretfully that our churches at this time have no formal
387 ecclesiastical relations with the FRCNA

388 **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 148**

389 ○ Decision

- 390 ▪ To keep the churches with which EF has already been established informed of
391 our relationship with the FRCNA and consult with them concerning the FRCNA.
392 ▪ To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next
393 general synod.
394 ▪ To enter into the FRC Level One ecclesiastical relationship

395

396 **Level One Ecclesiastical Relationships – FRC**

- 397 1. the occasional attendance and addressing of each other's broadest assembly;
398 2. sending each other copies of the Acts or Minutes of the broadest assemblies;
399 3. meeting of each other's inter-church relations committees or other delegates to:
400 a. seek confirmation of the unreserved commitment to, and agreement with
401 (1) the infallibility and inerrancy of Scriptures as the Word of God and
402 (2) the validity and relevance of our Confessions.
403 b. develop an appreciation of each other's history;
404 c. discuss what we have in common, and where we differ;
405 d. gauge the degree of doctrinal and spiritual affinity;
406 4. cooperation in areas such as: para-church mission and world relief organizations, and
407 Christian education.

408 **B.3 Report on the CanRC relationship with the Heritage Reformed Congregations**

409

410 ***Introduction***

411 The CanRC has a relationship with the HRC under their ‘level one’ category. The CanRC is a
412 member of NAPARC together with the HRC.

413

414 ***Mandate of GS 2019***

415 GS 2019 gave the following mandate to the committee in art. 112

416 4.2.1 To explore further what we have in common with the HRC and to assess if and when a
417 decision can be made regarding Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with this church;

418 4.2.2 To keep the churches with which EF has already been established informed of our
419 relationship with the HRC and consult with them concerning the HRC;

420 4.2.3 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of next general
421 synod.

422

423 ***Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021***

424 **2019:**

425 ○ A committee member attended the HRC Synod in June 2019.

426 ○ The committee met with the HRC at NAPARC 2019.

427 **2020:**

428 ○ The committee had no meetings with the HRC during 2020 because of the covid
429 pandemic

430 **2021:**

431 ○ The committee met with the HRC at NAPARC 2021.

432

433 ***Observations***

434 - The 2020 Synod of the HRC decided to enter into Level 2 with the Canadian Reformed
435 Churches. We are thankful for this as it provides further opportunity to work towards EF with
436 this church. Our assessment is that at this time we cannot recommend EF with the HRC as they
437 would not be able to entertain such a possibility at this time. They have yet another level between
438 their Level 2 (Formal Correspondence) and their Level 4 (Full Fellowship). In addition, there is
439 a minimum 2-year period before the HRC would consider entering into their Level 3 (Limited
440 Fellowship).

441 - The HRC continues to work towards organic unity with the FRCNA.² In connection with that,
442 the HRC indicates that it would be wise and beneficial for us to meet with them and the FRCNA
443 at the same time given the growing closeness of their two churches.

444 - The HRC has expressed to us their appreciation for the individual and institutional collaboration
445 between PRTS and CRTS.

446 - On the International scene our paths cross with the HRC in Indonesia (HRC has a foreign
447 mission work in Sumba), and the Netherlands (HRC has been in dialogue with the Hersteld
448 Hervormde Kerk).

449

450

² See Observations under the FRCNA report.

451 **Recommendations**

452 The CCCNA recommends that synod decide:

- 453 1. To accept the HRC Level 2 relationship of ‘Formal Correspondence’.
- 454 2. To mandate the committee to
 - 455 2.1 Continue discussions with the HRC in an effort to work toward EF.
 - 456 2.2 To meet simultaneously with the HRC and FRC ecumenicity committees.
 - 457 2.3 Submit its report to the churches five months prior to the convening of the next general
 - 458 synod.

459
460 **Brief Description of the HRC**

461 Source of church data: NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location (description of political & geographical context)	<i>Canada and the United States of America</i>
Origin(s)	<i>Post WW II immigration from CGK in Netherlands</i>
Confessional Documents	<i>Three Ecumenical Creeds Three Forms of Unity Westminster Standards</i>
Number of churches & church plants	<i>10</i>
Membership numbers	<i>2136 members of whom 1295 are communicant</i>
General Assembly	<i>Annually</i>
Training of Theological Students	<i>Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary</i>

462
463 **History of the relationship**

464 The CanRC and the HRC have had regular bi-lateral meetings with one another since NAPARC
465 2017.

466
467 **General Synod Decisions Relating to the HRC**

468
469 **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 112**

- 470 • To enter into the HRC Level 1 relationship
- 471 • To mandate the CCCNA
 - 472 4.2.1 To explore further what we have in common with the HRC and to assess if and when a
 - 473 decision can be made regarding Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with this church;
 - 474 4.2.2 To keep the churches with which EF has already been established informed of our
 - 475 relationship with the HRC and consult with them concerning the HRC;
 - 476 4.2.3 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of next general
 - 477 synod.

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**Descriptions of Levels of Ecclesiastical Fellowship
As amended by Synod 2014**

Level 1: Informal Contact

1. This informal level allows relationships to develop with like-minded churches or denominations without requiring a formal tie. This level includes only informal communication with various churches and denominations around us, both in our local community as well as beyond.
2. There is no obligation or commitment except for us to witness the Reformed Biblical truth to them.
3. Meetings with their representatives are to be held by the Church Correspondence Committee in order to determine if there is sufficient ground to bring a request before Synod that this denomination/congregation ought to be considered eligible to move to the second level of correspondence. Synod must approve of this request before any other level of correspondence can be carried out. These meetings would seek to determine the doctrinal position of the denomination or congregation and whether or not they uphold the Three Forms of Unity and/or the Westminster Standards.

Level 2: Formal Correspondence

1. A church and/or denomination would need to direct its committee representatives to verbally assent to the Formula for Public Declaration of Agreement with the Three Forms of Unity and/or Westminster Standards in behalf their broadest assembly.
2. Copies of the official minutes, without confidential material, of the broadest assemblies are to be sent to each other. A copy of each issue of the official denominational publication is to be sent to one another's consistory members.
3. Representatives of both denominations would continue to meet to determine whether the next level of communication is attainable and desirable and if so, the Church Correspondence Committee would forward this request on to Synod for approval.
4. This is done with the understanding that this level of "Formal Correspondence" must be in place for a minimum of two years before the next level of communication would be considered.

Level 3: Limited Fellowship

At this level, there is a formal acknowledgment that the gifts found in each other's churches can be employed in the churches/denominations for the spiritual building up of the kingdom of God. This level would include everything under "Formal Correspondence" and the following:

1. Each individual consistory of the HRC would be free to invite any minister from those denomination(s)/congregation(s) [which have been given classis approval to attain Level 3 correspondence] to preach in their pulpits.
2. Each individual consistory of the HRC would be free to allow any member from these denomination(s) or /congregation(s) [which have been given synodical approval to attain Level 3 correspondence] to attend the Lord's Supper.

526 3. Mutual agreement is made with the corresponding denomination/congregation, that
527 delegates would be sent to one another's broadest assemblies as advisory members only.
528 This Level of Fellowship may be revoked at any time by Synod.
529

530 **Level 4: Full Fellowship**

- 531 1. At this level the realization of Christ's prayer is more fully evidenced.
532 2. This level includes everything under "Limited Fellowship" as well as:
533 a. Ministers would be considered having full ministerial rights in either federation
534 b. Ministers would be callable from any congregation in either federation without further
535 examination.
536 3. This full fellowship could include various considerations or stipulations made by both
537 federations in order to arrive at this level. These would mutually be agreed upon by both
538 federations and must not hinder the professed unity expressed.
539 4. At this point, such fellowship is permanent. This would mean that if either a congregation or
540 the federation departs from the word of God, the recourse is to appeal to the broadest assembly.
541 If no reconciliation is made, sadly, separation must then take place on the basis of the Word of
542 God.
543

544 **Level 5: Full Union**

- 545 Full union means that a complete amalgamation of two federation of churches has taken place. Such
546 amalgamation will only be proposed after
547 1. These federations have functioned harmoniously and efficiently at level 4 for a reasonable
548 period of time
549 2. Be the result of the Synods of both federations having approved of this by a 2/3 majority
550 3. Constitute a new denomination with a previously agreed upon:
551 a. Set of doctrinal standards
552 b. Church order
553 c. Ecclesiastical structure (e.g. Classes, Regional Synods, Synods)
554 4. Be the fullest realization of Christ's prayer that His people be one as He and His Father are
555 one.

556 **B.4 Report on the CanRC relationship with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America**
557 **(Kosin)**

558
559 **Introduction**

560 The CanRC does not have EF with the KPCA-K but is a member of NAPARC together with the
561 KPCA-K.

562
563 **Mandate of GS 2019**

564 GS 2019 gave the following mandate in Article 79:
565 That Synod decide

- 566 4.1 To continue dialogue with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (KPCA-K)
567 where feasible, with a view to getting to know the KPCA-K better over time;
568 4.2 to submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general
569 synod.

570
571 **Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021**

572 There was no dialogue or contact with the KPCA-K during this period on account of the covid
573 pandemic.

574
575 **Recommendations:**

576 That GS 2022 mandate the CCCNA:

- 577 1. To continue dialogue with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (KPCA-K)
578 where feasible, with a view to getting to know the KPCA-K better over time.
579 2. To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general
580 synod.

581
582 **Brief Description of the KPCA-K**

583
584 Source of church data: NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location (description of political & geographical context)	<i>Canada and the United States of America</i>
Origin(s)	<i>Immigration from Korea</i>
Confessional Documents	<i>Apostles' Creed Westminster Standards</i>
Number of churches & church plants	<i>130</i>
Membership numbers	<i>Unkown</i>
General Assembly	<i>Annually</i>
Training of Theological Students	<i>Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary</i>

585
586 **History of the Relationship**

587 The KPCA (Kosin) is a daughter church of the Presbyterian Church in Korea (Kosin) with whom the
588 Canadian Reformed Churches have had EF since 1992. The KPCA (Kosin) was started in 1985 by
589 the Kosin Korean immigrant community in the United States. Contact between the CanRC and the
590 KPCA (Kosin) was attempted by the CCCA (under synod mandate) in the early 2000's but, due

591 largely to the language barrier, bore little fruit and formal attempts were discontinued by Synod
592 Smithers 2007 (see below). After that time some informal acquaintance with the KPCA (Kosin)
593 began to emerge at NAPARC meetings. This informal acquaintance culminated with an invitation to
594 attend their 30th General Assembly in 2014. Thereafter, we held two bi-lateral meetings with their
595 inter-church relations committee at NAPARC 2014 and 2015.

596
597 ***General Synod Decisions Relating to the KPCA-K***

598
599 **Acts of Synod 2001, Article 74**

- 600 ○ To mandate the CCCA to contact the Korean Presbyterian Churches in North America
601 as per information submitted by the church at Willoughby Heights.

602 **Acts of Synod 2004, Article 26**

- 603 ○ To mandate the CCCA to contact the Korean Presbyterian Churches in North America
604 with the help of our sister churches in Korea.

605 **Acts of Synod 2007, Article 152**

- 606 ○ Synod decide: not to renew the mandate to the CCCA concerning the KPCA

607 **Acts of Synod 2013, Article 78**

- 608 ○ That Synod decide to receive the supplementary report of the CCCNA and vote in
609 favour of the KPCA's application to NAPARC.

610 **Acts of Synod 2016, Article 26**

- 611 ○ That Synod decide
612 4.1 To express gratitude to the Lord for the establishment of contact with the
613 Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (KPCA-K).
614 4.2 To mandate the CCCNA to continue dialogue with the KPCA-K where
615 feasible, with a view to getting to know the KPCA-K better over time.

616 **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 79**

- 617 ○ That Synod decide
618 4.1 To continue dialogue with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America
619 (Kosin) (KPCA-K) where feasible, with a view to getting to know the KPCA-
620 K better over time;
621 4.2 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the
622 next general synod.

B.5 Report on the CanRC relationship with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

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Introduction

The CanRC entered into EF with the OPC by a decision of GS 2001 (art. 45) and is a member together with the OPC in NAPARC.

Mandate of GS 2019

GS 2019 (art 86) mandated the committee with respect to the OPC as follows:

4.2.1 To send a delegation to the general assemblies of the OPC at least once every three years;

4.2.2 To encourage neighbouring classes to interact with the new presbytery in Canada when it is formed;

4.2.3 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021

2019:

- The committee met with the OPC at NAPARC 2019.

2020:

- There were no meetings in 2020 due to the covid pandemic

2021:

- The committee sent a letter of fraternal greeting to the 87th General Assembly of the OPC which met July 7-14, 2021.
- The committee met with the OPC at NAPARC 2021.

Observations

- Our relationship with the OPC continues to be our longest standing relationship in North America. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to attend one of their general assemblies since 2018. With our practice of attending alternate years coupled with travel restrictions and cancellations our relationship during this time was not as intense as it normally is. We are thankful to have met during NAPARC 2021.
- The 87th General Assembly, the chairman of Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations, Dr. Anthony Curto, began his report with a moving tribute to long-time committee member, Rev. Jack Sawyer, who went to be with the Lord shortly after GS 2019. Rev. Sawyer was a dear friend to the CCCNA and the Canadian Reformed Churches and will be sadly missed.
- The CEIR recommended that at the next meeting of ICRC a motion be put forward to “terminate the membership of the RCN in the ICRC.”³
- We were able to express great appreciation to the OPC for being able to make use of their model of church relations in our CRCA-CCCNA report to GS 2022.
- Much of our recent conversations with the OPC have focused on the work of missions. They shared that they have “the fields and the funds, but they need the fellows”. Thanks was also given at the NAPARC 2021 bi-lateral meeting for the Lord sparing the lives of James and Esther Folkerts (OPC missionaries) and Andrew and Inge Pol (minister emeritus of Carman-West

³ See the request of the CRCA on this matter on pages 89ff of their report to GS 2022.

666 CanRC).

667 - As with our conversations with other Presbyterian churches as NAPARC 2021 the OPC

668 expressed concerns about the internal struggles of the PCA.

669

670 **Recommendations**

671 The CCCNA recommends that synod decide:

672 1. To continue the relationship of EF with the OPC under the adopted rules

673 2. To submit its report to the churches five months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

674

675 **Brief description of OPC**

676 Source of church data: www.opc.org and NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location (description of political & geographical context)	<i>United States and Canada</i>
Origin(s)	<i>1936</i>
Confessional Documents	<i>Three Ecumenical Creeds Westminster Standards</i>
Number of churches & church plants	<i>328</i>
Membership numbers	<i>31,809 members; 23,304 communicant</i>
Frequency of General Assembly	<i>Annually</i>
Training of Theological Students	<i>No denominational seminary; approved list of seminaries and a denominational training institute.</i>

677

678 **History of the relationship**

679 The OPC made it on to the radar of the CanRC at Synod Hamilton, 1962 via a proposal made

680 by the Regional Synod held in Chatham in 1961. This initial proposal was to seek contact with the

681 OPC. While this proposal was turned down, it resurfaced in 1962 and was accepted at Synod

682 Edmonton 1965. Over time the relationship that developed marked two major milestones. At Synod

683 Coaldale 1977 the CanRC recognized the OPC as a true church of the Lord Jesus Christ and at Synod

684 Neerlandia 2001 the CanRC established EF with the OPC. Since that time the Head of the Church has

685 blessed the bond between the CanRC and OPC.

686

687 **General Synod Decisions Relating to the OPC**

688

689 Due to the length of material here only the Acts and articles are referenced, not the actual

690 decisions.

691 • Acts of Synod 1962, Articles 30 and 82 (both in Dutch) and the Short Report Article 12 (in

692 English)

693 • Acts of Synod 1965, Article 141 (Dutch) and Short Report Article 26 (English)

694 • Acts of Synod 1968, Article 154

695 • Acts of Synod 1971, Article 92

696 • Acts of Synod 1974, Article 149

697 • Acts of Synod 1977, Article 91

698 • Acts of Synod 1980, Articles 97 and 152

- 699 • Acts of Synod 1983, Article 55
- 700 • Acts of Synod 1986, Articles 126-141
- 701 • Acts of Synod 1989, Article 94
- 702 • Acts of Synod 1992, Article 72
- 703 • Acts of Synod 1995, Article 106
- 704 • Acts of Synod 1998, Article 130
- 705 • Acts of Synod 2001, Article 45
- 706 • Acts of Synod 2004, Articles 86 and 88
- 707 • Acts of Synod 2007, Article 131
- 708 • Acts of Synod 2010, Article 34
- 709 • Acts of Synod 2013, Article 42
- 710 • Acts of Synod 2016, Article 61
- 711 • Acts of Synod 2019, Article 86

B.6 Report on the CanRC relationship with the Reformed Churches of Quebec

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Introduction

The CanRC entered into EF with the ERQ by a decision of GS 2007 (art. 75) and is a member of NAPARC together with the ERQ.

Mandate of GS 2019

GS 2019 mandated the committee with respect to the ERQ as follows in Art. 22:

4.3.1 To maintain contact with the ERQ according to the adopted rules;

4.3.2 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021

2019:

- The committee sent delegates in person to the February and November synode meetings.
- The committee held an informal meeting with the ERQ delegate at NAPARC 2019.

2020:

- The committee had a delegate attend synode virtually in November 2020.

2021:

- The committee had a delegate attend synode virtually in June 2021.
- The ERQ was unable to attend NAPARC 2021 and so no formal bi-lateral meeting has taken place in the past three years.

Observations

- ERQ holds its broadest assembly, the synode, typically three times annually. As a rule, the CanRC are invited, and a delegate will attempt to attend in person once per calendar year. The committee typically sends written greetings when not in attendance. Because of pandemic restrictions, several instances of the synode were held virtually, allowing more frequent attendance, albeit through video-conferencing.
- The relationship has been brotherly, and mutually encouraging. The ERQ appreciates the ongoing contributions from the CanRC both in terms of human as well as financial resources.
- After more than five years of vacancy, South Shore Reformed Church in Charny and the entire ERQ was able to celebrate the ordination and installation of Blaise Tsabang on Sunday August 29, 2021. The congregation and synodical delegates expressed their great joy and thankfulness to God on this special occasion.

Recommendations

The CCCNA recommends that synod decide:

1. To continue the relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the ERQ under the adopted rules;
2. To encourage the churches to support the ERQ prayerfully and financially in their missionary endeavours and special projects.
3. To mandate the CCCNA:
 - a. To maintain contact with the ERQ according to its adopted rules;
 - b. To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next

757 general synod.

758

759

760 **Brief description of the ERQ**

761 Source of church data: NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location (description of political & geographical context)	<i>Canada, all congregations in Quebec</i>		
Origin(s)	<i>Diverse</i>		
Confessional Documents	<i>Westminster Confession with Preamble Heidelberg Catechism</i>		
Number of churches & church plants	<i>5 churches</i>		
Membership numbers	<i>Approximately 350</i>		
Assemblies, number, frequency	<i>Consistory/ Council</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Monthly</i>
	<i>Synode</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Three times/year</i>
Training of Theological Students	<i>Support Institut Farel, Montreal, Quebec</i>		

762

763 **History of the relationship**

764 The relationship between the CanRC and the ERQ was initially based on contact with the
765 Church of Ottawa, who in 1994 presented a detailed proposal to GS Abbotsford, 1995. Investigations
766 and decisions at subsequent synods resulted in a decision to enter into EF at Synod 2007.

767 The EF relationship has been a positive one, with regular contact, support for specific ERQ
768 projects, including translation work, short term mission trips for CanRC youth to English Language
769 camps for Quebecois youth, invitations to special events, and pulpit exchange opportunities.

770

771 **General Synod Decisions Relating to the ERQ**

772 **Acts of Synod 1995, Article 73**

- 773
- 774 ○ to discuss with the deputies of the Église Réformée du Québec the differences in
775 Confession, Church Polity and worship which exist between our two federations;
 - 776 ○ to discuss with their deputies their relations with the Christian Reformed Church
777 and the Presbyterian Church in America, and evaluate them;
 - 778 ○ to further investigate whether it is possible to have the Canadian Reformed Churches
779 and the Église Réformée du Québec as part of the same federation;
 - 780 ○ to make use of the report submitted by the church at Ottawa and Classis Ontario
781 North;
 - 782 ○ to keep the churches informed about the Église Réformée du Québec so that their
783 financial and other needs as missionary churches can be responded to in a positive
784 manner;

785 **Acts of Synod 1998, Article 97**

- 786 ○ To note with gratitude the contact and developing relationship with the ERQ.
- 787 ○ To decline the invitation of the ERQ to enter into Ecclesiastical Fellowship at this
788 time.
- 789 ○ To re-appoint the committee for contact with the ERQ with the following mandate:
 - 1. To clarify and discuss the points raised in Consideration B (deacons and

- 790 deaconesses, liturgical forms, order of worship, supervision of the pulpit,
791 Lord's Day observance, fencing of the table, confessional binding) in view
792 of the concerns raised by the churches;
793 ▪ To keep the churches informed about the ERQ so that they may be able to
794 respond to financial and other needs of the ERQ;
795 ▪ To respond if specific requests for assistance and advice are made in matters
796 of confession, church polity, and liturgy;
797 ▪ To respond, if possible and feasible, to specific requests made to attend
798 Synods of the ERQ;

799 **Acts of Synod 2001, Article 22**

- 800 ○ To note with gratitude that the ERQ is faithful to the Word of God and brings the
801 Reformed confessions and church order to expression in its own context.
802 ○ To thankfully note that progress has been made in advancing the development of the
803 relationship.
804 ○ To reappoint the committee to continue developing closer ties with the ERQ with
805 the goal of establishing ecclesiastical fellowship by fulfilling the following mandate:
806 ▪ To discuss the differences between the Three Forms of Unity and the
807 Westminster Standards as found in the "Evaluation of Divergences" received
808 by Synod 1986. Considering the limited resources of the ERQ priority should
809 be placed on discussion and clarification of pulpit supervision, fencing of the
810 Lord's table, and confessional accountability;
811 ▪ To work towards formalizing a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship
812 under the adopted rules;
813 ▪ To encourage the churches to continue supporting the ERQ financially, when
814 needed;
815 ▪ To respond if specific requests for assistance and advice are made on matters
816 of confession, church polity, liturgy, and mission;
817 ▪ To respond, if possible and feasible, to specific requests made to attend
818 synods of the ERQ;

819 **Acts of Synod 2004, Article 25**

- 820 ○ To continue the mandate for the CCCA as it was given in the Acts of Synod
821 Neerlandia 2001

822 **Acts of Synod 2007, Article 75**

- 823 ○ To enter into a Relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship with the ERQ under the
824 adopted rules.
825 ○ To give the committee the following mandate:
826 ▪ To convey this decision to the next ERQ Synode, via the Interchurch
827 Committee.
828 ▪ To actively engage in the Relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship with the
829 ERQ under the adopted rules.
830 ▪ To express to the Interchurch Committee a willingness to provide
831 encouragement and assistance in the adoption of the liturgical forms, and in
832 other such matters, and to provide this assistance where possible.
833 ▪ To respond if specific requests for assistance and advice are made on further
834 matters of confession, church polity, liturgy, and mission, as per the Rules

- 835 for Ecclesiastical Fellowship.
- 836 ■ To continue discussion when appropriate on existing differences in
- 837 confession and practice with a particular focus on admission to the Lord's
- 838 Supper and the supervision of the pulpit.
- 839 ■ To meet and have contact with the ERQ Interchurch Committee and synods
- 840 if and when invited.
- 841 ■ To encourage the churches to continue supporting the ERQ prayerfully, and
- 842 financially when needed.
- 843 ■ To encourage the churches to seek out ways and means to develop contacts
- 844 with individual ERQ churches as is done between Owen Sound and St.
- 845 Georges.

846 **Acts of Synod 2010, Article 29**

- 847 ○ To mandate the CCCNA as follows:
- 848 ■ To continue the relationship of EF with the ERQ under the adopted rules.
- 849 ■ To share information about the nature and development of its dialogue with
- 850 the ERQ.

851 **Acts of Synod 2010, Article 74**

- 852 ○ Denied an appeal regarding the decision to establish EF with the ERQ.

853 **Acts of Synod 2013, Article 59**

- 854 ○ To thank the Lord for the faithful Reformed witness provided in and by the ERQ;
- 855 ○ To mandate the CCCNA to continue the relationship of EF with the ERQ under the
- 856 adopted rules, giving particular attention to the matters of supervision of the pulpit,
- 857 admission to the Lord's table and women deacons (in particular, the ordination of)
- 858 and to provide an account of its dialogue with the ERQ

859 **Acts of Synod 2016, Article 59**

- 860 ○ To thank the Lord for the faithful Reformed witness provided in and by the
- 861 Reformed Church of Quebec (ERQ);
- 862 ○ To mandate the Committee for Contact with Churches in North America (CCCNA)
- 863 to continue the relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the ERQ under
- 864 the adopted rules;
- 865 ○ To involve the fraternal delegates in discussions at synods in such a way as to honour
- 866 the sister-to-sister-church relationship;
- 867 ○ To encourage the churches to support the ERQ prayerfully and financially in their
- 868 missionary endeavours and special projects.

869 **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 22**

- 870 ○ To continue the relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the Reformed
- 871 Church of Quebec (ERQ) under the adopted rules;
- 872 ○ To encourage the churches to support the ERQ prayerfully and financially in their
- 873 missionary endeavours and special projects.
- 874 ○ To mandate the Committee for Contact with Churches in North America (CCCNA)
- 875 to maintain contact with the ERQ according to the adopted rules;

876 **B.7 Report on the CanRC relationship with the Reformed Church in the United States**

877

878 ***Introduction***

879 The CanRC entered into EF with the RCUS by a decision of General Synod Neerlandia, 2001(Art.
880 59) and is a member of NAPARC together with the RCUS.

881

882 ***Mandate of GS 2019 (Art. 60)***

883 GS 2019 mandated the CCCNA to

884 4.2.1 maintain contact with the RCUS according to the adopted rules

885 4.2.2 submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general

886 synod

887

888 ***Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021***

889 **2019:**

890 ○ The committee delegated a member to attend the 273rd GS of the RCUS

891 ○ The committee met with the RCUS at NAPARC

892 **2020:**

893 ○ There were no in-person meetings in 2020 due to the covid pandemic.

894 **2021:**

895 ○ The committee delegated a member to attend the 275th GS of the RCUS in Sioux Falls, IA
896 from May 17-20, 2021.

897 ○ The committee met with the RCUS at NAPARC.

898

899 ***Observations:***

900 - The RCUS has singled out and very much appreciates the developing relationship with the
901 Canadian Reformed Churches. They especially appreciate having fraternal delegates attend for
902 a significant portion of the meeting at both the classis and the synod level meetings.

903 - Opportunities exist to work together on foreign mission projects, especially in the Philippines.

904 - Discussions have taken place, and will continue at opportune times, on differing church polity
905 or practices. The important determination is to remain a faithful church within the confines of
906 Scripture and confessions allowing for a unity in the faith with a diversity of practice.

907 - Based on the rules for EF, the CanRC and the RCUS can effectively assist each other via pulpit
908 exchanges, visiting RCUS churches, participating in youth camps/conferences held by the
909 various churches, and the exchange of articles in magazines supported by church members.

910 - The matter of women's voting for officer bearers has been raised at recent Synods of the RCUS.
911 A committee in 2020-2021 presented a substantial report against women's voting, however it
912 did not receive enough support to be adopted by Synod. The RCUS Constitution already grants
913 freedom to the local churches on this matter.

914 - The RCUS have noted that there is some lack of clarity regarding the status of certain position
915 papers which though published some time ago were never adopted by Synod. They point out
916 that one must determine from the Minutes of Synod if a paper in circulation was adopted.

917

918 ***Recommendations:***

919 The CCCNA recommends that synod decide:

- 920 1. To continue EF with the Reformed Church in the Unites States (RCUS) under the adopted rules.
 921 2. To mandate the committee to submit its report to the churches five months prior to the convening
 922 of the next general synod.

923

924 ***Brief description of the Reformed Church in the United States***

925 The present-day Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS) is the continuing remnant of the
 926 German immigrant denomination of the same name which was founded in 1725 by the Rev. John
 927 Philip Boehm. The old RCUS continued as a separate denomination until 1933-34 when the larger
 928 part of it united with the Evangelical Synod of North America to form the Evangelical and Reformed
 929 Church. This new church merged with the Congregational Christian Churches in 1957 to form the
 930 United Church of Christ.

931

932 One classis - the Eureka Classis - refused to participate in the 1934 merger. This classis continued as
 933 a separate entity for the next five decades. During this time, several congregations of like mind have
 934 become part of it. The North Dakota Classis dissolved in 1936 and its ministers and churches joined
 935 the Eureka Classis. During the 1950s, congregations at Menno, SD; Manitowoc, WI; Garner, IA;
 936 Sutton, NE; and Shafter and Bakersfield, CA, which had either left the Evangelical and Reformed
 937 Church or had been independent, joined the Eureka Classis. The 1970s welcomed the arrival of
 938 several churches from the General Association of Regular Baptists that had become Reformed. In
 939 subsequent years, several groups (some as whole congregations) have left the UCC to join the RCUS.
 940 Today, the RCUS numbers about forty congregations.

941

942 At its annual meeting in 1986, the Eureka Classis dissolved to form the Synod of the Reformed
 943 Church in the United States. Today, instead of one classis, the RCUS consists of four classes:
 944 Covenant East, Northern Plains, South Central and Western. Source: www.rcus.org

945

946 Source of church data: NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location	<i>United States of America</i>		
Origin(s)	<i>German immigrants to USA in early 1700s</i>		
Confessional Documents	<i>Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed Three Forms of Unity</i>		
Number of churches & church plants	<i>42 churches & 5 formal church plants</i>		
Membership numbers	<i>3,560 members of whom 2,738 are communicant</i>		
Assemblies, number, frequency	<i>Consistory/ Council</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>as needed</i>
	<i>Classis</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>meets annually</i>
	<i>Regional Synod</i>	<i>n/a</i>	
	<i>General Synod</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>meets Annually</i>
Office bearers	<i>Ministers</i>	<i>60*</i>	<i>*Includes</i>
	<i>Elders</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>ministers retired</i>

	<i>Deacons</i>	99	<i>or without charge</i>
Training of Theological Students	<i>RCUS supports five seminaries: Greenville Presbyterian Theological, Heidelberg, Mid-America, New Geneva, City (guideline: \$2 pcm for each seminary. Note: Heidelberg Seminary is under the oversight of a local RCUS consistory.</i>		

947

948 ***History of the relationship***

949 The Canadian Reformed Church in Carman had local contact with the RCUS beginning in 1986. This
 950 contact was taken over by the General Synod’s CRCA (Committee for Relations with Churches
 951 Abroad) in 1992. General Synod Neerlandia 2001 extended EF to the RCUS.

952

953 ***General Synod Decisions Relating to the RCUS***

954

955 **Acts of Synod 1989, Article 45**

- 956 ○ The first mention of the RCUS can be found where the chairman extends a special welcome
 957 to Rev. S. Allison but “as a private visitor ... as there are, as yet, no official contacts between
 958 us and the RCUS.”

959 **Acts of Synod 1992, Article 79**

- 960 ○ The CRCA is mandated to investigate the RCUS with a view to entering into a relationship
 961 of EF, making use of the findings of the church at Carman, MB.

962 **Acts of Synod 1995, Article 101**

- 963 ○ The CRCA reported that it had not completed its mandate so GS instructed the CRCA to
 964 continue the mandate regarding the RCUS initially given to it by GS 1992.

965 **RCUS 251st Synod, 1997**

- 966 ○ letter dated Oct 20, 1997 inviting the Canadian Reformed Churches to enter into
 967 fraternal (ecclesiastical) relationship with the RCUS.

968 **Acts of Synod 1998, Article 51**

- 969 ○ GS declines the invitation but gives instruction to the CRCA (now CCCNA)
 970 ▪ to continue working towards a relationship of EF with the RCUS,
 971 ▪ to resolve the matter of proper supervision of the Lord’s Supper so only those who
 972 confess the Reformed faith will be admitted;
 973 ▪ to discuss the matter of Sunday observance and the doctrine of the church;
 974 ▪ to seek clarification of the concept of erasure;
 975 ▪ to investigate the position of the CRCNA among the NAPARC churches.

976 **Acts of Synod 2001, Article 59**

- 977 ○ GS adopts EF with the RCUS but instructs the CCCA to continue discussion on the issues
 978 noted in its Considerations 4.2, 4.4, 4.5

979 **Acts of Synod 2004, Article 24**

- 980 ○ GS expresses gratitude to the Lord for the positive developments within our contacts with
 981 the RCUS and continues EF with the RCUS with the instruction to continue discussions as

982 noted in its Considerations 4.2 - 4.5.
983 ○ It also encourages the Classes to continue to development contact with the Classis of the
984 RCUS bordering their area and to churches to pursue actively our EF with the RCUS via
985 pulpit exchanges, visiting RCUS churches, and invitations to youth camps/conferences held
986 by the various churches.

987 **Acts of Synod 2007, Article 17**

988 ○ GS continues EF with the RCUS under the adopted rules for EF. GS states, “ As the CCCA
989 fulfills its mandate according to these rules, matters of concern raised by the churches (see
990 Observations 2.7-2.11) may continue to be raised when appropriate.”
991 ○ It also instructs the CCCA to endeavour to meet with the RCUS Interchurch Relations
992 Committee at least once a year.

993 **Acts of Synod 2010, Article 28**

994 ○ GS continues EF with the RCUS under the adopted rules for EF.
995 ○ It also instructs the CCCNA to endeavour to meet at least once a year to discuss matters of
996 mutual concern and edification and to share more detailed information with the churches
997 about the nature and the development of its dialogue with the RCUS.

998 **Acts of Synod 2013, Article 93**

999 ○ GS continues EF with the RCUS under the adopted rules for EF.
1000 ○ It also instructs the CCCNA to endeavour to meet regularly to discuss matters of mutual
1001 concern and edification, giving attention to the matters of Lord’s Day observance and
1002 admission to the Lord’s table.

1003 **Acts of Synod 2016, Article 60**

1004 ○ GS continues EF with the RCUS under the adopted rules for EF.

1005 **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 60**

1006 ○ GS continues EF with the RCUS under the adopted rules for EF.

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B.8 Report on the CanRC relationship with the RPCNA

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Introduction

The CanRC does not have ecclesiastical fellowship with the RPCNA but is a member of NAPARC together with the RPCNA.

Mandate of GS 2019 (Art. 80)

GS 2019 mandate the CCCNA:

- 4.1 To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA);
- 4.2 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of [the] next general synod.

Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021

2019:

- At their invitation, members of CCCNA attended the RPCNA synod in Beaver Falls, PA (June 10-14, 2019)

2020:

- There was no meeting in 2020 because NAPARC was cancelled due to the covid pandemic.

2021:

- Members of the CCCNA met with the RPCNA for a bi-lateral meeting on November 10, 2021 at NAPARC.

Observations:

- The CCCNA has twice recommended to a General Synod that EF be extended to the RPCNA (2013, 2016). The recommendation was not adopted at GS 2016 because of two issues. The first is their practice and exegetical defense of ordaining female deacons. The second issue is reservations about the place and function of *The Testimony* (GS 2016, Art. 90, Consideration 3.2, 3.3, 3.5).
- GS 2016 did acknowledge that the RPCNA can be recognized for their faithfulness to the Word of God and their strong Reformed convictions (GS 2016, Art. 90, Consideration 3.5, Recommendation 4.1). We continue to rejoice in the faithfulness of the RPCNA and their strong defense of Reformed faith and practice.
- The RPCNA have congregations or preaching points geographically close to CanRC churches in Ottawa, Elora, Fergus, Guelph and Denver. Several of these have expressed a desire for progression towards unity.
- We observe from their 2021 GS the following:
 - The RPCNA confirmed a special resolution presented by six Canadian congregations petitioning to become a distinct Reformed Presbyterian Church denomination in Canada. It is anticipated that in the summer of 2022 the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada will be formed.
 - In response to a Presbytery seeking a precise definition of ‘departing’ in 1 Corinthians 7 and its relation to scriptural doctrine on divorce the synod clarified its position, ‘that desertion as described in 1 Corinthians 7, is a wilful, irremediable, physical departure of

1051 one spouse from another or irremediably caused by one spouse or the other in accord with
 1052 Westminster Confession of Faith 24.6’.

- 1053 ■ The denomination’s stance on creation was clarified with a special resolution declaring that
 1054 ‘belief in the literal parentage of Adam and Eve as our first parents is an essential point of
 1055 the Christian system of doctrine.’

1056
 1057 **Recommendations:**

1058 The CCCNA recommends that Synod decide to mandate the committee:

- 1059 1. To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the Reformed Prebsyterian Church in
 1060 North America (RPCNA), particularly at NAPARC, and, when appropriate, to discuss the
 1061 matters that hinder EF with them;
- 1062 2. To take up dialogue and contact with the new Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada
 1063 once it is formed and if needed, be permitted to be one of the sponsoring churches for their
 1064 membership in NAPARC.
- 1065 3. To submit its report to the churches five months prior to the convening of the next general
 1066 synod.

1067
 1068 **Brief description of the RPCNA**

1069 The RPCNA was established in North America in 1798, having come from the Reformed
 1070 Presbyterians in Scotland who originated from the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The RPCNA is a
 1071 member both of the ICRC and NAPARC. It has formal fraternal relations (EF) with a number of
 1072 churches, including these sister churches of the CanRC: Free Church of Scotland (Synod of North
 1073 America); OPC; RCUS and the URCNA. Its Synod meets annually, the most recent one having been
 1074 held June 14-17, 2021. Further information about the RPCNA may be obtained by visiting its
 1075 website: www.reformedpresbyterianchurch.org.

1076
 1077 Source of church data: NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location	<i>North America</i>		
Origin(s)	<i>Scottish immigrants to USA in 1798</i>		
Confessional Documents	<i>Westminster Confession of Faith, Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechism, Reformed Presbyterian Testimony</i>		
Number of churches & church plants	<i>105 churches</i>		
Membership numbers	<i>7,436 members of whom 5,274 are communicant</i>		
Assemblies, number, frequency	<i>Session (Consistory)</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>meets monthly</i>
	<i>Presbytery (Classis)</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>meets 2-4x/yr</i>
	<i>Regional Synod</i>	<i>n/a</i>	
	<i>Synod</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>meets annually</i>
Office bearers	<i>Ministers</i>	<i>180</i>	
	<i>Elders</i>	<i>283</i>	
	<i>Deacons</i>	<i>265</i>	

Training of Theological Students	<i>RPCNA sponsors Geneva College and the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania.</i>		

1078

1079 ***General Synod Decisions Relating to the RPCNA***

1080

1081 **Acts of Synod 2007, Article 163**

1082 The first report giving a detailed overview of the RPCNA was submitted to Synod (Reports Vol
1083 1, p.196-239).

1084 **Acts of Synod 2010, Article 77**

1085 An investigative report regarding *The Testimony*, women deacons, and exclusive psalmody was
1086 submitted to Synod (Reports Vol 1, p.188-222). The committee had recommended inviting the
1087 RPCNA to enter into ecclesiastical fellowship. Synod decided not to enter into EF with the
1088 RPCNA at that time.

1089 **Acts of Synod 2013, Article 76**

1090 The CCCNA submitted a much shorter report to Synod along the same lines. (Reports Vol 1,
1091 p.193-194). Synod instructed the CCCNA to further investigate the matters of deacons’
1092 ordination, and *The Testimony*.

1093 **Acts of Synod 2016, Article 90**

1094 The CCCNA investigated in detail (Observation 2.2, 2.3) the matters of ordained women deacons
1095 and *The Testimony* and states that there is nothing to be gained by mandating the committee to
1096 study the matters further. It recommended inviting the RPCNA to enter into EF. Synod decided
1097 not to enter into EF but did mandate the committee to continue its interaction with the RPCNA.

1098 **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 80**

1099 CCCNA to continue dialogue and contact with the RPCNA

1100

B.9 Report on the CanRC relationship with the URCNA

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1103 **Introduction**

1104 The CanRC entered into EF with the URCNA by a decision of General Synod Neerlandia 2001 (Art.
1105 63)

1106 **Mandate of GS 2019 (Art. 139)**

1107 GS2019 mandated the CCCNA:

1108 4.7.1 To send a delegation to the synods of the URCNA;

1109 4.7.2 To encourage the churches to continue to foster relationships with local URCNA churches.

1110 These activities could include, but are not limited to, pulpit exchanges, joint community and mission
1111 projects, and study opportunities;

1112 4.7.3 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

1113

1114 **Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021**

1115 **2019:**

1116 ○ The committee met with CERCU on November 12th, 2019 at NAPARC.

1117 **2020:**

1118 ○ The committee met via videoconference with CERCU on November 11th, 2020.

1119 **2021:**

1120 ○ The committee sent a letter to CERCU on March 8, 2021 and received a reply on May
1121 28th, 2021.

1122 ○ Representatives of the committee met with CERCU on November 9th, 2021 at NAPARC.

1123

1124 *Note: The URCNA have cancelled their General Synods of 2020 and 2021 because of the covid*
1125 *pandemic. Their next Synod is scheduled for June 2022.*

1126

1127 **Observations**

- 1128 - At its inaugural meeting in 2019 the CCCNA and CERCU used the time to become
1129 acquainted with each other, this being our first meeting following the mandate of Synod
1130 Edmonton. The CERCU reiterated their commitment of working towards greater unity and
1131 expressing that unity in concrete ways. Expressions of unity have and continue to include:
1132 pulpit exchange, concurring Classes and cooperative mission projects.
- 1133 - At the grassroots level unity is frequently expressed by marriage among each other's
1134 members, as well as attending each other's denominational schools. Our committees also
1135 recognized that moving towards greater unity requires further grassroots movement. Such a
1136 movement requires contact and trust. Geographical and cultural challenges, also within the
1137 URCNA itself, continue to be something of a hindrance. Many URCNA churches have little if
1138 any contact or familiarity with CanRC churches. Some suggestions were made of how we
1139 might overcome some of these challenges.
- 1140 - Our committees took the opportunity to highlight their respective mandates. The CERCU,
1141 presently in phase 2 with the CanRC, continues to follow their mandate, the intent of this
1142 phase being recognition and acceptance of each other as faithful churches of our Lord Jesus
1143 Christ. The "hold" adopted by Synod Wyoming 2016 is not the end of moving forward in
1144 federative unity, but during this time (of at least 6 years) there remains opportunity for one or

1145 more of the URCNA churches to suggest ways to move forward in our relationship. While
 1146 consideration 3.1 of our GS 2019 respects the “breather” in unity talks consideration 3.3
 1147 expresses that the CanRC remain committed to the pursuit of unity and ‘are looking forward
 1148 to reengaging in this discussion when the URCNA is ready.’ Consequently, we could inform
 1149 them of our mandate ‘To encourage the churches to continue to foster relationships with local
 1150 URCNA churches. These activities could include, but are not limited to, pulpit exchanges,
 1151 joint community and mission projects, and study opportunities.’

- 1152 - Letters shared in March and May of 2021 highlighted the continuation of our commitment to
 1153 fulfilling our Synodical mandates. CERCU is sending a survey to their churches seeking a
 1154 response to concerns (theological, church-polity, historical-cultural) they may have regarding
 1155 organic unity.
- 1156 - Since there is a substantial amount of interaction among our respective Classes and local
 1157 churches, the CCCNA plans to reach out to the CanRC Classes and churches to get a better
 1158 idea of all that is presently happening between local CanRC and URCNA churches. This will
 1159 allow us to fulfill mandate 4.7.2, namely, to encourage the churches to foster local
 1160 relationships.
- 1161 - At their meeting at NAPARC 2021 the committees continued discussions on the matters
 1162 highlighted above.

1163 **Recommendations**

1164 CCCNA recommends that Synod decide:

- 1165 1. To continue EF with the URCNA according to the adopted rules.
- 1166 2. To encourage the churches to continue to foster relationships with local URCNA
 1167 churches. These activities could include, but are not limited to, pulpit exchanges,
 1168 joint community and mission projects, and study opportunities.
- 1169 3. To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next
 1170 general synod.

1171
 1172 **Brief description of the URCNA**

1173 The URCNA was established in North America in 1996, largely made up of churches/members who
 1174 had left the Christian Reformed Church. The URCNA is a member both of the ICRC and NAPARC.
 1175 It has formal fraternal relations (EF) with a number of churches, including these sister churches of the
 1176 CanRC: OPC, RCUS. Its Synod meets annually, the most recent one having been held in 2019.
 1177 Further information about the URCNA may be obtained by visiting its website:
 1178 <https://www.urcna.org/>
 1179

1180 Source of church data: NAPARC Member Report 2021

Location	<i>North America</i>		
Confessional Documents	<i>Apostles’ Creed; Nicene Creed; Athanasian Creed; Three Forms of Unity</i>		
Number of churches & church plants	<i>115 churches and 19 church plants</i>		
Membership numbers	<i>24,916 members of whom 16,638 are communicant</i>		
Assemblies and frequency	<i>Classes</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>meets 2-4x/yr</i>

	<i>Synod</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>meets bi-annually</i>
Office bearers	<i>Ministers</i>	<i>200</i>	
Training of Theological Students	<i>Various institutions including Mid-America Reformed Seminary</i>		

1181

1182 ***General Synod decisions relating to the URCNA***

1183

1184 **Acts of Synod 1992, Article 36**

1185 Appointed a committee called the Deputies for the Promotion of Ecclesiastical Unity to promote the
1186 unity of Reformed believers who had left the Christian Reformed Church

1187 **Acts of Synod 1995, Article 86**

1188 Continued the mandate of the Deputies for the Promotion of Ecclesiastical Unity

1189 **Acts of Synod 1998, Article 96**

1190 Mandate to pursue continued fraternal dialogue with a view towards establishing federative unity.

1191 **Acts of Synod 2001, Articles 63 and 73**

1192 Recognition of URCNA as true churches with a move to Phase 2 on the path towards federative
1193 unity. Various sub-committees are established for theological education, a common church order and
1194 a common songbook.

1195 **Acts of Synod 2004, Articles 75-77, 98**

1196 Common church order, theological education, common songbook & general mandate

1197 **Acts of Synod 2007, Articles 98,99,104,103**

1198 General mandate; church order; common songbook; and theological education

1199 **Acts of Synod 2010, Articles 63, 71, 87, 151**

1200 Art. 63: main report (see also Art 41 and Appendix 12 “The Framework Hypothesis”)

1201 Art. 71: theological education sub-committee report

1202 Art. 87: common songbook sub-committee report

1203 Art. 151 church order sub-committee report (Proposed Joint Church Order)

1204 **Acts of Synod 2013, Articles 129-131, 149**

1205 Art. 129: coordinators’ report

1206 Art. 130: common liturgical forms and confessions sub-committee report

1207 Art. 131: theological education subcommittee report

1208 Art. 149: church order subcommittee report

1209 **Acts of Synod 2016, Articles 77-80**

1210 Art. 77: coordinators’ report

1211 Art. 78: liturgical forms and confessions subcommittee report

1212 Art. 79: theological education subcommittee report

1213 Art. 80: church order subcommittee report

1214 **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 139**

1215 Discontinuation of coordinators for church unity and the various subcommittees resulted in the
1216 URCNA portfolio being transferred to the care of the CCCNA and the mandate ‘To encourage the
1217 churches to continue to foster relationships with local URCNA churches. These activities could

1218 include, but are not limited to, pulpit exchanges, joint community and mission projects, and study
1219 opportunities.'

C. NAPARC Report

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Introduction

NAPARC is a fellowship of thirteen church denominations based on subscription and adherence to the Bible as summarized in the Three Forms of Unity and the Westminster Confessional Standards. Its purpose is to facilitate discussion on common issues, to study matters of shared concern, to exercise the promotion of the Reformed faith, and to promote collaboration, where feasible, in works of mission, relief, etc. Furthermore, out of a concern to build the Church of Jesus Christ rather than our own denominations and to avoid the appearance of competition the member churches have affirmed a courteous code of behaviour to guide their church planting ministries. This code of behaviour is known as the '*Golden Rule*' *Comity Agreement*. Lastly, any decisions of NAPARC are advisory only, and do not affect the autonomy of member churches.

The CanRC has been a member of NAPARC since 2008. For further information (on constitution and bylaws, meetings, supporting materials, etc.) see the website: www.naparc.org.

Mandate of GS 2019 (Art. 105)

GS 2019 gave the following mandate to the CCCNA:

4.2 To continue to represent the CanRC at NAPARC and to continue its active involvement in it;

4.3 To submit its report to the churches 5 months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

Execution of this mandate in the period summer 2019 to fall 2021

The committee participated in the annual meetings held each November in 2019 (hosted by the KPCA (Kosin) in Anaheim, CA) and in 2021 (hosted by the OPC in Raleigh, NC). The annual meeting of 2020 was cancelled due to the covid pandemic. Four delegates were sent to the meeting in 2019 while three members attended the 2021 meeting. The main agenda items included reports from each of the member church on its synods or general assemblies, significant decisions, and concerns of a theological or practical nature. Discussion and prayer follow each federation's report. The delegates of NAPARC also gather each evening. The first evening the host church leads a worship service and on the second evening a formal dinner is held followed by a keynote address.

Currently there are no church denominations applying for membership in NAPARC. Two denominations have remained as guests for many years: The Bible Presbyterian Church and the Protestant Reformed Church. These churches provide a report on life in their churches on the floor of NAPARC.

Observations

The CCCNA continues to see the benefit of being involved in NAPARC, both to derive insights from and to contribute to the Reformed witness it offers on the North American scene. It is an excellent venue to experience the richness we share as Reformed and Presbyterian brothers. As member churches we live in a North American society that is increasingly secular and hostile. It is good to support one another and maintain a united front on the major challenges we face. Reports from member churches are often relevant to developments or projects of the CanRC, and it is useful to discuss these

1265 matters of shared interest.

1266

1267 NAPARC is also the venue that the CCCNA uses to hold meetings with the Inter-Church relations
1268 Committees of the ERQ, OPC, RCUS, RPCNA, HRC, FRCNA, ARP and the URCNA. We also seek
1269 to meet with the KPCA (Kosin) triennially.

1270

1271 The committee observes that meetings of NAPARC are an efficient and economical way to encourage
1272 and grow the bonds with member churches with whom we have EF.

1273

1274 ***Considerations***

1275 The committee considers that it has sufficiently fulfilled its mandate received from Synod Edmonton
1276 2019. The challenges we all faced as churches considering the global pandemic has slowed our
1277 interaction over the three-year period since Synod 2019. The CCCNA remains open and willing to
1278 assist the local churches in regard to NAPARC issues.

1279

1280 ***Recommendations***

1281 The Committee recommends that in the absence of Synod adopting the proposal of the CCCNA-
1282 CRCA, Synod decide

1283 - to mandate the CCCNA to continue to represent the CanRC at NAPARC and to continue
1284 its active involvement in it.

1285 - that the CCCNA submit its report to the churches five months prior to the convening of
1286 the next General Synod.

1287

1288 ***Brief description of NAPARC***

1289 **Basis:**

1290 Confessing Jesus Christ as only Savior and Sovereign Lord over all of life, we affirm the basis of the
1291 fellowship of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches to be full commitment to the Bible in its entirety
1292 as the Word of God written, without error in all its parts and to its teaching as set forth in the Heidelberg
1293 Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the
1294 Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms. That the adopted basis of fellowship be regarded as
1295 warrant for the establishment of a formal relationship of the nature of the council, that is, a fellowship
1296 that enables the constituent churches to advise, council, and cooperate in various matters with one
1297 another and hold out before each other the desirability and need for organic union of churches that are
1298 of like faith and practice.

1299

1300 **Purpose and Function:**

1301 1. Facilitate discussion and consultation between member bodies on those issues and problems which
1302 divide them as well as on those which they face in common and by the sharing of insights
1303 “communicate advantages to one another” (*Institutes* IV, 2, 1).

1304 2. Promote the appointment of joint committees to study matters of common interest and concern.

1305 3. Exercise mutual concern in the perpetuation, retention, and propagation of the Reformed faith.

1306 4. Promote cooperation wherever possible and feasible on the local and denominational level in such
1307 areas as missions, relief efforts, Christian schools, and church education.

1308

1309 **Nature and Extent of Authority**

1310 It is understood that all actions and decisions taken are advisory in character and in no way curtail or
1311 restrict the autonomy of the member bodies.

1312

1313 **Member Churches:**

- 1314 1. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)
1315 2. The Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)
1316 3. The Reformed Church of Quebec (ERQ)
1317 4. The Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCNA)
1318 5. The Heritage Reformed Congregations (HRC)
1319 6. The Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)
1320 7. The Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (KPCA)
1321 8. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)
1322 9. The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)
1323 10. The Presbyterian Reformed Church (PresRC)
1324 11. The Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)
1325 12. The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)
1326 13. The United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)

1327

1328 **General Synod Decisions Relating to NAPARC**

1329 **Acts of Synod 2001, Article 74**

- 1330 ○ To allow the CCCA to send an observer, at its own discretion, to future meetings of NAPARC
1331 to investigate its usefulness and possible membership in this organization

1332 **Acts of Synod 2004, Article 30**

- 1333 ○ To mandate the CCCA to continue to send an observer to NAPARC, with the instruction to
1334 initiate discussion on the matters brought forth in Consideration 4.2. (This dealt with significant
1335 duplication in the purpose, function, and membership of NAPARC and the ICRC.)

1336 **Acts of Synod 2007, Article 140**

- 1337 ○ To instruct the CCCA to apply for membership in NAPARC

1338 **Acts of Synod 2010, Article 52**

- 1339 ○ To continue to represent the CanRC at NAPARC
1340 ○ To investigate the status and implications of the Golden Rule Comity Agreement and the
1341 NAPARC Agreement on Transfer of members and Congregations in order to determine
1342 whether or not these agreements interfere with the independence of the CanRC in regard to
1343 establishing relations of EF with other federations.

1344 **Acts of Synod 2013, Article 77**

- 1345 ○ To mandate the CCCNA to continue to represent the CanRC at NAPARC and to continue its
1346 involvement in it;
1347 ○ To raise in discussion at NAPARC what may be perceived as a tension between Article 4 of
1348 the NAPARC constitution on “The Nature and Extent of Authority” and the last sentence of 5.2
1349 on “Membership,” namely “Those churches shall be eligible for membership ... [which]
1350 maintain the marks of the true church (re: preaching of the gospel, the Scriptural administration
1351 of the sacraments, the faithful exercise of discipline.”)

1352 • **Acts of Synod 2016, Article 89**

- 1353 ○ To mandate the CCCNA to continue to represent the CanRC at NAPARC and to continue its
1354 involvement in it;

- 1355 ○ To raise in discussion at NAPARC the application of the “Golden Rule Comity Agreement”
1356 and the “Agreement on the Transfer of Members and Congregations” as a reminder for the
1357 Member Churches and to assist the local churches when asked about conflicts with these
1358 agreements
- 1359 • **Acts of Synod 2019, Article 105**
- 1360 ○ To mandate the CCCNA to continue to represent the CanRC at NAPARC and to continue
1361 its involvement in it