

Overture from the Reformed Church of Hastings

Re: Strained Relationship with the CRCA

The Session of the Reformed Church of Hastings respectfully overtures Synod with the following:

Overture

That Synod convey to the CRCA through the Interchurch Relations Committee that our sister-church relationship is under increasing strain due to their approval of the practice of ordaining women to the office of deacon and the failure of the delegates to CRCA Synod 2006 corporately to uphold our confessional position which forbids the use of images for the purpose of worship.

Grounds

1. We have previously urged to CRCA both through our past delegates to their Synod and through our Interchurch Relations Committee to consider the matter of **ordination** in relation to their decision to ordain women as deacons. If ordination to office is merely a matter of function (as the their CER has indicated), rather than conveying authority, then the authority of all the offices is undermined.
2. To our knowledge the CRCA Synod 2006 did not consider in any of its deliberations the declaration of RCNZ Synod 2005: *“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.”* This indicates to us that they do not value their sister-church relationship with the RCNZ. As a result our relationship is under increasing strain.
3. Lord’s Day 35 is clear and specific in forbidding the use of images for the purpose of worship. So the failure of the delegates to the CRCA Synod 2006 is not merely an oversight but a corporate failure to uphold and defend our confessional position which all office-bearers promise to do when they take office. Our sister-church relationship is based upon mutual commitment to and defense of our confessional position and so this failure places it under increasing strain.

On behalf of Session,



Rev. Bruce Hoyt