



BOT Highlights

To: **Stated Clerks of Classes**

From: Gerard Dykstra, Executive Director of the CRCNA

Date: March 17, 2010

BOT highlights from Feb. 25-26, 2010

Grand Rapids, Mich. – The Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Christian Reformed Church met on Feb. 25 and 26, 2010 at the Denominational Office in Grand Rapids.

At this meeting the Board:

1. Responded to a request from the board of Christian Reformed Home Missions by granting permission for HM to begin the search for a new director who will lead the agency after the interim appointment of Mr. Ben Vandezande concludes.
2. In addition to approving a revision to the Ministry Plan of the Christian Reformed Church, the BOT approved the creation of a concise statement about what it means to be Christian Reformed today and what attracts people to the CRC. A task force will be convened to oversee preparation of the statement. Its mandate will include gathering information from synod delegates as well as from people across North America who represent a cross-section of the church.
3. Ratified the appointment of Rev. Ronald Klimp as director of the Office of Chaplaincy and Care Ministry. The Board also recommended that synod approve the name change of this office, formerly known as Chaplaincy Ministries, to reflect a revised mandate, which includes working with pastors, congregations and other CRC ministries “to advance and facilitate ministries of care” as well as developing and promoting the chaplaincy ministry.
4. Decided to create two new standing committees to provide advice to senior staff and to the Board in the areas of Finance and of Human Resources. The committees will increase the scope of expertise available to the Board by including persons who are not currently members of the Board.
5. Recommended that synod encourage Christian Reformed churches, classes, ministries and institutions to sponsor events to observe Disability Week, Oct. 11-17, 2010, with a suggested focus on mental health issues.
6. Recommended that delegates to Synod 2010 receive a presentation on the recent denominational survey, including an opportunity to discuss the data and its implications for the church.
7. Recommended that synod accept the invitation from Madison Square CRC in Grand Rapids to be the convening church for Synod 2011, with the meetings being held at Calvin College.
8. Heard reports about the work being done by the Office of Safe Church Ministry and by Calvin College.

9. Appointed Dr. Todd Cioffi to the governing board of the Leadership Exchange. He replaces Dr. Douglas Koopman as the Calvin College representative.
10. Appointed Rev. Pedro Aviles, Ms. Sandra Williams and Rev. Andrew Narm as members of the Race Relations advisory committee.
11. Endorsed the Micah Network's Declaration on Creation Stewardship and Climate Change and instructed staff to give priority to the issue of climate change in its education and advocacy efforts at local, national and global levels.
12. Agreed to engage in a conversation with agency and agency board representatives about the concept of a global mission agency that would build on the collaboration that is already occurring among CRCNA mission agencies.
13. Endorsed the decision of the CRWRC Joint Ministry Council to close the Ecuador program and to allow CRWRC to implement this decision in order to minimize expenditures.
14. Approved lists of persons who could serve as ethnic advisers or as youth observers at Synod 2010. Advisers and observers will be appointed from the lists as required.
15. Recommended to synod that a special team of worship planners be appointed by Faith Alive Christian Resources to serve on the worship planning committees for synods 2011, 2012 and 2013. The team will help to test songs from a new CRC/RCA hymnal to be published by Faith Alive in 2013.
16. Approved a plan by Home Missions for engaging new church plants and emerging churches in the ministry shares program.
17. Adopted a resolution of sympathy to the family of the late Rev. Bastiaan Nederlof, who played a leading role in enfolding Dutch immigrant congregations in Canada into the Christian Reformed Church.

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet again on April 29-30, 2010 at the denominational offices in Grand Rapids.

For more information, please contact:

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