



COMMUNICATION 15-03

MEMORANDUM

July 2014

TO: Ecumenical Partners of the Christian Reformed Church
FROM: Peter Borgdorff – Ecumenical Officer for the CRC
RE: Summary of Actions by Synod 2014; Introduction of New Executive Director

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to send you a summary of the meeting of the synod of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in North America that met in Pella, Iowa, June 12-18, 2014. But first, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ and we greet you in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I will summarize the actions of our synod in point form.

- The CRC met in simultaneous session (and at times in joint session) with the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). This was the first such joint-gathering since the CRC was formed in 1857. The synods celebrated our common heritage, confessions, cooperation, and joint-ventures. The synods also unanimously adopted a resolution committing both churches to a future of cooperation and instructing the governing bodies with both denominations to “act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately;” and further, we jointly instruct the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA and the General Synod Council of the RCA, in looking to the future relationship between our two denominations, to be guided by this (Lund) principle.
- The CRC and the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) have adopted a “memorandum of understanding” that, while not different in principle from a relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship, is specific to the nature of the relationship between the CRC and the PCN.
- Synod approved an official relationship with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Egypt (Synod of the Nile).
- Synod also approved an official relationship with the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), a denomination recently formed in the United States.
- Synod discussed two significant reports that are due for formal action at next year’s (2015) meeting. The first is about the delegation of deacons to the meetings of synod. The second report will deal with changes in the structure and culture of the CRC’s ministries at a denominational level.

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- Synod acknowledged the services of the Reverend Joel R. Boot who served the CRC as the executive director since June 2011. Rev. Boot served with honor and distinction during his tenure. Rev. Boot will stay on the CRC staff as the Director of Ministries and Administration until early 2015.
- Synod appointed Dr. Steven Timmermans to the position of executive director effective June 30, 2014. Dr. Timmermans is the immediate past president of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, where he served for ten years. Prior to that term of service, Dr. Timmermans was a member of the faculty and administration at Calvin College. Dr. Timmermans, contact information is executive-director@crcna.org.
- I will be functioning as the ecumenical officer for the CRC until further notice. You can contact me at pborgdorff@crcna.org

The minutes of synod have in the past been sent hard copy to all of our ecumenical partners. Now that online access is more common, you can find a complete record of the *Acts of Synod 2014* at www.crcna.org/SynodResources.

We wish for each one of you the Lord's blessing, grace and peace.

Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorff
Ecumenical Officer
Christian Reformed Church in North America

cc. Rev. Joel R. Boot
Dr. Steve Timmermans