

Saturday Afternoon Session – 3 September 2005

1. Opening of Synod

The acting moderator, Rev. R. Noppers, minister of the Reformed Church of Hukanui, opened the Synod by reading Phil 1:1-11. He gave a short meditation in which the delegates were reminded of the great love of Christ which is the basis of our love for one another as well as our unity as brothers in Christ. He exhorted the delegates to manifest discernment, approving what is best in all our discussions and decisions. He led the delegates in prayer and afterwards we sang Psalter Hymnal #479.

2. Approval of Credentials

Synod received and approved the credentials of delegates. The delegates from the churches are as follows:

Reformed Church of Avondale	Rev. J. ter Horst Elder J. Ploeg
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Bucklands Beach	Rev. D. van Garderen Elder J. van Rensburg Elder G. Fietje, alt.
Reformed Church of Hamilton	Elder B. van den Engel Elder P. van der Wel Elder R. Voschezang, alt. Elder P. Klinkhamer, alt.
Reformed Church of Hukanui	Rev. R. Noppers Elder M. Cross Elder R. van Dalen, alt.
Reformed Church of Mangere	Rev. S. Bajema Elder G. Posthuma
Reformed Church of the North Shore	Rev. J. Rogers Elder J. Posthuma
Reformed Church of Pukekohe	Rev. J. Haverland Elder R. Voschezang
Reformed Church of Foxton	Rev. J. Zuidema Elder J. Biersteker Elder P. van Echten, alt.
Reformed Church of Hastings	Rev. B. Hoyt Elder Dick Nieuwland
Reformed Church of Masterton	Elder L. Hendrikse Elder J. Kloeg Elder W. Stolte, alt.
Reformed Church of Palmerston North	Rev. G. Milne Elder H. de Jonge Rev. C. Kavanagh, alt. Elder G. Minnée, alt.
Reformed Church of Silverstream	Rev. P. Archbald Elder G. Heersping Elder E. van der Werff, alt. Elder J. Leenders, alt.
Reformed Church of Wainuiomata	Rev. L. de Vos Elder J. Verbokkem Elder M. Keast, alt.
Reformed Church of Wellington	Rev. J. Goris Rev. J. Lion-Cachet

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Reformed Church of Bishopdale	Elder D. Spoelstra, alt. Elder F. Braam Elder R. Moot
Reformed Church of Christchurch	Rev. J. Klazinga Elder R. de Vries
Reformed Church of Dovedale	Rev. M. Flinn Elder P. Davey Elder A. van Ameyde, alt.
Reformed Church of Dunedin	Rev. H. Vaatstra Elder P. Schinkelshoek Elder P. de Reus, alt.
Reformed Church of Nelson	Rev. R. Adams Elder T. de Boer

Synod also received credentials of the fraternal delegates from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Mr. M. Bube, from the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Lib.), Rev. J. Plug. Synod also received credentials of the observers from the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, Rev. A. van Delden and Mr. L. van Burgel. Synod welcomed Dr. H. de Waard as an advisor from the Reformed Theological College.

3. Constitution of Synod

The acting moderator declared synod officially constituted.

4. Election of Moderamen

Nominations for the moderamen were received and the following men were elected:

Chairman	Rev. J. Haverland
Vice Chairman	Rev. M. Flinn
First Clerk	Rev. B. Hoyt
Second Clerk	Elder R. de Vries

The members of the moderamen were then asked to take their seats and lead the Synod.

5. Signification of Agreement with Confessional Standards

The moderator called the delegates to stand indicating their continued agreement with the confessional standards of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. All delegates stood.

6. Late Correspondence

Synod received the following late correspondence:

- A letter from Jody Bosgra, the Yearbook editor, asking to be relieved of this duty was received on motion by Rev. R. Noppers, seconded by P. van der Wel. Sustained.
- A letter from the Reformed Church of Palmerston North was withdrawn on motion from Rev. G. Milne, seconded by H. de Jonge. Sustained.
- A letter from the ICRC containing a request from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church concerning the Free Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) was received on motion by J. Kloeg, seconded by P van der Wel. Sustained.

7. Privilege of Floor

Synod decided on motion from P. Davey, seconded by F. Braam, to grant Vicar R. van Wichen full privileges to speak in all sessions of Synod.

8. Adoption of Agenda

On motion by P. Davey, seconded by Rev. B. Hoyt, Synod adopted the agenda as presented by the Stated Clerk including the late correspondence above received as Communication 3 and 4.

On motion by P. Davey, seconded by R. Voschezang, Synod decided to set the time for the report of the Psalm and Hymn selection committee at Tuesday evening.

9. Closing of the Afternoon Session

The moderator called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #51 and closed the session in prayer.

Saturday Evening Session – 3 September 2005

10. Prayer Service

Rev. J. Haverland, elder P. Davey, Rev. S. Bajema, Rev. H. Vaatstra, and Rev. C. Kavanagh participated in the readings and prayer, with Rev. J. Goris preaching on Revelation 1:9-20 on the *The Lord of the Church Revealed*. Four aspects are noted – that the *Church sees*, *Church says*, *Lord sees*, and the *Lord says*. In all of this, we need to be servants of the living God, and that His presence provides us with encouragement, that we may be so enthused of this Lord of glory, the Lord of the Church.

Monday Morning Session – 5 September 2005

11. Opening Devotions

Rev. D. van Garderen called the delegates to sing from Psalter Hymnal #234:1,2,3,7,8 after which he read Romans 14:1-11 and gave a brief review of the beginning of the RCNZ in 1953 when the Rev. Scarrow was received as a minister in the RCNZ. In this the delegates were reminded that the church is the bride of Christ and under his headship. Rev. van Garderen closed in prayer.

12. Welcome for Fraternal Delegates

The First Clerk welcomed fraternal delegates from the GKSA, Rev. B. Fourie and Rev. H. Stoker; from the GKN(Lib), Rev. J. Plug; from the CRCA, Rev. F. Vanderbom and Rev. G. van Schie. Synod welcomed Dr. M Capill as an advisor from the Reformed Theological College.

13. Appointments

The moderator made the following appointments:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| • Reporter for public press | Rev. H. Vaatstra, A. Nugteren |
| • Reporter for Faith in Focus | Rev. S. Bajema |
| • Message of loyalty to the Her Majesty the Queen | Rev. J. Goris |
| • Appointments | Moderamen |
| • Finance | J. Ploeg, B. van den Engel, J. Posthuma |

14. Ministers and Wives Conference (R1)

Rev. C. Kavanagh presented the report.

Synod decided

1. *To provide for another Ministers and Wives Conference in the next inter-synodical period.*
2. *To appoint the ministers and wives of the South Island to organise the next conference.*

15. Synodical Interim Committee (R14)

Rev. B Hoyt presented the report. He noted a correction to dates: 1992-1995 should be 2002-2005.

Synod decided

That Synod endorse the actions and advice of the SIC.

16. Synodical Archivist (R20)

Rev. M. Flinn presented the report.

Synod decided

1. *To approve the budget as outlined in the Report.*
2. *To reappoint Roy Nugteren as Denominational Archivist for a further term.*

17. Calvinist Cadet Corps and Calvinettes (R13)

Rev. R. Noppers presented the report.

Synod decided

To continue to encourage the local churches to prayerfully and financially support their local Cadet and Calvinette Clubs.

18. Committee for Contact with Political Bodies (R11)

Rev. G. Milne presented the report and alerted the delegates to the antichristian direction of recent legislation leading to the removal Christian freedoms.

Synod decided

1. *To endorse the actions of the committee.*
2. *To thank the committee and charge it to continue its work .*

19. Office Bearers’ Handbook (O3)

Rev. M. Flinn presented an overture from the Christchurch Presbytery regarding the Office Bearers’ Handbook.

Synod decided

1. *To request the Church Order Committee to provide clarification to the sessions on the status of the various sections of the Office Bearers’ Handbook.*
2. *To request the Stated Clerk to take this clarification into account and identify the status of the various sections in any new edition of the book.*

20. Emeritus Fund (R5, O18)

Mr. W. Weeda presented the report. Mr. M Leenders presented the overture from Pukekohe.

Synod decided

1. *That eligibility for the full allowance from the Emeritus Fund be reduced from 35 to 30 years of service.*
2. *To approve the following emeritus allowances:*
 - a. For an emeritus member with 30 years of service an increase of 1.5 % to \$161.05 per week on 1 October 2005 and thereafter an annual increase in line with the CPI rate at 1 April each year. There will be a proportionate reduction for emeritus members with less than 30 years of service (e.g. with 20 years of service 20/30 x \$161.05) and a proportionate increase for emeritus members with more than 30 years service.
 - b. For the widow of an emeritus member, 80% of the pension for emeritus members as calculated on the basis of the years of service of the deceased member.
 - c. For the widow of a member who died before emeritation, irrespective of years of service, a minimum of \$65 per week* and a lump sum payment as shown under “f”. In both “b” and “c” the widows allowance will cease upon re-marriage.
 - d. For a member who is permanently and totally disabled under the terms of the Emeritus Fund’s Group Life and Disablement Assurance Policy, irrespective of years of service, a minimum of \$65 per week* and a lump sum payment as shown under “f”.
 - e. Increase pensions currently being paid by 1.5% on 1 October 2005, by the increase in the CPI (as applied to Government Superannuation allowances) 2005 from 1 April 2006 and annually on 1 April by the increase in the CPI in the previous calendar year.
 - f. The payment of a lump sum on the death or total and permanent disablement of a member according to the following scale.

Member’s age (years)	Lump sum \$	Member’s age (years)	Lump sum \$	Member’s age (years)	Lump sum \$
29 and under	150,000	42-44	50,000	54-56	18,000
30-32	130,000	45-47	40,000	57-59	15,000
33-35	110,000	48-50	30,000	60-62	12,000
36-38	90,000	51-53	20,000	63-64	10,000
39-41	70,000				

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* There is the possibility to receive an actuarially reduced pension based on years of service when this would give a higher allowance than \$65 per week. This can happen for members with many years of service or who are close to 65 years of age. The lump sum commutation will still apply to the actuarially reduced pension.

3. To ratify the quota per active member at \$1450 per annum for the year ending 31 March 2005.
4. To set the quota per active member at \$1450 per annum for the years ending 31 March 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Note: The recommendations of Overture 18 have been dealt with in the above decisions.

21. Closing of Morning Session

Rev. R. Noppers read Philippians 2:1-4 and led the delegates in prayer. He called for the singing of Psalter Hymnal #449.

22. Opening of Afternoon Session

Mr. T. de Boer read Colossians 3:12-17. After leading in prayer he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #315.

23. Approval of minutes

Synod approved the minutes of Saturday's sessions.

24. Emeritus Fund (Cont., O13)

Rev. M. Flinn presented the overture from Dovedale.

1. Synod defeated the following: to request the trustees of the Emeritus Fund to contract the services of a specialist fund manager to advise on the management of the investments within the Emeritus Fund.
2. Synod decided to thank the committee for the good work it has done.

25. Appointment of Emeritus Fund Trustees (C2)

Mr. W. Weeda presented the request of the committee to appoint Mr. J. Kamphuis and Mr. I. van Woerden as additional trustees.

The Moderator ruled that this communication be tabled.

26. Long Service Leave Fund (R6, O4, O14)

Rev. J. Rogers presented Overture 14 from the North Shore.

1. Synod decided to table the recommendations of Overture 14.

Rev. C Kavanagh presented Overture 4 from Palmerston North.

Synod decided

2. To change the rules for Long Service Leave as follows:

B.1 Every minister, serving in a congregation, shall be entitled to long service leave equal to one sixtieth of the qualifying period, additional to annual leave, after 5 (five) years of qualifying service.

B.2 A period of at least 5 (five) years must elapse after the commencement of an allocation of long service leave before long service leave can be taken again. Leave to be taken subject to approval by session.

3. Synod defeated the following proposed change to the rules for Long Service Leave:

B.4 Leave is granted for the purpose of recuperation and must be taken after 15 years service, if not taken previously. Payment in lieu of leave will not be granted.

27. Home Missions Mandate (O17)

Rev. C. Kavanagh presented Overture 17 from Palmerston North.

Synod defeated the following recommendation

1. That, in reliance on God, one Reformed Church be planted in one centre where there is at present no Reformed Church.

The moderator ruled that the following recommendations lapsed:

2. That in order to facilitate and enable this (part 1. of the overture), the Home Mission Committee mandate and rules be changed.
3. That the mandate and rules of the Home Mission Committee be made substantially the same as those of the OMB, but with respect to church planting in New Zealand, while part 1. of the overture is being implemented.
4. That synod shall review the mandate and rules of the Home Mission Committee when the mandate of part 1. of the overture is fulfilled.

28. Approval of Minutes

Synod approved the minutes of the Saturday sessions.

29. Closing of the Afternoon Session

Rev. P. Archbald read 1 Peter 5:1-11. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #162:1,5,6.

30. Opening of the Evening Session

Mr. G. Posthuma read 2 Peter 1:1-11. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #159.

31. Address of the Fraternal Delegate from the CRCA

Rev. G. van Schie gave greetings on behalf of the CRCA. With appreciation, he spoke of the improved understanding between the RCNZ and the CRCA as well as better communication between the CER and IRC. He noted that two recommendations of our IRC had been accepted: 1) continuity on the CER and 2) greater opportunity for RCNZ delegates to speak on the floor of the CRCA synod.

He requested that we take care to accurately represent each others' churches.

He indicated that the only issue at synod level between us is the matter of women as deacons which is still under study. He expressed appreciation that the RCNZ has given them time to finish their discussions.

32. Response to the Fraternal Delegates from the CRCA

Rev. M. Flinn responded, saying that the relationship between the CRCA and the RCNZ is much improved. He said that the RCNZ delegates were given a full opportunity to raise concerns at their synod. He expressed thankfulness that the CRCA values their relationship with us.

33. Presentation of B. Th.

Dr. H. de Waard presented the Bachelor of Theology degree to Robert van Wichen.

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34. Appointment of Temporary Chairman

Synod appointed Rev. H. Vaatstra to act as chairman for the consideration of matters relating to the RTC.

35. RTC Deputies (R17, O12, O19)

Rev. J. Rogers presented the report of the RTC Deputies. Rev. P. Archbald presented Overture 12 from Silverstream. Rev. M. Flinn presented Overture 19 from Dovedale.

Synod had a lengthy discussion of various aspects of the report and overtures.

36. Closing of the Evening Session

Rev. J. Zuidema read John 21:15-25. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #316:1,3.

Tuesday Morning Session – 6 September 2005

37. Opening of the Morning Session

The moderator welcomed Rev. B. Wiersma from the CRCA.

Rev. L. de Vos read Matthew 6:1-18. He exhorted us to diligence and sincerity in prayer because ministers especially face the temptation to pray in order to be seen by men. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #293.

38. RTC Deputies (Cont., R17, O12, O19)

Synod decided

1. *That in regard to the RCNZ's continuing relationship with the RTC:*
 - a) *The appended Memorandum of Understanding be adopted by the Churches as the basis on which the RCNZ support and utilize the RTC in the training of its ministers (along with its other courses for other members).*
 - b) *The RCNZ support the RTC by way of a recommended contribution.*
 - c) *The recommended contribution for the inter-synodical period be set at \$63,000 pa.*
2. *Synod appoint two deputies charged with supervising all our ministerial students. To perform this task, the deputies shall visit the RTC annually to:*
 - a) *meet with RCNZ students;*
 - b) *discuss curriculum and student progress with the RTC faculty;*
 - c) *meet with the CRCA deputies to discuss any matters relating to the training of ministerial students; and vicariate placements.*
3. *The two deputies are also to carry out the same assessment of other RCNZ students for the ministry in other institutions as far as possible and will be responsible for arranging vicariates for them also.*
4. *That in respect of prospective students for the ministry:*
 - a) *Synod reaffirms the recommendation of Synod 1998 (Art 70.3) to urge sessions to make a careful evaluation of the men they send to train for the ministry in order to send them with a clear recommendation as to their intention and suitability;*
 - b) *Appendix 2 be adopted by the Churches as guidance in assessing men seeking the recommendation/support of the Churches for training for the ministry;*
 - c) *The assessment of such men shall involve not only his own session but also his presbytery via a small sub-committee consisting of a minister and elder from different churches appointed for that purpose. Following their concurrence he then be recommended with the explicit endorsement of his session and the presbytery committee, and the deputies be notified.*

The moderator ruled that both Overture 12 from Silverstream and Overture 19 from Dovedale have lapsed.

Synod gave a round of applause in appreciation for the good work of the RTC Deputies.

The moderator welcomed Rev. P. Boyd from the Grace Presbyterian Church.

39. Closing of the Morning Session

Mr. P. Schinkelshoek called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #398. He read Psalm 16, and then led in prayer.

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40. Opening of the Afternoon Session

Rev. R. Adams read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9. After leading the delegates in prayer, he called them to sing Psalter Hymnal #446.

41. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Monday sessions were approved as amended.

42. RTC and Student Assistance (R19)

Mr. P. Davey presented the report.

Synod decided

- 1. To accept the audited accounts as a true and accurate record of the financial position of the RCNZ's RTC and Student Assistance Committee.*
- 2. To thank Mr and Mrs Amersfoort for the significant efforts they have faithfully expended on behalf of our denomination for the training of future ministers.*

43. Education Resource (*Lampstand*) (R8)

Rev. J. Klazinga and Mr. R. Vanderpyl presented the report.

Synod decided

- 1. To recommend highly the Great Commission Publications Sunday School curriculum, "Show Me Jesus", for use in the Reformed Churches of NZ.*
- 2. Also to recommend the use of the Kids@church material published by the Sydney Anglican Diocese.*

Synod defeated the following: also to recommend the "Walk with Me" Sunday School curriculum from CRCNA with reservations regarding the older children's material.

Synod decided

- 3. To instruct the Education Resource Committee (*Lampstand*) to compile a list of Reformed Bible study material suitable for use in our churches.*

44. Synodical Treasurer (R9)

Mr. R. Vanderpyl presented the report.

Synod decided

- 1. That the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ended 31st March 2005 be received and accepted.*
- 2. That the Statement of Financial Position as at 31st March 2005 be received and accepted.*
- 3. That a budget be presented at the close of this Synod for the coming inter-synodical period 2005 - 2008.*

The moderator extended thanks to the Synodical Treasurer for his good work.

Rev. P. Kloosterman, the minister elect of the Reformed Church of Masterton, was welcomed.

45. Effects Hurricane Katrina

Rev. D. van Garderen informed the synod about the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina especially upon our brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church of America. Rev. J. Klazinga and Rev. D. van Garderen led the synod in prayer.

46. Address of the Fraternal Delegates from the GKSA

Rev. B. Fourie conveyed greetings from the GKSA and also on behalf of the NGK and the NHKA. He asked that the RCNZ judge the GKSA on the basis of what they have actually said not on what they have not said. He noted that they operated with three categories of ecumenical relationships: unity, ties, and contact. Rev. H. Stoker spoke of the wide ranging mission work which one of the congregations in the GKSA is doing to give us an impression of their outreach in Africa. He expressed appreciation for the help the RCNZ is giving to immigrants from South Africa. He urged the RCNZ to reach out to the Afrikaners with Bible Studies and worship services in Afrikaans saying that there is a wide open door for the Gospel among the immigrants. He ended by requesting prayer for the GKSA as they work in troubled times in a troubled nation.

47. Response to the Fraternal Delegates from the GKSA

Rev. J. Rogers responded to the addresses of Rev. B. Fourie and Rev. H. Stoker. He noted that the GKSA takes their ecumenical relations very seriously and is very active in mission work.

48. Interchurch Relations (CRCA, R10)

Rev. M. Flinn presented Report 10 (4) regarding the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia (CRCA).

Synod decided

- 1. To continue our sister-church relationship with the CRCA.*
- 2. To continue the meetings between the CER of the CRCA and our IRC.*
- 3. To express appreciation for the decision of CRCA Synod 2003 regarding "children and church membership".*

49. Closing of the Afternoon Session

Mr. R. Moot read from 1 John 2:28-3:3. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #426.

50. Opening of the Evening Session

Rev. J. Ter Horst read Psalm 100. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #14.

51. Address of the Observer from the Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand

Rev. P. Boyd brought warm Christian greetings from the Grace Presbyterian Church. He said they are committed to the Westminster Confession and use an adapted version of the Presbyterian Church of America Book of Order. They now have fifteen places of worship in New Zealand. They also have a theological college. They are committed to planting churches in places where there is no faithful ministry. They look forward to sharing resources and working together as churches.

52. Response to the Observer from the GPC

Rev. H. Vaatstra responded to Rev. P. Boyd.

53. Interchurch Relations (CRCA Cont., R10)

Rev. G. van Schie responded at length to several questions raised concerning practices and decisions of the CRCA.

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Synod decided

- 1. To advise the CRCA that our sister-church relationship is still under strain because of their decision on Women as Deacons and their rejection of appeals against this decision.*
- 2. To send two delegates to the next synod of the CRCA.*

Lapsed: O11

54. Psalm & Hymn Selection (R12)

Rev. J. Rogers presented the report.

Synod decided

To charge the Psalm & Hymn Selection Committee to continue its work as mandated by Synod 2002.

55. Closing of the Evening Session

Mr. J. Ploeg read Rev 7:9-17. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #469.

Wednesday Morning Session – 7 September 2005

56. Opening of the Morning Session

Rev. H. Vaatstra read Revelation 6:1-11. He reminded us that our Sovereign Christ, who knows the church through and through, is also the One who is in control of all of history. In the midst of a troubled, sin-marred world we have the comfort and confidence that He is Lord and in Him we have the victory. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #221.

57. Psalm & Hymn Selection (Cont., R12)

Rev. J. Rogers continued his presentation of the report.

The following was defeated: Synod authorizes the Committee to publish a 'Provisional Psalter' as soon as the Psalm selection has been completed, providing final costings are under \$15.00 per unit (\$12.50 estimated) for a run of 2500.

The moderator declared that the following lapsed: Synod finance this by synodical quota.

Synod decided

1. *To affirm that the ultimate goal of the committee is to produce a book of Psalms and hymns with musical scores and lyrics along the lines of the committee's work so far.*

Note: This is a statement of synod's intention. The committee is not being mandated at this time to produce a book.

Grounds:

- 1) It was the intention of Synod 2002 ultimately to make a book available for use in the churches.
 - 2) It will be easier to obtain copyright permissions for use in homes and for public display if copyright holders can be assured of a future printing.
 - 3) Assurance of a future printing may also make it easier to obtain permission to use the Psalms and hymns in various forms (photocopied, OHP, data projected) in the interim.
2. *That computer CDs for use in the churches be produced including:*
 - a. *Musical scores with words in a format suitable for photocopying.*
 - b. *Words without scores in a format suitable for public projection or photocopying.*

Note: this may incur additional copyright fees.

Grounds:

- 1) Several churches have expressed a strong desire to begin using the Psalms and hymns produced by the committee before a book is finally produced.
 - 2) Such CDs are easy to produce as a by-product of what the committee is already doing.
 - 3) The only costs involved are the copyrights and the small cost of a blank CD.
3. *That computer CDs for use in homes be produced including:*
 - a. *Musical scores with words in a format suitable for printing or displaying on a computer screen.*
 - b. *Files (e.g. midi files) playable on the computer to accompany singing in the home.*

Grounds:

- 1) This will give church leaders a tool to enable every family with a computer to worship God in song even where no one in the family can play a musical instrument.
- 2) It will also enable homes with musical talent to play the music and sing in 4-part harmony.

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4. *That copyright permissions be obtained and paid for by the Synodical Treasurer (for the above uses and/or for the first print run, whichever is best).*

Note 1: A rough estimate of copyright costs for the complete printed book of Psalms and hymns is \$1 to \$1.50 per copy.

Note 2: In order to use the Psalms and hymns in the interim, the best way to pay for copyright costs may be to pay these for the first print run up front. If we assume a first print run of 3000 at \$1 per copy, this will be \$3000.

Ground:

In the long run, all churches will benefit from either the printed books or the CDs and all homes will benefit from the CDs. Therefore the copyright costs should be paid for by the Synodical Treasurer.

5. *To approve the use of the committee's Psalm selection for provisional use in the churches for evaluation.*
6. *To adopt Statement of Principle (cf. Report 12, Appendix) for inclusion in the proposed new psalter-hymnal.*

58. Address of the Fraternal Delegate from the GKN(Liberated)

Rev. J. Plug gave greetings on behalf of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated). He noted that the RCNZ has been recognised as a sister church of the GKN(Lib.). They have had the joy of recognising sister churches all around the world. Because of the huge wave of immigrants and the radical secularisation, they are aware of the great need to respond with the gospel. They have lost members both because of resistance to change and the attractions of evangelicalism. He requested that we share our gifts with them as the sister church relationship was valued, evident by the assistance given by other sister churches with issues faced by them.

59. Response to the Fraternal Delegate from the GKN(Lib.)

Rev. S. Bajema responded to the address of Rev. J. Plug, with sentiments also of a mission field on our backdoor that should not be neglected.

60. National Publications (R16)

Rev. S. Bajema presented the report.

Synod decided

1. *To approve the audited financial statements.*
2. *To approve the recommendations regarding the change in appointments to the NPC viz. : That replacement of Faith in Focus personnel be initiated by the Faith in Focus committee, approved and endorsed by the SIC, and be confirmed at the next annual NPC meeting.*
3. *To approve the appointments of Mr John Holtslag as treasurer of the NPC and Faith in Focus; approves the appointment of Mr Mark van der Zwaag as member of the NPC and Faith in Focus.*
4. *Re-affirm to make funds available to the NPC for any synodically authorised material to be published by NPC other than Faith in Focus and New Zealand Yearbook.*

The moderator ruled that the following had lapsed: That Synod not authorise the production of an interim Psalter-Hymnal but consider the alternative option of waiting for a final and complete Psalter-Hymnal to be approved.

61. Interchurch Relations (CRCA Cont., R10)

Rev. Flinn continued the presentation of Report 10.

Synod decided

To monitor the ongoing study and discussion within the CRCA on the matter of women as deacons.

Rev. Geoff van Schie responded to several comments made regarding women as deacons.

62. Interchurch Relations (GKSA Cont., R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report.

Synod decided

- 1. To continue our sister-church relationship with the GKSA.*
- 2. To express our deep concern to the GKSA concerning its decision to allow women to be ordained as deacons.*

63. Closing of Morning Session

Mr. R. Voschezang read 2 Timothy 1:3-14. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #34.

64. Opening of Afternoon Session

Mr. D. Nieuwland read Psalm 23. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #38.

The moderator welcomed Rev. J. Hendricks as an observer from the Afrikaanse Christen Kerk van New Zealand, Hamilton congregation.

65. Approval of minutes

Synod approved the minutes of the Tuesday's sessions.

66. Interchurch Relations (GKSA Cont., R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report.

The following was defeated: to express with regret that we are unable to sponsor the GKSA's application to join the International Conference of Reformed Churches.

Synod decided

- 1. That the RCNZ sponsor the GKSA's application to join the International Conference of Reformed Churches notwithstanding our concern about women as deacons.*
- 2. To continue to monitor closely the ongoing discussion in the GKSA on the role of women in the church and to report on any further synodical decisions in this area.*
- 3. To send a delegate to the next synod of the GKSA.*

67. Abortion (O1, O9)

Rev. G. Milne presented Overture 1 from the Wellington Presbytery. Rev. J. Goris presented Overture 9 from the Reformed Church of Wellington. There was lengthy discussion of these overtures.

The moderator led the delegates in prayer to seek God's wisdom. He called for the singing of Psalter Hymnal #289.

After consulting together, the moderamen decided to appoint an advisory committee to consider all aspects of this matter and advise synod on a way forward.

Minutes

68. Closing of Afternoon Session

Mr. B. van den Engel read 1 Peter 3:8-16. After leading in prayer he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #480.

69. Opening of Evening Session

Rev. J. Lion-Cachet read Romans 8:28-39. After leading prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #311.

70. Address of the Fraternal delegate from the OPC

Mr. M. Bube gave greetings on behalf of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. He noted that we have had a long standing relationship with the OPC, in particular that we have had several ministers from the OPC who served in the RCNZ. He spoke of OPC mission work in many places throughout the world and expressed appreciation for our help in the Uganda mission.

71. Response to the Fraternal Delegate from the OPC

Rev. J. Goris responded to the Fraternal Delegate from the OPC.

72. Address of the Observer from the FRCA

Rev. A. van Delden gave greetings on behalf of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia. He noted our contact over four synods. He said that our sister relation with the CRCA is the only remaining impediment hindering them from accepting our offer of sister-church relations. However he said that the FRCA are considering whether that ought to be an impediment. Despite their difficulties he assured us of their continued desire to have a sister relationship with us.

73. Response to the Observer from the FRCA

Rev. B. Hoyt responded to the observer from the FRCA.

74. Address of the Fraternal Delegate from the CRC/Neth

Rev. D. van der Zwaag gave greetings on behalf of the CRC/Netherlands. He spoke of the pressures on the Dutch churches from the secularisation of society, the liberal government, and the loss of moral standards. These pressures are challenges which they face as they seek to faithfully uphold the truth of God's Word.

75. Response to the Fraternal Delegate from the CRC/Neth

Rev. D. van Garderen responded to the address of the fraternal delegate from the CRC/Neth.

76. Overseas Mission Board (R18)

Rev. C. Kavanagh presented this report.

Synod decided

- 1. To provide for two OMB-selected delegates to attend the next Asia-Pacific Regional Missions Conference (place and time yet to be determined).*
- 2. To encourage RCNZ members who wish to be missionary associates to seek opportunities with ICRC mission contacts overseas through their sessions.*
- 3. That the OMB be mandated to draw up regulations for RCNZ members who wish to be missionary associates.*

4. *To commend Sr. Janice Reid for her work in preparing training material and in training Christians involved in radio ministry, and encourage her in her ongoing work.*
5. *To commend Br. and Sr. Hagoort for their work in Port Moresby, and encourage them in their ongoing work.*
6. *That Synod commend Rev and Sr. James for their willingness to serve the churches in Uganda through assisting in the training of men for the ministry, and in other ways such as diaconal relief.*

77. OPC Uganda Mission

Mr. M. Bube gave a short audio-visual presentation of the OPC mission in Mbale, Uganda, where Rev. B. James worked.

78. Closing of the Evening Session

Mr. J. Verbokkem read 2 Corinthians 4:1-12. After leading in prayer he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #327.

Thursday Morning Session – 8 September 2005

79. Opening of the Morning Session

Rev. S. Bajema opened with prayer and then read Psalm 87. He asked, what would it have been like in Israel to sing this Psalm? The prophet Jonah may give us some indication. How do we sing it? Praise God we sing with joy of Christ gather His people from all nations and even anti-christian philosophies. The delegates then sang Psalter Hymnal #165.

80. Address of the Fraternal Delegate from the URC/NA

Rev. P. Kloosterman gave greetings on behalf of the United Reformed Church of North America. He said that the URC/NA had decided to begin a process leading to ecclesiastical relations with the RCNZ. They are convinced that such relations are important for fulfilling the task with Christ has given His church.

81. Response to the Fraternal Delegate from the URC/NA

Rev. J. Klazinga responded to the fraternal delegate from the URC/NA.

82. Interchurch Relations (Cont. URC/NA R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of Report 10.

Synod decided

1. *To continue an exchange of information with a view to establishing a sister-church relationship with the URC/NA.*
2. *To encourage the URC/NA at their next synod meeting to establish Ecumenical Contact with our churches, with the hope that they will eventually establish Ecumenical Fellowship with us.*
3. *To send a delegate to the upcoming synod of the URC/NA if it can be done at no cost to synod.*

83. Interchurch Relations (Cont., GKN(Lib.), R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report.

Synod decided

1. *To continue our sister-church relationship with the GKN (Lib.).*

The following motion was defeated: To investigate the matters referred to in the brochure from BBK and report to Synod 2008.

Synod decided

2. *To send a delegate to the next synod of the GKN (Lib.).*

84. Interchurch Relations (Cont., FRCA, R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report, re Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

Synod decided

1. *To continue the offer of a sister church relationship with the FRCA.*

The following motion was defeated: To request the FRCA to consider rejoining the ICRC in light of their decision of Synod 2003 to confirm the RCNZ as true churches.

Synod decided

2. *To convey by correspondence the offer of a sister church relationship to the FRCA deputies for consideration at their Synod 2006.*

85. Interchurch Relations (Cont., OPC, R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report, re Orthodox Presbyterian Church, USA.

Synod decided

1. *To continue our sister-church relationship with the OPC, USA.*
2. *To send a delegate to an OPC Assembly during the next inter-synodical period*

86. Interchurch Relations (Cont., CRC/Neth, R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report, re Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands.

Synod decided

1. *To continue our sister-church relationship with the CRC Netherlands.*
2. *To send a delegate to the next synod of CRC/Neth if this can be done at no cost.*

87. Church Extension (R3, C1)

Mr. H. Dijkstra presented this report.

Synod decided to take no action on the following: That the actions of the committee as explained in this report are agreed upon.

Synod decided

1. *Rules for Needy Churches (Synod 1969, Art. 56; cf. Office Bearers' Handbook, p.6-5, Arts. 5,7)*
 - a. *number of units to read 20 (unaltered.)*
 - b. *minimum contribution per annum \$1900 per unit.*

The following was defeated: In regard to Rules for Home Missionary (Office Bearers' Handbook, p.4-19, Art. 5.) to add after each meeting of Presbytery..."and C.E.C. if the project is partly financed through church extension committee fund".

Synod decided

2. *To change the wording 'monthly financial report' to 6 monthly financial report (cf. Rules for Home Missionary (Office Bearers' Handbook, p.4-19, Art. 5.).*

88. Vicariate Funding (C1)

Rev. J. Haverland presented Communication 1 concerning the administration of the Vicariate Fund.

Synod decided

1. *That a church training a vicar may apply for up to two thirds of the cost of a vicariate and that the Church Extension Committee (Vicariate Fund) would meet that cost, funds permitting.*
2. *That during the inter-synodical period the Church Extension Committee has discretion to raise the quota cap for the Vicariate Fund in consultation with, and agreement from, the RCNZ Deputies to the RTC and the SIC.*
3. *That in the event of an immediate shortage of money in the Vicariate Fund the Church Extension Committee may borrow money from the Student Aid Fund if that fund has surplus money.*
4. *That the quota for the Vicariate Fund for the next inter-synodical period be set at \$20,000 per year.*

89. Closing of Morning Session

Mr. A. van Ameyde read Psalm 29. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #51.

Minutes

90. Opening of the Afternoon Session

Mr. J. Biersteker read Galatians 3:1-14. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #36.

91. Approval of minutes

Synod approved the minutes of Wednesday's sessions.

92. Vicariate Funding (Cont., C1)

Rev. J. Haverland continued presenting Communication 1.

Synod decided

Since the Lord has answered our prayers for workers to go into the harvest beyond all we asked or thought, Synod authorizes the Church Extension Committee to raise an additional quota for the Vicariate Fund of \$10,000 in 2006 and 2007 to meet this blessed need.

93. Interchurch Relations (Cont., PCEA, R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report, re Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

Synod decided

1. *To continue our sister-church relationship with the PCEA.*
2. *To send a delegate to one synod of the PCEA during the intersynodical period.*

94. Interchurch Relations (Cont., ICRC, R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report, re International Conference of Reformed Churches.

Synod decided

1. *To continue our membership in the ICRC.*
2. *To encourage the URCM to send observers to the upcoming ICRC meeting and not to support its application for membership at this time.*

95. Interchurch Relations (Cont., CanRC, R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report, re Canadian Reformed Churches.

Synod decided

To try once again to establish contact with the CanRC in accordance with the mandate of Synod 2002.

96. Interchurch Relations (Cont., Web Site, R10)

Rev. M. Flinn continued his presentation of the report, re web site of the RCNZ.

Synod decided

1. *That Synod continue to provide both oversight and funding for the information about our churches contained in the internet site <http://rcnz.org.nz>*
2. *That funding for the maintenance and development be maintained at \$650.00 per year and that this money continue to be raised by the Synodical Treasurer through the quota system as part of our synodical administration.*

3. *That the IRC review the website content and consider whether any updates and/or technical upgrades are necessary.*

97. Advice to ICRC Delegates (C4)

The Stated Clerk introduced the letter from International Conference of Reformed Churches, August 4, 2005, regarding the Free Church of Scotland (FCS) and the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing, FCSC).

Synod decided

To support the initiative of the OPC in relation to the FCS and FCSC.

98. Stated Clerk (R21)

Rev. B Hoyt presented this report.

Synod decided

1. *To authorise the Stated Clerk to print an updated Office Bearers' Handbook, A5 size, drilled for 2 or 3-hole ring binders. And that the Stated Clerk will request the number of copies desired by each session and add 80 to the total as the number to be printed. The printing is to be paid for by the Synodical Treasurer.*
2. *That the convenors of synodical committees have the responsibility to communicate to their respective committee members the committee appointments and the relevant decisions of Synod after receiving notification from the Stated Clerk.*

99. Church Order (R4)

Mr. P. van der Wel presented this report.

Synod decided

1. *To add to: Appendix A, I.C.3 The candidate shall not accept a call within six weeks.*
2. *To amend Appendix A, II.C.3 As at the preliminary examination: for dogmatics 30 minutes with an additional 10 minutes for Ethics and 10 minutes Symbolics.*
3. *That the synod accept the amended rules for preliminary and final examination of candidates for the ministry.*
4. *That Synodical Examiners be present at both preliminary and final examinations.*

The following was defeated: To withdraw the mandate to the committee on whether a Presbytery has jurisdiction to declare a church outside of the denomination.

Synod further decided

5. *To accept the new Art. 16B as it is currently formulated:*
 - a. *A minister who is not eligible for retirement or worthy of discipline may for weighty reasons be released from service in a congregation through action initiated by himself or by his session. Such release shall be given only with the approval of presbytery, with concurring advice of the synodical examiners, and in accordance with synodical regulations.*
 - b. *The session shall provide for the support of a released minister in such a way and for such a time as shall receive the approval of presbytery.*
 - c. *A minister of the Word who has been released from service in a congregation shall be eligible for call for a period of two years, after which time the presbytery, with the concurring advice of the synodical examiners, shall declare him to be released from ministerial office.*

Minutes

100. OMB (Cont., R18)

Rev. C. Kavanagh continued presenting Report 18.

Synod expressed appreciation to the OMB for their fine work and particularly for the work of Rev. B. and Mrs. A. James.

101. Denominational Name Change (O8)

Mr. R. Moot presented Overture 8 from the Reformed Church of Bishopdale.

102. Closing of the Afternoon Session

Rev. J. Klazinga read Isaiah 40:21-31. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #226 v1-3.

103. Opening of the Evening Session

Rev. P van der Wel read from Ephesians 3:14-21. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #378.

104. Address of the observer from the KAPC, NZ Pby

Rev. Q. Kim gave greetings on behalf of the New Zealand Presbytery of the Korean American Presbyterian Church. He said they have contacted the RCNZ seeking fellowship with a faithful English speaking church to help them integrate into New Zealand culture. They have found that we have the same confessional position as themselves. They believe Bible as the Word of God. They confess their faith according to the WCF standards. So they look forward to further fellowship and co-operation with us.

105. Response to the address of the observer from the KAPC, NZ Pby

Rev. J. Goris responded to the address of Rev. Q. Kim.

106. Denominational Name Change (Cont., O8)

The following was defeated: That Synod change the name of "The Reformed Churches of New Zealand" to "The Christian Reformed Churches of New Zealand".

107. National Diaconate (R15)

Rev. D. van Garderen presented Report 15.

Synod decided

- 1. To continue the mandate of the Committee and encourage vigilance in monitoring the needs of the Church catholic where our assistance can help in the Name and Spirit of Christ.*
- 2. To direct the NDC to set up an email address for the diaconate of each congregation in consultation with the webmaster of the RCNZ website.*
- 3. Synod recommend to the Presbyteries to arrange annual deacons meetings for the purpose of information sharing and training.*
- 4. Synod charge the Committee to organise a deacons conference in the Wellington area in the year 2007.*
- 5. Synod encourage the Deacons Courts in their ministries and the congregations in compassion and generosity for the ministry of mercy to those who are our needy neighbours.*

108. Bible Versions (O5)

Rev. B. Hoyt presented Overture 5 from the Reformed Church of Hastings.

Synod decided

To appoint a study committee to evaluate the current versions of the NASB and the NIV and recommend to the next Synod whether they should be approved as pulpit Bibles.

109. Closing of the Evening Session

Rev. G. Milne read Jeremiah 31:21-26. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #134.

Friday Morning Session – 9 September 2005

110. Opening of the Morning Session

Rev. M. Capill called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #400. He led in prayer and then read Eph 3:2-13 and noted that Paul, although in prison, gives thanks for the ministry to the Gentiles which God has given him. He rejoices in the revelation of the mystery which God has now revealed: *“that through the Gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus”*. So also we must be motivated by this glorious Gospel which is for all the nations that the manifold wisdom of God be manifest *“in the heavenlies”* even though we may have little knowledge of what God is doing *“in the heavenlies”* unseen by us. Don't be discouraged! After this exposition he led us to the throne of grace.

111. New Congregation

The moderator noted with thankfulness that the Reformed Church Hukanui was instituted since the previous Synod 2002.

112. National Diaconate (Cont., R15)

Rev. D. van Garderen continued the presentation of Report 15.

Synod decided

To recognise the need for occasional field visits by a representative of the NDC. For its part, the NDC will continue to keep its total expense including travel during the inter-synodical period as low as possible; under no circumstances will expenses be permitted to exceed 5% of income.

113. Bible Versions (O16)

Rev. C. Kavanagh presented Overture 16 concerning a study of the ESV and the NKJV of Scripture for possible use as a pulpit Bible in the RCNZ.

Synod decided

That two other Bible versions be considered for pulpit use in our churches by the committee to study Bible Versions along with the NIV and NASB versions, namely the English Standard Version and the New King James Version.

114. Continuing Education for Ministers (O7)

Rev. J. ter Horst presented Overture 7 concerning continuing education for ministers.

The following was defeated: That Synod appoint a committee to review the ongoing training, education and related needs of our ministers in all aspects of their calling, and to recommend the most effective methods of meeting those needs.

115. Home Missions (R7)

Rev. H. Vaatstra presented this report.

Synod decided

To receive the report.

116. Long Service Leave (O4)

Synod decided

1. *To reconsider Overture 4.*

2. *To rescind all motions previously passed regarding Overture 4, (cf. Art. 26).*
3. *To replace Section B of the Rules for Long Service Leave in their entirety with the following provisions:*
 1. *Every minister is entitled to leave, in addition to annual leave, after five years of qualifying service.*
 2. *The length of leave that may be taken is one sixtieth of the total length of the period of qualifying service, minus the number of days of leave previously taken. Over a fifteen year period, this equates to thirteen weeks' leave.*
 3. *Leave is granted for the purpose of recuperation and a total of thirteen weeks' leave must be taken every fifteen years of qualifying service unless there are strong reasons for delaying the taking of leave. Payment in lieu of leave will not be granted.*
 4. *The period of qualifying service means the period or periods served:*
 - a) *as a minister in one of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand; and,*
 - b) *as a minister overseas on behalf of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.*

Any agreement between a sister church and the Reformed Churches of the New Zealand with respect to leave shall be taken into account in determining the period of qualifying service.
 5. *Any leave is subject to the approval of Session.*
 6. *Ordinarily a period of at least five years must elapse between the commencement of one period of leave and the next period of leave.*
 7. *Every minister on leave is entitled to the same remuneration and benefits ordinarily enjoyed by him, and shall also be paid an allowance from the Fund equal to 0.35% of the annual minimum stipend (as set each year by the Church Extension Committee) per week of leave taken.*
2. *To request the Long Service Leave Committee:*
 - a) *to review the rules and financial arrangements of the Long Service Leave Fund taking into account:*
 - i) *The changes made by Synod 2005 to the Rules for Long Service Leave;*
 - ii) *Overture 14 from the North Shore Reformed Church; and,*
 - iii) *The existing entitlements of ministers to long service leave, and our agreement with the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia.*
 - b) *to consult with the churches to ascertain their views regarding long service leave.*
 - c) *to report to the next synod with recommendations.*

117. Long Service Leave (Cont., R6)

Mr. W. Weeda continued presenting Report 6.

Synod decided

To receive this report.

118. Contact with Grace Presbyterian Church (O2)

Rev. G. Milne present Overture 2 regarding contact with the Grace Presbyterian Church.

Synod decided

1. *That the Interchurch Relations Committee have meetings with the Grace Presbyterian Church to investigate how the Grace Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Churches of New Zealand can seek closer bonds,*
2. *That the Interchurch Relations Committee report to the sessions and synodical standing committees outcomes of its meetings with the Grace Presbyterian Church during the intersynodical period.*

Minutes

119. Updating Forms (R2)

Rev. J. Rogers presented the portion of Report 2 regarding updating the Liturgical Forms.

Synod decided

To approve the revision of the forms presented by the committee for provisional use.

120. Updating Forms (O6)

Rev. J. Ter Horst presented Overture 6 regarding updating the range of liturgical forms.

Synod decided

To appoint a committee to update the range of Liturgical Forms available for use in worship services.

The following was defeated: That in the interim Synod give approval for the use of the Liturgical Forms in use by the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia.

121. Third Baptismal Form (O10)

The following was defeated: That the form, "Baptism of Children – Form 3", in the book of *Forms & Confessions of the RCNZ*, be deleted.

122. Updating Confessions (Cont., R2)

Rev. J. Haverland presented the portion of Report 2 regarding updating the Confessions.

123. Closing of the Morning Session

Mr. F. Braam read Psalm 71. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #131:1,3,5.

124. Opening of the Afternoon Session

Rev. D. van Garderen read Matt 25:31-46. After leading in prayer, he called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #231.

125. Updating Confessions (Cont., R2)

Rev. J. Rogers continued presenting the portion of Report 2 regarding updating the confessions.

Synod decided

- 1. That Synod reappoint the committee and charge it to continue its study of the CanRC translations of the Belgic Confession and Canons of Dort, interacting with the churches and the CanRC and bring final recommendations to the next Synod.*
- 2. That our churches continue to use our current edition of the Westminster Confession of Faith.*

The following was defeated: That the synod re-appoint this committee to revise the punctuation of our current edition of the WCF with a view to presenting a more readable and readily understood version of the confession and that this be done in consultation with our sister churches who use the WCF (i.e. OPC and PCEA).

Synod decided

- 3. That committee continue to search out and to evaluate updated versions of the WCF, in consultation with our sister churches.*

126. Abortion (O1, O9)

Mr R. van Wichen presented the advisory committee's report on the matter of abortion.

Synod decided

1. *That the earlier decision regarding Overture 1 be rescinded, and the record of that decision and the protests lodged as a result be expunged from the minutes.*
2. *To endorse the following statement:*
Since human life begins at conception, wilful abortion is contrary to the sixth commandment, the only possible exception being cases where the life of the mother is in jeopardy, and every reasonable effort has been made to save the life of her unborn child.
3. *That the present understanding of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand is that conception takes place at fertilisation.*
4. *That a study committee be appointed and mandated to study the following questions:*
 - a) *What is conception and when does it occur?*
 - b) *Does the 'morning after' pill, and other emergency 'contraception' prevent conception and/or act as an abortifacient?*
 - c) *Are there steps that may legitimately be taken to prevent conception after rape?*

The study committee shall seek advice from medical doctors in our denomination, and where necessary or desirable, also seek advice from others having expertise with respect to these issues.

The moderator asked Rev. R. Noppers to lead in a prayer of thanksgiving for the unanimous decision just made. He called the delegates to sing Psalter Hymnal #193.

127. OMB (R18)

Synod decided

To set the OMB quota at \$50,000 p.a. for the intersynodical period.

128. Long Service Leave (Cont., R6)

Synod decided

1. *To maintain the current payments for long service leave.*
2. *To set the annual quota at \$320 per minister.*

129. Committee Appointments

Synod decided to make the following committee appointments

Standing Committee Appointments

Church Extension Committee

R de Vries (c), G Reinders, A Louman, Jeremy Bosma

Church Order Committee

P van der Wel (c), R Voschezang, DJ van Garderen, J ter Horst (Liaison: L deVos, P Kloosterman)

Emeritus Fund Committee & Long Service Leave Fund Committee

H Klinkhamer (c), W Weeda (r), M Leenders, C Young, W. van den Engel
(Advisors: I van Woerden, J Kamphuis)

Home Missions Committee

H Vaatstra (c), J Klazinga, R Adams, J Zuidema

Minutes

Education Resource Committee

R Vanderpyl (c), J Klazinga, V Chapman, Mrs S Davey

Inter-Church Relations Committee

B Hoyt (c), J Klazinga, DJ van Garderen, M Flinn

Overseas Mission Board

J Koolaard (c), D Cressy, J Goris, J Kloeg (sec), J Lion-Cachet, A Meister
(Pby liaisons: DJ van Garderen, H Vaatstra)

National Diaconate

C Larsen (c), DJ van Garderen, J Ploeg, G Posthuma, A Ruijne, C van Tonder

National Publications

L van Vliet (c), S Bajema (ed), J Holtslag (treas), M van der Zwaag, N Wharekawa
(+Liaisons appointed by Akld and Chch Pbys)
FinF Editorial Advisory Committee: P Archbald, DJ van Garderen, H Vaatstra

Political Contacts Committee

E Rademaker (c), J Haakma, H de Jonge, M Munroe

RTC and Student Assistance Committee

L & A Amersfoort, P Davey

Study Committee Appointments

Committee to Update Forms and Confessions

J Haverland (c), P Archbald, P Kloosterman, Mrs S Davey (C'tee to co-opt as needed)

Psalm & Hymnody Selection Committee

J Rogers, L Brooks, Berwyn Hoyt, A Benfell, J Goris (Advisor: R Newton)

Bible Version Study Committee

R Noppers (c), L DeVos, R Vosslander, J Lion-Cachet

Abortion Study Committee

R Van Wichen (c), Dr. R Van Dalen, Dr. O Meyer, (Liaison: P Kloosterman)

Other Appointments

Stated Clerk

B Hoyt

Synodical Treasurer

R Vanderpyl

Deputies to the RTC

J Haverland, M Flinn (alt. J Rogers)

Synodical Archivist

R Nugteren

Year Book Editor

Mrs Jolanda Nugteren

Synodical Liaison to Calvinist Cadet Corps

R Noppers

Delegates

CRCA: R Noppers, B Hoyt

GKSA: J Rogers

Other appointments to be made by the IRC c'tee

130. Approval of Synodical Budget*Synod approved the following budget for the three years ending 31 March 2008*

	Year ended 31-Mar-06	Year ended 31-Mar-07	Year ended 31-Mar-08
Archivist	500	500	500
Cadets & Calvinettes	350	350	350
CRCA Synod	2,000		
Deacons Conference			4,700
GKN Synod	3,500		
Internet Services	650	650	650
ICRC Acts of Synod	500		
IRC C'tee	800	800	800
Lampstand	500	500	500
Ministers and Wives Conf.		7,000	
Office Bearers' Handbook		1,200	
PCEA Synod	1,500		
Political Contacts	170	170	170
RTC Deputies	2,500	2,500	2,500
Stated Clerk	1,700	1,700	1,700
Study Committees	1,000	1,000	1,000
Subscriptions	200	200	200
OPC Synod		2,000	
Synod 2005	20,000		
Synodical Examiners	2,000	2,000	2,000
Synodical Treasurer	150	150	150
GKSA Synod	3,500		
Totals	41,520	20,720	15,220
Opening balance			30,000
Quota - total for 3 years @ \$20,820 p.a.			62,460
			<u>92,460</u>
Deduct agreed expenditure	2006	41,520	
	2007	20,720	
	2008	15,220	
			<u>77,460</u>
Closing balance			<u>15,000</u>
Other			
OMB	50,000	50,000	50,000
Emeritus	30,450	30,450	30,450

Minutes

RTC	63,000	63,000	63,000
Long Service	6,720	6,720	6,720

131. Approval of Thursday's minutes

The minutes of Thursday's sessions were approved.

132. Approval of Friday's Minutes

Synod decided that the SIC should give final approval of the minutes of Friday's sessions.

133. Vote of Thanks

Synod gave a vote of thanks to the moderamen, and especially the chairman.

134. Letter to the Queen

By common consent Synod approved the letter of loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

135. Convening Church for Synod 2008

Synod agreed that the Wellington Presbytery should decide on a convening church within the Wellington Presbytery for Synod 2008.

136. Closing Remarks by the Moderator

Rev. J. Haverland expressed his appreciation to the delegates for the generally harmonious discussions. He thanked the organising committee and the Hamilton congregation for their hospitality. He then led in a closing prayer of thanksgiving to God. After the synod sang Psalter Hymnal #284, he declared synod closed.