

ACTS OF SYNOD

2006



*Free Reformed Churches
of North America*

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**ACTS OF SYNOD
of the
FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

**In Session at Dundas, Ontario
June 5-9, 2006**

Session I: Monday June 5, 2006

ARTICLE 1 - OPENING

Synod is opened with a worship service commencing at 7:30 p.m. Rev. L.J. Bilkes, pastor of the convening church of Dundas leads the service. He preaches from Psalm 110:2: “The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.” His theme is: “Christ’s rule upon His Exaltation. 1. The Pledge of His Rule. 2. The Place of His Rule. 3. The Precept to Show His Rule.”

After the service and a recess for coffee, Rev. Bilkes calls the delegates to order at 9:10 p.m. We sing Psalter 165. He reads Psalm 99 and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 2 – PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

The credentials are presented and found to be in good order. The roll call indicates that the churches are represented by the following delegates:

Abbotsford	Elder K. Noordam	Elder H. Koetsier
Bellevue	Rev. K. Gangar	Elder J. Ming
Bornholm	Rev. D. H. Kranendonk	Elder L. Pol
Brantford	Rev. C. Pronk	Elder W. Schoeman
Chatham	Rev. C.A. Schouls	Elder G. Brink
Chilliwack	Rev. H. Overduin	Elder G. Goosen
Dundas	Rev. L. J. Bilkes	Elder P. Procee
Fenwick	Rev. E. Moerdyk	Elder H. VanDoodewaard
Grand Rapids	Dr. L.W. Bilkes	Elder H. Kleyn
Hamilton	Rev. G.R. Procee	Elder C. Keuning
Lacombe	Elder C. DeGroot	Elder A. VandenHoek
Langley	Rev. J.W. Wüllschleger	
London	Rev. H.A. Bergsma	Elder J. Schinkel
Mitchell	Rev. J. Overduin	Elder H. Vanderkuylen
Monarch	Rev. J. Schoeman	Elder R. Pennings
Pompton Plains	Elder M. Laman	Elder J. VanWyk Jr.
St. George	Elder C. Vandermaarl	Elder B. Brunsveld
St. Thomas	Rev. J. Koopman	Elder A. VanDyk
Toronto	Elder L. Noordegraaf	Deacon R. Fintelman
Vineland	Rev. P. VanderMeyden	Elder B. DeJong

A motion is made:

That Deacon Fintelman be granted the full right of delegate at Synod.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 3 – ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Synod being legally constituted, the officers of Synod are elected by open ballot. The following brothers are elected as officers of synod:

President	Rev. G. R. Procee
Vice-President	Rev. P. VanderMeyden
First Clerk	Rev. J. Schoeman
Second Clerk	Rev. J. Koopman

The executive is seated and Rev. G. R. Procee thanks the delegates on behalf of the executive for the confidence expressed through the voting. He thanks Rev. L.J. Bilkes for leading the worship service and focusing on the kingship of Christ Jesus over His church. He also thanks the consistory of Dundas for preparing for the meeting as convening church and for making the various hosting arrangements.

ARTICLE 4 - AGREEMENT WITH THE THREE FORMS OF UNITY

Rev. Procee reads the Public Declaration of Agreement and the delegates stand to express their agreement.

After the brothers sing Psalter 199, he leads in a closing prayer. At 10:20 p.m., the meeting stands adjourned till 8 a.m.

SESSION II: TUESDAY JUNE 6, 2006

At 8:00 a.m., Rev. Procee calls the meeting to order. The delegates sing Psalter 267. He reads Romans 15:20-32. He focuses on vs. 30 “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.” While we may be sometimes shy to encourage others to pray for us, it is a scriptural injunction that we request prayer for ourselves. Paul urges us not just to pray, but to strive in prayer. The implication is that we must wrestle before the Lord for the needs of the church and those in it. He appeals to “the Lord Jesus Christ” – the king who has all authority – but also to “the love of the Spirit.” This less familiar expression refers not just to the love that the Spirit gives, but also the love that He has. The Spirit is love in that He applies Christ to the heart. Rev. Procee leads in prayer.

He welcomes all present, noting especially the presence of Rev. Greendyk as an observer. He welcomes the delegates from St. George which is represented as an instituted congregation at Synod for the first time. He also welcomes Rev. B. DeGraaf from the CGK in the Netherlands who is attending as a fraternal delegate.

ARTICLE 5 –ROLL CALL

The roll is called with all present, except for Elder Schinkel who is replaced by Deacon T. Bergsma.

A motion is made to accept Deacon Bergsma as a voting delegate.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 6- APPOINTMENTS

The executive recommends the following appointments:

- a. As Advisors to Synod – Rev. G. Hamstra, Dr. G. M. Bilkes,
Rev. H. VanEssen, Rev. L. Roth, Rev. B. De Graaf
- b. As Assistant Clerk – Elder R. Pennings
- c. As Treasurer of Synod – Brother J.D. Tamminga
- d. To prepare the Press Release – Rev. H. Overduin
- e. To prepare a report for *The Messenger*– Rev. D.H. Kranendonk

A motion is made to accept these appointments.

moved/seconded/carried

The following schedule is recommended for meeting times:

i.	8:00	Opening
ii.	10:30	coffee
iii.	12:30	lunch
iv.	1:30	afternoon
v.	3:30	coffee
vi.	5:30	dinner
vii.	6:30	evening
viii.	9:00	adjourn

ARTICLE 7 - ADOPTION OF PUBLIC ACTS

A motion is made:

To adopt the 2005 Acts of Synod as published.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 8 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion is made:

To adopt the agenda as presented.

Some discussion is held regarding the cumulative impact of the quotas and how best to discuss them. Various churches have done some work in advance of synod and a motion is made:

To table the documents prepared by Rev. J. Koopman and Elder C. Keuning on the cumulative impact of quotas as a resource for delegates.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 9 – EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Rev. L. Roth reports on behalf of the committee. He highlights the responses to the Banner of Truth radio program, especially those that originate from Africa. He also reminds consistories of the opportunities that are present of the opportunities to have sermons placed on the sermonaudio website and the significant exposure that is created through this means.

A discussion is held in which the following major points are made:

- Why the increase in the amount of stipend? There has been no increase for many years.
- Is there a target date for Rev. Gangar to be able to give messages in Punjabi? This will require him to gain a greater facility with the language than he has at present. Also, there are not enough suitable materials to give to people in the Punjabi language

- Why keep the quota to \$10 when there is a substantial balance? This is due to the fact that previous Synods have instructed the committee to be proactive in adding stations. In addition, even with the quota at \$10, the committee is operating in a deficit situation.
- The committee encouraged the churches to consider doing their own local radio broadcast as the computer technology is readily available and relatively inexpensive. Perhaps there could be some financial assistance involved in this.
- The committee discussed the possibility of merging with the Home Missions Committee as there is considerable overlap between work of these two committees. The Evangelism Committee, however, felt that they would like to remain separate in light of their international focus.
- The committee also considered moving the radio broadcast to a 30 minute format but has decided to remain with a 15 minute format for now.

The recommendations of the Committee are considered in turn.

1. To retain the Quota level of \$10.00 per year for 2007.
Motion to amend to \$8.

moved/seconded/carried

The motion is carried as amended.

2. To re-appoint Br. J. Koopman for another three year term to 2009 since he has completed one full term.

moved/seconded/carried

3. To approve the actions of the committee.

moved/seconded/carried

The Committee is thanked for its work.

ARTICLE 10 – EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Elder C. Keuning presents the committee's report. Apart from various items of clarification, the following major points of discussion are made:

- Why is the committee recommending sending four delegates to the NAPARC meeting in Quebec? Reason: The location is within driving distance, thereby cutting down travelling costs. Also, the committee has also asked the delegation to establish contact with the Reformed Church in Quebec and to visit their seminary, Institut Farel.
- The committee noted in its report that no contact was made with the OPC,

Cdn Ref, PRC, Free Church Continuing and URC. Has the committee abandoned contact with these churches? No. Regarding the OPC: we have no formal ecclesiastical fellowship with the OPC. We do however, meet with their delegates at NAPARC/ICRC. Re: Cdn Ref: The subcommittee recommended slowing down the contacts with this denomination, especially in light of their impending merger with the URC. Re: Free Church Continuing: Rev. Pronk attended their recent synod on behalf of our churches. We would like to have more contact, but distance is a factor. Contact is being made with the OCRC, but as they do not have an external relations committee, arranging contact can be difficult. Re: The Presbyterian Reformed Church: they hope to attend our synod next year. Re: URC: Two attempts were made to get together but due to scheduling conflicts, neither of these meetings materialized. Also, the committee feels it would be better to see what materializes with their relationship with the Canadian Reformed Churches. .

- Re: the Springford and Providence RCA: They have invited several of our ministers to preach for them. Some of our ministers have taught Catechism classes as well. The committee anticipates being able to present a more concrete proposal at next year's synod.
- The observation was made that we seem to be accelerating contact with some churches and slowing down contact with others. Is there a reason for this? There is no conscious reason although it is only natural the more unity we experience with a denomination, the faster our contact will develop.
- Re: Offering Limited Correspondence to the HRC. It was noted that the HRC still has not responded to the Statement of Doctrinal Agreement that was distributed to our consistories several years ago. Should we not wait until they have responded? It was mentioned that last October this statement was on the agenda of the HRC Classis. They did do some fine-tuning on the Statement, but not all of their consistories have responded to it. Some delegates highlight the concern about making acceptance of the Statement a condition of extending Limited Correspondence. In working on this statement, the committee is simply doing the work that Synod has asked it to do and having joint statements is not a condition of entering into Limited Correspondence.
- Some expressed concern that the local churches do not know the HRC churches well enough to proceed to Limited Correspondence. The committee is moving too quickly. We should keep in mind the lessons of 1892. A suggestion was made to make the Statement of Doctrinal Agreement public. In response, it was mentioned that extending Limited Correspondence would only assist the churches in getting to know these churches better as it means all of their ministers will be permitted to preach on our pulpits without having to undergo a colloquium doctum. It was stressed that Limited

Correspondence does not mean merger. That is not being discussed at this time.

- A question was asked why the request from Abbotsford to call Rev. Greendyk was deferred for one year whereas the request to call Rev. Lewis was accepted. This is mainly because of the difficulties which Rev. Greendyk experienced in his former congregation.

Rev. B. DeGraaf asked a question regarding a comment made in the committee's report to the effect that "we continue to have concerns about developments in the CGK." The question was asked: "What are these concerns?" The secretary mentioned the following:

1. Ongoing discussions at a broader ecclesiastical assemblies of the issue of homosexuality;
2. A tendency for some churches to ignore decisions of synod;
3. A growing departure from Reformed principles of worship – especially the toleration of the singing of hymns and praise and worship songs in the worship service;
4. The direction of the Theological Seminary in Apeldoorn. It is felt that the seminary is becoming less concerned about the training of ministers of the gospel and more interested in the training of theologians. The seminary must maintain a balance between knowledge and piety.
5. Too close contact with the Geref. Kerken – Virjgemaakt (Liberated Reformed Churches)

The recommendations of the Committee are considered in turn.

1. To approve the list of non-FRC ministers granted permission to preach on our pulpits for one year;
moved/seconded/carried
2. To offer Limited Correspondence to the Heritage Reformed Congregations, and to encourage more contact at the local level with these churches;

A discussion is held regarding the work that needs to be done in order to build a broader awareness and appreciation for what we share with the HRC, not by the committee but by the churches.

We adjourn for coffee.

A motion is made to table consideration of this recommendation until Synod 2007.

moved/seconded/carried

3. To approve ongoing efforts towards the development of a special relationship with the Springford and Grand Rapids (Providence) RCA congregations, including a standing invitation to our Elders and Deacons conferences;

moved/seconded/carried

4. To approve the sending of the Revs. Moerdyk, Procee, Pronk and Roth as delegates to the November 2006 NAPARC meeting in Laval, Quebec;

moved/seconded/carried

5. To approve the re-appointment of Rev. E. Moerdyk, Rev. G.R. Procee and Elder E. Laman for a three year term; to approve the re-appointment of Rev. J. W. Wullschleger and Elder C. Keuning for a two year term; to approve the appointment of Rev. H. Bergsma for a three year term to succeed Dr. L.W. Bilkes; to approve the appointment of Elder D. Tamminga as an alternate member for a one year term to succeed Elder C. VanDoodewaard;

moved/seconded/carried

6. To approve the creation of the position of a second alternate member; and to approve the appointment of Rev. L.J. Bilkes as the second alternate member for a three year term;

moved/seconded/carried

7. To appoint a new committee to represent our churches to governments, with the additional task to monitor and advise on legal and ethical issues affecting our churches in close cooperation with our local congregations as well as churches with whom we have or seek to have a formal relationship;

moved/seconded/carried

8. To grant Rev. J. Greendyk a license to preach in Abbotsford for one year;

moved/seconded/carried

9. To encourage the churches to invite Rev. Greendyk and Rev. Lewis

upon approval of Rev. Lewis' colloquim doctum to preach on their pulpits;

moved/seconded/carried

10. To approve the actions of this committee.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 11 – FRATERNAL GREETINGS

Rev. De Graaf gave greetings on behalf of the CGK with whom we have a relationship of complete correspondence. He mentioned how important it is to maintain contact with each other. One way to do this is to visit each other's synods. Another way is to preach in each other's churches. He encouraged especially the young ministers to develop their facility in the Dutch language so that this could continue to be possible.

Rev. De Graaf noted with appreciation the meeting that took place between FRCNA and CGK delegates at the ICRC Conference in South Africa. He informed us that the CGK is wrestling with the issue of homosexuality as a result of the publication of a book by Dr. Loonstra, a book that has since been withdrawn from circulation. Currently the matter has been referred to the general synod. He mentions that the influence of evangelicalism is being felt in the churches. There is an unbalanced view of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in particular the gift of prophecy.

Recently a new Dutch translation of the Bible has been published by the joint Catholic-Protestant Bible Society which was immediately approved for use by the Liberated Churches. A separate organization is working on a low-grade revision of the Staten Vertalling. A new denomination, the Restored Reformed Church, with approximately 80,000 members has been formed. This denomination is still developing and although there are some contacts with these churches, it is still too early to know how these developments will unfold.

Rev. Procee responds. He notes some of the differences between the CGK that lives in the mainstream of Dutch society whereas in the FRCNA, we still live in somewhat a subculture of North American society. In both situations, however, we are exposed to the influences of society. There are good opportunities that interaction with society presents, but also the dangers of sinful influences. He notes the challenges faced by both denominations, also in reacting to other theological influences to which we are exposed. He appreciatively notes the warm contact and openness that characterizes the relationship between the CGK and the FRCNA.

ARTICLE 12 – OUTREACH TO PUNJABI- SPEAKING PEOPLE

Following on the discussion that followed consideration of the Evangelism Committee report, a motion is tabled:

Synod ,

having heard the discussion resulting from the Radio Evangelism/ Radio Mission regarding the difficulties of Rev. K. Gangar in pursuing a mission to the Punjabi-speaking people both at home and abroad; and

Having taking note of point 8 pg 53 in the FRCMI report that Rev. Gangar will not be pursuing work in India for the time being “because of responsibilities in his own congregation and the promising Gospel work in His home area;” and

Being aware of the great need of the Punjabi people at home and abroad to hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and being aware also that the task is complex, heavy and time consuming

Being further aware that Rev J. Gangar of the URC, a brother of Rev. K. Gangar is similarly burdened,

Instructs

1. the Evangelism, Home Missions, and Foreign Missions committees to consult with Rev. K. Gangar and the Bellevue consistory to actualize some form of mission to Punjabi-speaking people at home and abroad;
2. to instruct the Home Missions committee to take up contact with Rev. J. Gangar, in consultation with Rev. K Gangar, for the same reasons;
3. to instruct each committee to report the status of these discussions in their separate reports to synod 2007.

moved/seconded/carried

Rev. VanderMeyden leads in prayer and the meeting adjourns for lunch. At 1:30 p.m., the meeting reconvenes with the singing of Psalter 381:1,4. Elder P Procee reads Hebrews 4 and leads in prayer.

Elder Allan DeVries is present in place of Elder Wayne Schoeman. He rises to express his agreement with the Three Forms of Unity.

ARTICLE 13 – HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Roth presents the report on behalf of the committee. He expresses appreciation on behalf of the Calgary church plant for the pulpit supply and financial support that has been provided. Rev. Schoeman provides further background on the work in Calgary, noting that there is an average attendance of 25-30. During the first five months of 2006, 74 local and 120 out-of-town visits have been recorded at the worship services, many of which are in response to the radio broadcast. There is a hunger for the word and an interest in the church for which we are thankful.

A discussion is held in which the following major points are made.

- Clarification is sought regarding the proposal for an evangelist. It is foreseen that the evangelist will do a lot of follow-up work with visitors and others who might have an interest in joining. He would concentrate on a teaching ministry with those who do not have Reformed backgrounds, and do some preaching.
- There are concerns expressed regarding the accuracy of accounts receivable noted in the financial statement note 6. The treasurer of the committee is asked to review this.
- Some delegates suggest that rather than the variable quota proposal, the support of an evangelist should be supported through voluntary collections in the same way as are foreign missions and theological education.

The committee's recommendations are considered in turn.

- a. To leave the Home Mission quota at \$1.00 per member in view of financial commitments made to the Calgary home mission station with the understanding that it will have to be raised to \$10.00 per member if they receive a full time evangelist.

A motion is made to table this until later in the meeting.

- b. To renew Revs. K. Gangar and J. Schoeman's term for another 3 years since they have served three and one term respectively. To accept Br. P. Rienstra's resignation from this committee due to relocation to Alberta and therefore to appoint Br. R. Pennings to a term expiring 2009. Also, we wish to add Rev. P. VanderMeyden to our Committee. We thank Br. Rienstra for his labours.

The Vineland consistory notes its concern that Rev. VanderMeyden not be appointed to this committee. A motion is made:

To appoint Rev. J. Overduin as a member of committee for a term expiring 2009.
moved/seconded/carried

The main motion is passed as amended.

c. To approve the actions of the Home Missions Committee.
moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 14 – EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Executive of External Relations submits a proposal for the examination of Rev. Lewis.

1. That a thorough colloquium doctum be conducted by the chairman of synod and that delegates be given an opportunity to ask additional questions
2. That a full sermon be preached as an additional way for delegates to get a sense for his soundness as a preacher.
3. That upon acceptance by Synod, additional studies be carried out in consultation with the Theological Education Committee, the Lacombe consistory, and Rev. Lewis and
4. That the churches be urged to invite Rev. Lewis to preach.
moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 15 – PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. D. Kranendonk presents on behalf of the Publications Committee. The new publication on Psalmody by Ted Postma has been printed and will be made available during this week of Synod.

A discussion is held in which the following major points are made:

- Re the payment to the editorial coordinator: it is noted that the proposal is for a payment of “up to \$400” per month and is intended as a cap; payment will be made at an hourly rate based on the work that is completed.
- Some delegates indicate a preference for distribution of reading sermons via the website.

The Publications Committee presents the following recommendations to Synod 2006:

1. To appoint Br. Ray Pennings as assistant to the first and second clerks of Synod 2006;

Already dealt with.

2. To accept the appended Classis Proposal as fulfillment of the assignment of Synod 2005;

Tabled.

3. To maintain the current subscription price of *The Messenger* (\$25.00/yr for Canada & U.S.A.).

moved/seconded/carried

4. To increase the quota of the Publications Committee from \$4.00 to \$6.00 for 2007;

Motion to amend to \$5

moved/seconded/carried

5. To approve the financial report for 2005 and budget for 2007 of the Publications committee;

moved/seconded/carried

It is noted that there is no note of auditing in the financial statements. Since the committee representatives cannot confirm that the books have been audited, they are asked to follow up and report to next year's synod.

6. To ratify the appointment of Rev. C. Pronk as Editor, and Rev. C. A. Schouls as assistant Editor of *The Messenger* and ex officio member of the committee.

moved/seconded/carried

7. To appoint Br. Henk Kleyn as a new-publications coordinator and an ex officio member of the committee for a 3 year term ending 2009;

moved/seconded/carried

8. To appoint Br. Hans VanDoodewaard as a member for a three year term ending in 2009;

moved/seconded/carried

9. To appoint Rev. C. Pronk as a member for a three year term ending 2009;

moved/seconded/carried

10. To reappoint Rev. J. W. Wullschleger for a three year term ending 2009;

moved/seconded/carried

11. To reappoint Rev. J. Koopman for a one year term ending 2007; To appoint Rev. J. Overduin for a three year term ending 2009.

moved/seconded/carried

12. To remind our pastors of the standing commitment to submit at least two reading sermons per year to the Committee for publication;

Taken for information

ARTICLE 16 - CLASSIS PROPOSAL

Rev VanderMeyden presents the proposal. A discussion is held in which various perspectives are presented regarding the wisdom of proceeding with this proposal. It is clarified that this is an ecclesiastical body with authority and that matters that can be dealt with and concluded at a minor assembly should not be tabled at the major assembly as per Article 30 of the Church Order. As for the process by which highlights from the local churches will make it to the agenda of the synod, it is agreed submissions to Synod must still come directly from local churches and not from the combined consistory meetings.

The recommendation of the committee is considered:

To accept the appended Classis Proposal as fulfillment of the assignment of Synod 2005;

moved/seconded/carried

Rev. L. J. Bilkes and Elder P. Procee ask that their negative vote be recorded.

The final recommendation of the Publications Committee is considered:

To approve the actions of the Publications Committee.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 17 – REFUGEE COMMITTEE

Rev. Wullschleger reports on behalf of Refugee committee. A significant discussion follows focusing on the proposed quota for the committee, its mandate, and whether as churches we should take on this work as proposed. Rev.

Wullschleger responds by reminding Synod of the decisions of Synod 2005 in which the various options were presented and Synod consciously decided that this work was one that properly belonged to the churches. He acknowledges that the Committee may not have communicated its work as effectively as it should have, perhaps thereby contributing to some of the confusion regarding this committee's role and mandate.

The matter is tabled until later in the meeting.

ARTICLE 18 – THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rev. Procee reports on behalf of the committee. A discussion and various points of clarification are provided. It is noted that the PRTS updates will be distributed directly to the churches rather than as *Messenger* inserts.

Dr. G. M. Bilkes is invited to address the meeting. He brings greetings from the seminary. He notes with thanksgiving that the State of Michigan has granted the right to PRTS to grant three degrees: M. Div., M.A. R., and Th. M. The Th. M. program is being developed and will start soon, with a focus on delivery through modular courses. He also notes the seminary is setting up a Scholarship Fund to assist in the funding of international students. He expresses appreciation to the denomination for the support offered to the seminary, both directly and indirectly, and asks for our continued prayerful support.

The first recommendation of the committee is considered:

1. Conduct an examination of student J. Keuning as per the exam schedule laid out in the report and upon good result declare him eligible for call in the FRCNA

moved/seconded/carried

A motion is made to go into Executive Session.

ARTICLE 19 – EXECUTIVE SESSION I

Various matters relating to the Theological Education Committee are discussed in executive session.

At 5:30 we adjourn for supper. Elder Hans VanDoodewaard leads in prayer.

We reconvene at 6:30. After singing 375:1,2. Rev. Moerdyk reads Psalm 147 and leads in prayer. The chairman welcomes Rev. J. Lewis who has joined the meeting. Elder Wayne Schoeman replaces Elder Al DeVries.

ARTICLE 20 – FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Brothers Jim Koopman and Steve Otten are welcomed to present on behalf of the Finance Committee. A lengthy discussion with various presentations takes place regarding the emeritus fund proposal. Given the widely divergent views expressed, it was agreed that Rev. Schouls, Elder Keuning and Elder Noordam meet as an ad-hoc committee with the Finance Committee representatives and present a proposal to Thursday morning's session as to how to proceed on this matter in way that is consistent with Synod 2005's decision of "the principle that

payments from the fund need to be made on an equitable basis and not based on need.”

The various recommendations contained in the Finance Committee Report are considered in turn.

1. Ministers' Emeritus Fund:

The committee submits for your approval:

- a. The Canadian Consumer Price Index is 2.2% for the year 2005. We propose to increase emeritus payments calendar year 2007 by 2.2% from \$23,972 to \$24,499 for emeritus ministers and from \$19,179 to \$19,601 for ministers' widows. All payments are made in Canadian dollars.

moved/seconded/carried

- b. To increase the assessment for 2007 from \$12 per member to \$18.

A motion is made to amend the amount to \$12 (leave the amount at its present level.)

moved/seconded/carried

- c. To have Emeritus payments reduced to emeritus pastors who enter into an employment relationship by an amount equal to their employment income.

A motion is made to delete this recommendation. Synod 2001 consciously dealt with this matter (cf Acts 2001 p. 27, Article 33) and overturned a decision of Synod 1977, and the proposal to reintroduce the matter without new grounds being raised not in order.

moved/seconded/carried

- d. Any minister who receives a honourable discharge from service, before receiving emeritus status will receive from the emeritus fund an amount equal to 3% of the current guidelines for each year of service as a pastor in FRCNA to a maximum of 100%, beginning at age 65.

A motion is made to refer this matter back to committee.

moved/seconded/carried

- e. To approve the attached financial statements for the calendar year 2005.

moved/seconded/carried

2. Ministers' Salary Guidelines:

The committee submits for your approval:

- a. The Canadian Consumer Price Index for they year 2005 is 2.2% and the American Consumer Price Index is 3.4%. We recommend that the salaries increase by 2.2% for Canadian ministers and by 3.4% for American ministers for the calendar year 2007. We therefore request approval to increase the basic salaries for ministers effective January 1, 2007 as follows:

Canadian ministers from CDN \$35,959 to CDN \$36,750

American ministers from US \$33,974 to US \$35,129

moved/seconded/carried

3. Pulpit Supply and Catechism Supply:

The remuneration for pulpit supply effective January 1, 2006 is \$125 per service plus synodically approved travel allowance.

The remuneration for Catechism supply effective January 1, 2006 is \$75 per hour plus synodically approved travel allowance.

This is received for information as no changes are being recommended.

4. Needy Churches Fund:

The committee submits for your discussion and approval:

- a. That a church receiving funding from the Needy Churches Fund be relieved from the assessment charge for Needy churches.

moved/seconded/carried

- b. To increase the assessment from \$12 per member to \$18 for the 2006 and 2007 year.

This matter is tabled pending the resolution of the other motions regarding Needy Churches.

- c. To approve the financial statements for the year 2005.

moved/seconded/carried

- d. To discuss the request from the Bellevue and Lacombe congregations and also consider the possible requests for the 2007 year.

A Pre-Advice Committee consisting of Elders Wayne Schoeman, Mike Laman, and Arie Vandyk are appointed to review these requests and report back to Thursday morning's session.

5. Widows of Pastors and Orphans of Pastors

The Committee reminds Synod of the decisions approved at Synod 2001:

- a. In addition to the spouse receiving the emeritus payments for widows, the family shall also receive 45% of the widows emeritus payments for the first child, 35% for the second child, and the balance for the other children. The total remuneration provided to the family of a deceased pastor shall not exceed the minimum salary guidelines, as set by Synod each year.
- b. In the event that both parents were deceased, it is the committee's view that the children should be provided for until each child reaches the age of eighteen or age twenty-one if he/she is a full-time student.

The family shall receive 45% of the minimum salary guidelines for the first child, 35% for the second child and the balance for the other children. The total remuneration to the family of the deceased pastor and his wife shall not exceed the total minimum salary guidelines, as set by Synod each year.

- c. That all orphaned disabled children over the age of eighteen receive an amount not greater than the minister's widows emeritus payment. The total payment will be reduced by other disability payments that may be received by the disabled person. Payment will be made on a need basis and requires recommendation by the local consistory.
- d. That all spousal and children payments cease if the spouse of a deceased pastor is remarried.

6. Investment and lending guidelines

The current lending guidelines are as follows:

- a. No more than 20% of the emeritus fund may be lent out to any church.
- b. Qualifying applicants are members' churches, and / or mission posts.
Lending committee to be comprised of a quorum of the finance committee.
- c. Rates to be set based on Market prime lending rates
- d. Mortgage security to be comprised of land and buildings owned by the borrower.

The current investing guidelines are as follows:

- a. Investments with banks with guaranteed rates of return.
- b. Investments with Christian organizations such as Christian Stewardship Services (www.csservices.ca) or Christian Retirement Homes with guaranteed rates of return.

This is received for information as no changes are proposed.

The Finance Committee Representatives are thanked for their time and work, and the balance of the report will be dealt with upon receiving the advice of the committees appointed.

ARTICLE 20 – THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. A general discussion regarding the Theological Education Committee report continues after which the remaining recommendations are considered in turn.

2. Approve the acceptance of the brothers Derek Baars, Timothy Bergsma, and Greg Slingerland as students for the ministry in the FRCNA.

In view of the correspondence received from Brother Slingerland which was dealt with in Executive Session II, the committee amends its recommendation by adding:

In light of the withdrawal of his application, the name of Greg Slingerland is deleted from this recommendation.

moved/seconded/carried

3. Encourage the churches to continue to support the matter of theological education by means of prayer and offerings. The individual congregations are requested to contribute \$30 per member to the Free Reformed Seminary Fund.

moved/seconded/carried

4. Approve Report Treasurer Seminary Fund for 2005.

moved/seconded/carried

5. In answer to the St. Thomas Overture, Synod adopt the following proposal:

Considering our commitment to the principle of *pietas cum scientia* (“piety with knowledge”) and the principle of the training ministers “by the church, for the church;” and also considering:

- The comparatively high quality of instruction at PRTS;
- The comparatively greater number of credit hours devoted to the M.Div. degree proper;
- The amount of Free Reformed contribution made to the education of our students;
- The ability of our committee to monitor more closely the academic, spiritual and moral development of our students;
- The ability of our students to be involved in the worship, church life and ministry of a local Free Reformed congregation;

That Synod confirm its choice of PRTS as the seminary by which Free Reformed students for the ministry will be trained.

moved/seconded/carried

6. Adopt the proposed *Messenger* announcement for students of the ministry as its standard announcement to begin in 2007.

moved/seconded/carried

7. Approve the recommendations for the minister’s Retreat 2006 as outlined in the report.

moved/seconded/carried

8. Mandate the Treasurer of the Synodical Fund to donate \$500 towards the renovation of the Crieff resort.

moved/seconded/carried

A recommendation is inserted:

Following the procedure and decisions established by previous Synods (see Acts 2005, Article 32), the Treasurer is mandated to donate \$20K US on behalf of the FRCNA to the Seminary Operating Fund.

moved/seconded/carried

9. Approve the recommendations for Church Day 2006.

moved/seconded/carried

10. Adopt the policy that elders who are out of office because their term is up be re-appointable to the Theological Education Committee for a one year term only and if after a year they are still not in consistency, that they then will retire as member from the committee.

moved/seconded/carried

11. Re-appoint Revs Bilkes, Overduin, and Procee, and Elder Keuning all for a three year term and elder Wilbrink for a one year term.

moved/seconded/carried

A motion is made:

That the Theological Education Committee take up contact with Dr. Pipa and convey to him the substance of the report that was presented to this body.

moved/seconded/carried

12. Approve the actions of your deputies.

moved/seconded/carried

At 9:00 p.m. the meeting adjourns. We sing Psalter 403:1,3 and Rev. Schoeman closes in prayer.

SESSION III: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2006

At 8:00 a.m. we open by singing Psalter 408. Rev. J. Koopman leads in devotions by reading from Philippians 2:1-11. He notes how Paul repeats the theme, found in various places, that the follower of Christ needs to follow him in the path of humility. Focusing on verse 8, he notes that Jesus humbled himself – he was a willing participant in the plan of redemption. It is one thing to be humbled, it is another to humble ourselves. The text also notes that “he became obedient.” He exhorts the delegates to meditate on the cost of our redemption, the great evil of sin, and the need to learn the lessons of self-denial and increasingly honour Him. Rev. Koopman leads in prayer.

The attendance of Rev. H. VanEssen is noted.

ARTICLE 21 – ROLL CALL

The roll is read. All are present, except for Elder Wayne Schoeman who is replaced by Alternate Delegate Elder Al DeVries.

ARTICLE 22 – EXAMINATION OF STUDENT KEUNING

Student Keuning reads Revelation 3:14-22 and leads in prayer. Student Keuning then preaches his sermon on Revelation 3:20.

Rev. Overduin critiques the sermon and examines Student Keuning in the area of homiletics.

Rev. Wullschleger conducts the examination in Old Testament studies, focusing on Gen 37:1-14 and Psalm 100.

Rev. K. Gangar conducts the examination in New Testament studies, focusing on John 1 and Matthew 1-7.

Rev. P. VanderMeyden conducts the examination in church polity.

The meeting adjourns for coffee.

Rev. C. Pronk conducts the examination in dogmatics.

A motion is made to go into executive session.

ARTICLE 23 – EXECUTIVE SESSION II

Student Keuning is questioned regarding his personal relationship with the Lord and his sense of call to the ministry.

After the examination of Student Keuning is completed, Synod deliberates on the matter of Student Keuning's candidacy for the ministry. The outcome of the vote is that Student Keuning is declared a candidate for the ministry of the gospel in the FRCNA.

ARTICLE 24 – DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Rev. Procee, as chairman of Synod, announces to Candidate Keuning that Synod had the liberty to declare him a candidate for the ministry in the FRCNA. He congratulates him on this moving and solemn occasion and commends him to the Lord with the words of II Timothy 2: 3.

Rev. Procee reads the Formula of Subscription which is signed by Candidate Keuning.

Rev. Procee reads the Letter of Ministerial Credentials, which are signed and presented to Candidate Keuning.

Rev. VanderMeyden, as chairman of the Theological Education Committee, addresses Candidate Keuning. He congratulates him and commends him to the Lord with the words of Psalm 125.

Dr. Bilkes, as pastor of the Grand Rapids congregation, addresses candidate Keuning. He leads in prayer and we sing Psalter 428:2.

An opportunity is provided for all of the delegates to congratulate Candidate and Mrs. Keuning.

We adjourn for lunch. Elder Schoeman returns, replacing Elder DeVries.

After lunch we open with singing. Rev. Schouls reads Psalm 132 and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 25 – EXAMINATION OF REV. LEWIS

Rev. Procee outlines the history of the process that has led to this examination. Rev. Lewis is a pastor of the Associated Presbyterian Church of Scotland in Vancouver. The External Relations committee conducted an examination of Rev. Lewis in March and gave permission to the Lacombe consistory to extend a call. This call needs to be ratified by synod after a colloquium doctum before Rev. Lewis can be installed.

Rev. Lewis leads in prayer and reads Revelation 3.

He preaches a sermon on Revelation 3:20.

Rev. Procee conducts a colloquium doctum with Rev. Lewis and comments on his sermon.

A motion is made to go into executive session.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 26- EXECUTIVE SESSION III

In executive session, Rev. Lewis is questioned regarding his personal relationship with the Lord and his sense of call to the ministry.

After the examination of Rev. Lewis is completed, Synod deliberates on the matter of affirming the call. The outcome of the vote is that Rev. Lewis is declared eligible for installation as a minister of the gospel in the FRCNA.

A further motion is made:

That whereas there are some areas where Rev. Lewis would benefit from further education to better equip him to serve in the FRC, it is recommended that Rev. Lewis take the following courses (or seminars) at the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, in person and/ or through long distance learning, during the next two years:

1. Preaching from the Heidelberg Catechism
2. Secession History and Theology
3. Covenant Theology
4. Reformed Church Polity

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 27 – DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Rev. Procee informs Rev. Lewis that he has been accepted as a minister in the FRCNA. He addresses him with a few appropriate words. He also reads the motion passed by synod recommending that he pursue further studies.

Rev. Lewis responds. He notes how the Lord works in wonderful and mysterious ways. He thanks Synod, the External Relations Committee, and the Lacombe consistory. He expresses his desire to begin labouring in his new congregation as soon as possible.

Rev. Procee reads the Formula of Subscription.

Rev. Lewis signs the Formula of Subscription.

Rev. Bilkes, as chairman of the External Relations committee, addresses Rev. Lewis. He commends him, his wife and family to the Lord.

We sing Psalter 368. Rev. Schoeman leads in prayer.

An opportunity is given for each of the delegates to congratulate Rev. Lewis.

ARTICLE 28 – FRMI

Given that the consideration of this report also constitutes that annual meeting for the Free Reformed Missions International Incorporated, a sign-in sheet is circulated for all delegates to sign as members of the corporation.

Brothers John Brink and Peter Luth are welcomed to present the report on behalf of the committee. They expand on various aspects of the report. A discussion is held in which the following major points are made:

- Regarding the financing of building projects: It is clarified that the mission committee supports the building of individual churches in the aldeas, but there is in place a policy of encouraging the local churches to develop self-sufficiency. However it is noted that it will take some time before these churches will be fully self-sufficient;
- Regarding the radio station: This project presently seems out of reach given our manpower and finances, however possibilities are still being pursued. The funds collected for this project continue to be set aside, and the committee will report on this matter in a future report when their investigations of different ways to achieve this have been exhausted.
- Re succession plan – The committee reports on the commitments made by various of our mission workers and the steps that are being taken to prepare for the possible succession of some.

At 5:30, the meeting adjourns for supper with Elder Keuning leading in prayer. We reconvene at 6:30 with the singing of Psalter 225. Elder Pennings reads Psalm 126 and leads in prayer.

After completing the discussion, the recommendations of the Mission Board are considered in turn.

1. That the re-appointments of G. Postma, Rev. H. Overduin, H. DeWaal and P. Vandersloot, as directors for a three-year term be approved.
moved/seconded/carried
2. That the part-time employment of R. Postma by FRMI as an ex-offi-

cio executive director be ratified.

moved/seconded/carried

3. That the budget for the year 2006 and projection for 2007 be approved.

moved/seconded/carried

4. That the appointments of Mr. Jim Koopman and Mr. Nick Zuidema as auditors for the year 2006 be approved

moved/seconded/carried

5. That the actions of the Mission Board be approved

moved/seconded/carried

A motion is made to adjourn the annual meeting of the FRMI.

moved/seconded/carried

The chairman thanks the Mission Committee representatives and commends them and the work of missions.

ARTICLE 29 – REFUGEE COMMITTEE

The discussion commended at Article 16 continues. The decision and commitments of Synod 2005 are reviewed, in which various of the matters that have been raised by delegates were previously considered. The committee is encouraged to provide regular reports to the churches so that a broader awareness of their mandate and work can be achieved among the churches.

The recommendations of the committee are considered in turn:

1. To approve Mrs. Heddie Driegen as the successor of Ben Van Der Woerd as refugee administrator.

A motion is made to amend this motion to read:

To authorize the committee to appoint a successor to Ben Vanderwoerd within the financial resources that are available to it, preferably from within the FRCNA.

moved/seconded/carried

2. To approve the proposed budget.

This recommendation is withdrawn.

3. To approve a quota of \$ 6 per member.

This motion is amended to read:

To ask the committee to send communication to the churches asking for collections for this cause.

moved/seconded/carried

4. To officially appoint Bert Bos from the Chilliwack FRC as member of the committee for a three year term.

moved/seconded/carried

5. To approve the actions of the committee.

moved/seconded/carried

A motion is made to go into executive session.

ARTICLE 30 – EXECUTIVE SESSION IV

The Article 44 report for Grand Rapids is considered. The letters of appeal from members of the Grand Rapids congregation that have been received are considered.

The following decision is made:

Synod decides that this matter is not legally on the table. The grounds are that the matter has not been completed at the local level in accordance with Art 30 of the Church Order. In making this decision, Synod urges the Grand Rapids consistory and the members of the Grand Rapids congregation to work towards an amicable solution.

The Article 41 and Article 44 reports for Pompton Plains are considered.

The following decision is made:

To ratify actions of the church visitors effecting the separation of Rev. Roth and the Pompton Plains congregation according to Article 11 of the Church Order.

At 9:30 p.m., the meeting adjourns. After the singing of a Psalter selection, the meeting was closed in prayer and adjourned.

SESSION IV: THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2006

At 8:30 a.m., we sing Psalter 372:1,3,5. Rev. Schoeman reads John 16:1-11. He focuses on vs. 8-11 where the work of the Holy Spirit in convincing of sin, righteousness, and judgment is described. He leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 31 – ROLL CALL

The roll is called. Elder A. Pol is present replacing Elder L. Pol. Elder Schinkel replaces Deacon Bergsma.

ARTICLE 32 – NEDDY CHURCHES

Elder VanDyk reports on behalf of the Pre Advice Committee to deal with the Needy Churches report. It is their recommendation that considering the balance sheet, synod should decline the request of Bellevue. The committee recommends supporting the request of Lacombe. It is also recommended that a process be put into place so that the merits of individual applications do not have to be considered by Synod.

A discussion is held in which various points of clarification are provided. The matter is tabled .

ARTICLE 33 – EMERITUS FUND

Brother Jim Koopman is welcomed to the meeting as a Representative of the Finance Committee.

Elder Noordam tables the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee.

To Synod 2006

Esteemed Brothers:

Re: Report from Pre-Advice Committee – Finance Committee (Emeritus Fund)

As requested by Synod, herewith we wish to report on our meeting with Brothers Jim Koopman and Steve Otten of the Finance Committee with respect to the matter of proposals and recommendations for the Emeritus Fund.

As a Pre-Advice Committee we recognize the complexities of changes to the current plan including:

- The number and ages of the participating recipients of the plan
Cross border (US vs. Cdn.) issues of the participants
- Transferring of participants from one jurisdiction to another before maturity of the plan
- Early withdrawals
- Potential tax implications for both Canadian and US participants
- Affordable funding by the churches of the denomination

After informal discussions with the brothers of the Finance Committee, we propose the following in an attempt to arrive at an acceptable solution to recommend to Synod 2007 for consideration:

That Synod appoint this committee to study this matter together with the Finance Committee with special focus on the following two options:

- a. An option maintaining the current Emeritus Fund under an 'equitable' payout system to its beneficiaries.
- b. An option to incorporate a combination of the current Emeritus Fund and a group RRSP/401K pension plan.

Both options will be examined and costed using professionals within our denomination. Also considered will be the information already compiled and provided to Synod 2006 by Pastor C Schouls and the Finance Committee report of 2006. The Ad Hoc Committee, with Pastor C.A. Schouls as convenor, will work closely with the Finance Committee over the next several months to provide input and direction in order that the delegates at Synod 2007 can objectively evaluate the two proposals in order to reach a final conclusion.

Respectfully submitted to the delegates of Synod 2006 by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Finance Committee.

Pastor C.A.Schouls
Elder C. Keuning
Elder K. Noordam

June 7, 2006

After discussion, a motion is made:

That Synod mandate the Ad-Hoc Committee to carry out its work as described.
moved/seconded/carried

A further motion is made:

That this ad-hoc committee also study the matter raised in Point D on pg 20 of the Finance Committee Report (i.e. the level of benefits that should be granted to ministers who receive honourable discharge before receiving emeritus status.)

moved/seconded/carried

The remaining Finance committee recommendations are considered.

The proposal for reappointments is amended:

To re-appoint for a three year term George Brink (Chatham) and John Prol (Pompton Plains) and Bill Laman (Hamilton) ending 2009

moved/seconded/carried

The final recommendation is considered:

That Synod approve the actions of the committee.

moved/seconded/carried

Rev. Procee thanks Jim Koopman and the Finance Committee for the considerable work that they have completed.

A copy of the new publication from the Publications Committee "Psalmody through the Ages" is distributed to delegates. Elder Pennings provides a brief overview of this publication on behalf of the Publications Committee. It is agreed that a letter of appreciation will be sent by the Clerk of Synod to Brother Postma for his work.

The chairman welcomes Brothers Jake Sinke, Don Overbeeke, and Rev. M. Kelderman as visitors to the meeting as they are representing the Heritage Reformed churches.

We adjourn for coffee.

ARTICLE 34 – EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Rev. M. Kelderman addresses Synod on behalf of Heritage Reformed Churches (HRC). He reviews the various areas of involvement between the HRC and FRC, noting with appreciation the warm and open relations that exist between us. He notes that the board of the PRTS has decided to invite a second FRC representative to serve as an advisory member of that board.

He reviews the three stages of correspondence in their denomination, noting that the FRC is at the 2nd level of correspondence. The joint doctrinal statement

between the committees is working through their consideration and approval process. Rev. Kelderman focuses on the importance of continuing to work together, to get know each other more closely so that our appreciation of each other may become an organic reality in our congregations.

Rev. Koopman responds on behalf of the FRC. He reviews the various interactions that our churches have had and the growing mutual understanding that these contacts have cultivated. He advises the HRC delegates of the various decisions made by Synod tangibly expressing appreciation for the HRC-FRC relationship including the various aspects of PRTS involvement and support and the invitation of Dr. Beeke as the speaker at the FRC youth camp in August. He expresses the hope that this contact can continue, especially at a congregational level so that both FRC and HRC congregations can come to learn about each other, encouraging pulpit exchanges as an important part of that process. He concludes with words from Philippians 1 noting the fellowship that there is to be found in the gospel.

ARTICLE 35 – OVERTURE ST. THOMAS RE CHURCH/HOME MISSION STATUS

Rev. Koopman introduces the overture. A short discussion is held after which a motion is made:

That this overture is lawfully on the table.

moved/seconded/carried

A discussion is held in which the primary focus is the wisdom of committing to a rigid interpretation of the Church Order Article 38 and the various specific time-frames and numbers included in the proposed guideline. The matter is tabled.

ARTICLE 36 – EXECUTIVE SESSION V

The Article 44 report for Toronto and Article 41 report for Bellevue are considered.

Elder Kleyn leads in prayer. We adjourn for lunch at 12:30. We reconvene with the singing of Psalter 275:1,2. Elder DeJong reads Isaiah 12 and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 37 – BRANTFORD OVERTURE - EMERITUS STATUS FOR REV. PRONK

Rev. Procee recounts the history of Rev. Pronk's involvement in the denomination using the framework of Psalm 25:12-13, "What man is he that feareth the Lord? Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell

at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.” Rev. Pronk has for many years been “the face of the FRC” in the broader Reformed community. The wish is expressed that the ease spoken of in the Psalm might be granted to Pastor and Mrs. Pronk in their retirement years. This is not the ease of relaxing, but is connected to the “ease” of shalom and a peace that surpasses understanding.

A motion is made:

To adopt the Brantford overture.

moved/seconded/carried

Rev. Procee reads the form for emeritation.

The Synod of the Free Reformed Churches, having seen and considered:

1. the request for emeritation and the reasons adduced therefore, submitted by the Rev. Cornelis Pronk to the consistory of the Free Reformed Church at Brantford;
2. the compliance with the request by the consistory;

considers the request justified and for that reason decides:

1. to grant to the Rev. Pronk emeritus status, effective September 15th, 2006;
2. to grant this emeritus status based on Article 13 due to his age;
3. that according to the ecclesiastical ordinances Rev. Pronk is emeritus minister of the church of Brantford and consequently the responsibility for providing honourably in his need rests with the consistory of this church;
4. to commend the Rev. Pronk to God and the Word of His grace, with sincere thanks for the faithful service performed in our denomination during 38 years, which service shall remain in grateful memory and with the hearty prayer that it may please the Lord to confirm the blessings on that labour in the most honourable way.

Rev. VanderMeyden addresses Rev. Pronk noting especially the mentorship role that Rev. Pronk provided so many of the ministers. There is historical significance in this occasion in that Rev. Pronk is the first North American trained minister who spent his entire ministry in the Free Reformed Churches to receive emeritus status.

Rev. Pronk responds with some personal reflections on the past and the confi-

dence that can be placed in God who has promised, “Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth” (Psalm 45:16).

Rev. VanderMeyden leads in prayer. After the singing of Psalter 329, the delegates are given the opportunity to congratulate Rev. and Mrs. Pronk.

Elder Schoeman addresses Rev. Pronk on behalf of the Brantford congregation and Rev. L.W. Bilkes on behalf of synod.

ARTICLE 38 – ST. THOMAS OVERTURE

Discussion continues regarding the St. Thomas overture (Article 26). After discussion, a motion is made:

Synod,
having heard the discussion concerning the overture of St. Thomas, acknowledges that it has not faithfully followed article 38 of the church order, recognizes that the overture has developed over frustration with this fact, but nevertheless does not want to bind future synods to specific guidelines, renews its commitment to the principles of this article.
moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 39 – THEOLOGICAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Brother J. Tamminga presents the report.

The recommendations of the committee are considered in turn.

1. To leave the assessment for the Theological Student Support Fund for the year 2007 at \$10.00 per member
moved/seconded/carried
2. To approve the financial statement for the year 2005 as presented.
moved/seconded/carried
3. To approve the proposed budget for the year 2007 as presented.
moved/seconded/carried
4. To re-appoint brother John Brink (Hamilton) for another term, and brother John Tamminga as an alternate.
moved/seconded/carried

5. To approve the actions of this committee.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 40 – TREASURERS REPORT

Brother J. Tamminga reports that some unexpected costs will result in a greater deficit than originally anticipated, but one that is still manageable within the proposed quota.

The recommendations are considered in turn.

1. To maintain the annual quota for 2007 at \$12.00 per member.

moved/seconded/carried

2. To approve the attached Financial Statements and actions of the Treasurer of Synod.

moved/seconded/carried

A motion is made:

That Committee meetings be held in the Hamilton area as this is more economical.

moved/seconded/carried

Brother Tamminga is acknowledged and thanked for his faithful and long service as treasurer of Synod.

We adjourn for coffee.

ARTICLE 41 – EXECUTIVE SESSION VI

The Article 41 report for Pompton Plains and the Article 44 report for Dundas are considered.

A decision is made to ask the Hamilton consistory to receive the ministerial credentials of Rev. Roth as “minister released” and to report to Synod regarding this matter through their Article 41 report.

ARTICLE 42 – NEDDY CHURCHES

Rev. Kranendonk reports as Counsellor of Toronto regarding a meeting held with the Toronto consistory following the discussions held regarding the St. Thomas overture and consideration of the report of needy churches. There is concern that assigning Home Mission status to the Toronto congregation would be interpreted as “closing down” and that the consistory would prefer to pursue available

options as a congregation and report to Synod 2007. After discussion, the matter is tabled until Friday afternoon in order to provide for more discussion and preparation time for the Toronto delegates.

At 5:20, Rev. L.J. Bilkes prays for the meal. At 6:00 p.m. we reconvene with the singing of Psalter 352:1, 3. Rev. Procee reads Psalm 124 and leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 43 – PROCEDURE RE EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Ray Pennings reports that at present, there is no policy in place governing the distribution of Executive Session minutes between Synods. Requests received are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, after consultation with the executive of the previous year's synod.

After discussion, a motion is made:

That consistories and church visitors can receive, upon request, copies of those portions of the Executive Session minutes that regard them or are necessary for them to carry out synodical assignments. Such requests should be made to the Assistant Clerk (who retains possession of all synod-related documents until the Acts are approved by a subsequent Synod) or to the Archivist (who has possession of all documents other than those relating to the immediately preceding Synod.)

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 44 – EXECUTIVE SESSION VII

Article 44 reports are considered for Lacombe, Abbotsford, Brantford and Article 41 reports are considered for Bornholm, Chatham, Hamilton, Fenwick and Langley.

ARTICLE 45 – APPROVAL OF CONCEPT MINUTES

Rev. Schoeman reads the Concept Minutes Articles 1- 31 and they are approved.

The meeting is adjourned with singing and prayer at 9:00 p.m.

SESSION V: FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006

At 8:00 a.m., we sing Psalter 422:1, 5. Rev. Bergsma reads Ezekiel 33:1-11. He focuses on vs. 7 where Ezekiel was assigned to be a watchman on the walls of Jerusalem and called to warn God's covenant people. This is a warning filled with gospel, for God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but pleads that the people turn to God by His grace. Rev. Bergsma leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 46 – ROLL CALL

The roll is called. Elder L. Pol is present replacing Elder A. Pol.

ARTICLE 47 – YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Rev. Schoeman reports on behalf of the committee. In response to the committee's request for feedback regarding a paper on Christian Education, Synod encourages the committee to do its work and forward a draft to consistories when they are ready, rather than waiting until their annual report to Synod.

The recommendations of the committee are considered in turn:

1. Appointments:

- i. Due to an oversight in the committee's 2005 report to synod, neither Dick Naves' nor Herman den Hollander's terms, which ended in Spring 2005, were renewed. The committee recommends reappointing them now, with two-year terms ending in 2008. This will be the third term for them both.

moved/seconded/carried

- ii. To reappoint Jerry Benjamins to a third term, ending in 2009.

moved/seconded/carried

- iii. To reappoint Eric De Korte to a second term, ending in 2009.

moved/seconded/carried

2. To approve the reappointment of Kim Hamstra as camp director for one year.

moved/seconded/carried

A note of appreciation will be sent by the clerk of Synod to Brother Hamstra for his work as camp director.

3. To approve the reappointment of Herman den Hollander as the editor of the *Youth Messenger* for one year.

moved/seconded/carried

A discussion follows in which the clerk is asked to send a note of appreciation to Brother den Hollander for his work as editor. The committee is also encouraged to ensure that the articles in the *Youth Messenger* continue to be written with a younger audience in mind.

4. To approve the quota of \$4 per member.

A motion is made to amend the amount to \$3.

moved/seconded/carried

5. To approve the attached financial statements.

moved/seconded/carried

6. To approve the actions of the committee.

moved/seconded/carried

The chairman thanks Rev. Schoeman for and expresses appreciation to the Youth and Education committee for their initiative and for the quality of work that it has undertaken in recent years.

ARTICLE 48 – LEGAL AFFAIRS

Elder Ray Pennings reports on behalf of the committee. In response to questions, it is noted that the committee has investigated doing this work jointly with other churches, but that the timelines involved in making these arrangements would not have enabled the committee to complete its work with the specificity and urgency that had Synod requested of it.

The committee's recommendations are considered in turn.

That Synod approve the work plan of this committee as outlined in this report;

moved/seconded/carried

That Synod approve the distribution plan outlined in this report;

moved/seconded/carried

That Synod appoint Mike Laman (St. George) and Paul Laman (Pompton Plains) to this committee in order to assist it in fulfilling its mandate;

moved/seconded/carried

That Synod approve the actions of this committee.

moved/seconded/carried

The chairman expresses appreciation to Elder Pennings and the committee for their work.

ARTICLE 49 – BRANTFORD OVERTURE RE REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Rev. Pronk introduces the overture that has emerged out of various pastoral concerns. A discussion follows around the question as to how to best utilize the existing resources without burdening either local churches each redoing the research or setting up another committee to take on a potentially wide-ranging and almost impossible task.

Given the overlap between the discussion and matters covered by the Fenwick overture, it is agreed that these two overtures will be considered together.

ARTICLE 50 – FENWICK OVERTURE RE CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING

Rev. Moerdyk presents the Fenwick overture, noting the challenge local churches face in finding qualified specific help to deal with difficult cases. After discussion, it is agreed to table this matter to allow for the drafting of an appropriate motion.

ARTICLE 51 – COORDINATOR SYNODICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Rev. Koopman provides background regarding the correspondence received proposing the appointment of Elder H. Van Doodewaard to replace Brother C. Van Doodewaard as the coordinator of semi-annual committee meetings.

A motion is made:

To accept the recommendation appointing Elder H. Van Doodewaard as coordinator.

moved/seconded/carried

A motion is made proposing the following resolution:

That this synod go on record as wishing to acknowledge the many years of faithful service given to the churches by Brother Chris Van Doodewaard, commending him and his wife to the Lord of all comfort and grace during this most difficult trial in their lives.

moved/seconded/carried

The clerk is instructed to ensure that Brother Van Doodewaard is provided appropriate notice of this resolution in writing.

We adjourn for coffee

ARTICLE 52 – NEEDEY CHURCHES

Following the discussion referenced in Article 43, a budget for Toronto is presented which includes a provision for the calling of a minister. A discussion follows and the matter is tabled.

ARTICLE 53 – BRANTFORD AND FENWICK OVERTURES

A motion is tabled based on the discussion referenced in Articles 50 and 51.

That a Standing Committee Ethical-Public Affairs be formed to assist consistories in dealing with ethical/moral issues. It is mandated:

1. To focus on providing resources to consistories without necessarily developing public positions on these issues;
2. To facilitate the networking of Free Reformed and other Reformed professionals involved in the occupations where these issues might have to be dealt with, so that their expertise can be utilized;
3. To identify individuals who might serve as a resource for consistories to access in order to confidentially seek advice on specific cases.
4. To initiate and promote contact with government.

The committee is asked its' work with a focus on reproductive techniques, life support issues, counselling and sexual matters.

moved/seconded/carried

A motion is made proposing that committee be constituted by Dr. L.W. Bilkes (Convenor, three year term); Jason Keuning (three year term); Dr. G. Kenyon (Mitchell, two year term); Dr. J. Hamstra (Dundas, two year term) and Ray Pennings (Calgary, one year term).

moved/seconded/carried

This motion is considered to constitute Synod's answer to the Brantford and Fenwick overtures and also the request included in the report of the External Relations Committee.

A motion is made to go into Executive Session.

ARTICLE 54 – EXECUTIVE SESSION VIII

Article 44 reports are considered for Monarch, London, Mitchell, St. Thomas and Article 41 reports are considered for Chilliwack, Vineland, and St. George.

Elder Laman closed this session with prayer. We adjourn for lunch. We sing Psalter 172:1,3,4. After lunch, we reopen with the reading of scripture and prayer.

ARTICLE 55 – EXECUTIVE SESSION IX

The Monarch Overture regarding the Preaching Licence of Elder Ray Pennings is considered. The second part of the overture (regarding the extension of this licence to include all of the churches, not just the churches in the west) is withdrawn.

A motion is made:

That Synod permit Brother Pennings to continue to speak an edifying word for as long as brother Pennings is a member in Calgary under the conditions of and taking into consideration the cautions expressed by Synod 2005.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 56 - NEEDEY CHURCHES

Dr. Bilkes reports on a meeting that has been held with the Toronto delegates, their Counsellor, and representatives of the Hamilton consistory. After discussion, the following motion is made:

That Toronto continues to be recognized as a congregation for the upcoming year but that two members of the Hamilton consistory be invited to join the Toronto consistory meetings and that they work in consensus manner with a view to calling minister / home missionary. A detailed plan regarding the work of such a minister/ home missionary is to be developed and is to be approved by the Home Missions Committee before the installation of the minister/home missionary. Upon the installation of such a minister/home missionary, Needy churches will provide Toronto with a grant for \$50 K. If this does not materialize, the Hamilton consistory will present to next year's Synod a combined proposal with recommendations for Synod regarding the Toronto situation.

moved/seconded/carried

Rev. Koopman and Elder VanDyk ask that their negative votes be recorded.

A motion is made regarding Lacombe:

That a grant of \$57K be made to Lacombe covering the period between now and the end of 2007.

moved/seconded/carried

A motion is made regarding Bellevue:

That a Non-Interest-Bearing Demand loan of \$15K be given for 2006 and a

Non-Interest-Bearing Demand loan of \$20K be given for 2007.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 57 – HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The outstanding resolutions of the Home Mission Committee report are considered in turn.

To leave the Home Mission quota at \$1.00 per member in view of financial commitments made to the Calgary home mission station with the understanding that it will have to be raised to \$10.00 per member if they receive a full time evangelist.

moved/seconded/carried

To approve the actions of the Home Missions Committee.

moved/seconded/carried

ARTICLE 58 – APPOINTMENTS

Dr. L.W. Bilkes is appointed to fill the Advisory Seat on the PRTS Board that has been offered. Rev. Pronk is appointed to represent Synod at the installation of Rev. J. Lewis in Lacombe on July 14th. Dr. L.W. Bilkes is appointed to represent Synod at the emeritation of Rev. C. Pronk in Brantford, tentatively set for September 15th.

The following schedule for Church Visitors and Counsellors is proposed.

Church

Abbotsford
Bellevue
Bornholm
Brantford
Chatham
Chilliwack
Dundas
Fenwick
Grand Rapids
Hamilton
Lacombe
Langley
London
Mitchell
Monarch
Pompton Plains
St. George Rev.
St. Thomas
Toronto
Vineland

Church Visitors

Rev. J. Schoeman, Rev. J. W. Wullschlegler
Rev. H. Overduin, Rev. J. Schoeman
Rev. C. Pronk, Rev. J. Overduin
Rev. J. Overduin, Rev. J. Koopman
Rev. L. W. Bilkes, Rev. P. VanderMeyden
Rev. K. Gangar, Rev. J.W. Wullschlegler
Rev. E. Moerdyk, Rev. P. VanderMeyden
Rev. H.A Bergsma, Rev. D.H. Kranendonk
Rev. G. R. Procee, Rev. C. A. Schouls
Rev. L. J. Bilkes, Rev. C. Pronk
Rev. K. Gangar, Rev. J. Schoeman
Rev. J. Schoeman, Rev. H. Overduin
Rev. J. Koopman, Rev. E. Moerdyk
Rev. J. Koopman, Rev. L. Roth
Rev. H. Overduin, Rev. J.W. Wullschlegler
Rev. L.W. Bilkes, Rev. C. Pronk
D.H. Kranendonk, Rev. L. Roth
Rev. H.A. Bergsma, Rev. D.H. Kranendonk
Rev. G. R. Procee, Rev. P. VanderMeyden
Rev. L. J. Bilkes, Rev. C. Pronk

Counsellors

Rev. H. Overduin
Rev. J. W. Wullschlegler
Rev. C. Schouls
Rev. E. Moerdyk
Rev. L. W. Bilkes
Rev. J. Schoeman
Rev. G. R. Procee
Rev. P. VanderMeyden
Rev. G.R. Procee
Rev. L.J. Bilkes
Rev. J. Schoeman
Rev. K. Gangar
Rev. J. Koopman
Rev. H.A. Bergsma
Rev. H. Overduin
Rev. C. Pronk
Rev. P. VanderMeyden
Rev. J. Overduin
Rev. D.H. Kranendonk
Rev. L. Roth

ARTICLE 60 – SYNOD 2007

Fenwick is to be the convening church and Hamilton the hosting church for Synod 2007 which is scheduled for June 4-8, 2007.

A motion is made to go into Executive Session.

ARTICLE 61 – EXECUTIVE SESSION X

The minutes of Executive Sessions I - IX minutes are read and approved.

ARTICLE 62 – PRESS RELEASE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the press release for synod is adopted.

ARTICLE 63 – ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It is agreed that the executive will review the remaining draft minutes prior to publication and then the remaining minutes not yet read will be officially adopted with the adoption of the public Acts during Synod 2006.

The chairman acknowledges with appreciation the work of the Assistant Clerk in facilitating the work of synod.

ARTICLE 64 – CO ARTICLE 43

Rev. Procee reads Article 43 of the Church Order. No one needs to be admonished.

ARTICLE 65 - ADJOURNMENT

Rev. Procee makes closing comments and reads Psalm 48. The Vice-chairman, Rev. P. VanderMeyden thanks the chairman for his leadership during these meetings and leads in a closing prayer. The delegates sing Psalter 134. The meeting adjourns at 4:30 p.m.

PRESS RELEASE
FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA
SYNOD OF JUNE 5-9, 2006

The pre-synodical Prayer Service Monday evening was led by Pastor L.J. Bilkes of Dundas preaching on Psalm 110, especially verse 2, about the royal rule of Christ as King. "The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion; rule thou in the midst of thine enemies." After the service the executive was elected as follows: Rev. G. Procee (Chair); Rev. P. VanderMeyden (Vice-chair); Rev. J. Schoeman (1st clerk); Rev. J. Koopman (2nd Clerk).

There were two special highlights at this year's Synod. The first was the examination of student Jason Keuning. After delivering a sermon on Revelation 3:20, Jason was examined concerning his doctrinal understanding and beliefs as well as his state of grace and calling to the ministry. All through his theological training, Jason expressed a special burden towards the un-churched and for the work of evangelism. With joy, Synod could declare him a candidate eligible for call. Pastor G. Procee addressed him with the words of II Timothy 2:3, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" giving also this remark, "in the army of the Lord, there are no casualties."

The second highlight was the examination of Rev. Jerrold Lewis, a minister of the Associated Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, who had accepted the call to serve now as minister of the Free Reformed Church in Lacombe, Alberta. Rev. Lewis was examined in accordance with the guidelines for admission of ministers from other denominations as outlined in our Church Order Article 5, section I. His examination involved the preaching of a sermon and a colloquium doctum. Providentially, Lewis' text for the sermon was also Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Our hearts were knit together under the preaching of this gospel word. The colloquium doctum showed clarity of understanding and hearty agreement with us concerning the doctrines and life of grace. With joy, Synod could welcome Rev. Lewis as a minister of the gospel in the FRCNA. The installation service for his ministry in Lacombe, Alberta will be held, on Friday, July 14, 2006, D.V. Synod gave thanks to the Lord for his provision by His kingly rule in giving the young church of Lacombe its own pastor and teacher. One of the Scriptures read in this setting was Revelation 2:8, "...behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

Synod approved the acceptance of two students for the ministry, Derek Baars and Tim Bergsma. Greg Slingerland, who also had been accepted by the Theological

Education Committee at their March meeting, has since then withdrawn his application, at least for this year.

Rev. Laurens Roth has been officially released as minister of the Free Reformed Church of Pompton Plains in line with the Church Order, Article 11. He remains a minister in good standing, eligible for call.

From the work of the synodical committees, the following are some points of special notice:

We reaffirmed the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (PRTS) in Grand Rapids "as the seminary through which Free Reformed students for the ministry will be trained" and ask for continued prayers and financial support for the training of students for the ministry. With External Relations, we agreed on continuing efforts in contacts with other like-minded churches and "encourage our congregations to multiply private and public prayer to heal the brokenness of the Church, and imploring God's gracious intervention in the way of revival and reformation." Strong support was again confirmed in connection with the work of radio ministry, foreign mission work, home mission work, publication committee work, ministry to the youth, ministry to refugees, and matters of legal affairs, all of which call for our continued prayers and financial support. During Synod, delegates were presented with a new publication for our churches entitled *Psalmody Through the Ages* by Ted Postma.

Much time was spent in listening to the reports from the churches. These reports demonstrated many reasons for thanksgiving to God but also much reason for prayer and humbling ourselves before God with broken and contrite hearts. A committee was appointed to give some guidance in regards to the various ethical and counseling challenges of our day. Synod also agreed on a 3 year trial period of having regional assemblies, called Combined Consistories - West and East, meeting once a year between synodical meetings for our mutual benefit, with Abbotsford and Dundas being the respective host churches, and the calling churches being arranged in alphabetical order.

A moving and significant event at this year's Synod was the granting of Emeritus Status beginning September 15, 2006, for Rev. C. Pronk after 38 years of active faithful service as minister and pastor in our churches. Words fail in expression of gratitude for all his gospel labours together with his wife. More about this will be given in the *Messenger* Report of this year's Synod.

Synod 2007 is scheduled, D.V. for June 4-8, with host church being Hamilton, and calling church, Fenwick.

SYNOD OF THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA

to be held at
Ebenezer Free Reformed Church
253 Weirs Lane, Dundas Ontario
June 5 - 9, 2006

PROPOSED AGENDA

The Opening Session will commence following the Prayer Service which begins at 7:30 pm Monday June 5, 2006. At that time items 1 - 4 of the agenda will be completed under the auspices of the Convening Church. The exact times and schedules for the balance of Synod will be established by the Executive.

1. OPENING:

- Pastor L.J. Bilkes

2. PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS:

3. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE, SYNOD 2005

4. PUBLIC DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT WITH THE THREE FORMS OF UNITY

5. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Adoption of Public Acts of Synod 2006
- b. Adoption of Agenda for Synod 2006
- c. Appointment of Advisors, Advisory Committees, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer
- d. Assignment of Press Release and *Messenger* reporting responsibilities
- e. Schedule for Synod 2006

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Evangelism/Radio Mission (page 6)
- b. External Relations (page 14)
- c. Finance (page 19)
- d. Foreign Missions (page 50)
- e. Home Missions (page 59)
- f. Publications (page 66)
- g. Refugee Committee Report (page 74)
- h. Theological Education (page 78)
- i. Theological Student Support Fund (page 88)
- j. Youth and Education (page 96)

7. ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (PAGE 120 -124)

- a. Legal Affairs
- b. Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

8. OTHER REPORTS

- a. Church Reports (Article 41 / Church Visitors)
- b. Classis Contracta
- c. Treasurer of Synod (page 101)

9. APPEALS / OVERTURES (PAGE 106 - 119)

- a. Brantford - Emeritus Status (Rev. Pronk)
- b. Brantford - Reproductive Technology
- c. Grand Rapids - Article 31
- d. Fenwick - Christian Counseling
- e. Monarch - Ray Pennings
- f. St. Thomas - Committee Member Coordinator
- g. St. Thomas - Small Churches

10. CORRESPONDENCE

11. APPOINTMENTS

- a. Church Counselors
- b. Church Visitors
- c. Church Day Speakers
- d. Synod 2007
 - date
 - calling Church
 - hosting Church

12. CLOSING OF SYNOD

- a. Adoption of Executive Minutes 2006
- b. Adoption of Concept Minutes 2006
- c. Adoption of News Releases
- d. Mutual Censure
- e. Closing and Adjournment

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS
EVANGELISM / RADIO MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT
OF THE F. R. C. N. A. TO THE F.R.C. SYNOD 2006

Esteemed Delegates,

The Evangelism / Radio Mission Committee met once during the past year since our last report to Synod 2005, namely, on March 21, 2006. From our meeting, we would like to report the following matters.

1. RADIO PASTOR'S REPORT:

We are thankful to report that Rev. Overduin has been enabled to continue delivering radio messages on a regular basis throughout this past year with Rev. Gangar as the back-up Radio Pastor. The good seed of the Gospel concerning sin and grace has once again been sown.

Rev. Overduin expressed thankfulness that the work could continue with encouraging contacts being received, especially from the African countries Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia. A donation was given to Blytheswood Care Centre in Scotland, who does follow up work with people from Africa who write and ask us for Bibles. In response to requests we sent to them, they have sent over 30 study outlines, and Bibles as well as the Shorter Catechism to at least two people who completed and returned the "Let's Study Mark and Acts" study outline. At present, about 830 addresses receive bulk mailings of the radio messages three times per year. These messages are now being made in a booklet form with an attractive, glossy cover and have the radio stations call letters and times printed on the back. This booklet form may make these messages a useful tool for evangelism.

Since the beginning of the last calendar year we have begun airing our program to India through Beacon of Hope Ministries via Pan Am Broadcasting. Presently they are being broadcast in English with the goal that Rev. Gangar would be able to do messages in the Punjabi language. Although we have not received any correspondence in response to the broadcasts sent to India we will carry this broadcast to the end of 2006 since Rev. Gangar is not yet able to give messages in Punjabi. The contract with the local station in Burnaby, RhimJim, was cancelled in July of 2005 as there was no way of accountability and Rev. Gangar was not able to do messages in Punjabi, which was the original plan for this station.

The Banner of Truth program is being aired on 10 North American Stations [2 on the West Coast, 2 in Ontario, 1 in upper New York State (Buffalo), 2 on the Eastern U.S. coast], 2 in Central United States, and 1 in Grand Rapids, Michigan]. In addition, messages are being sent out via shortwave to West Africa [Nigeria, Ghana,

Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Liberia], East Africa [Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia], China, England [includes British Isles and Ireland], India, North America, and Mexico [includes South America, Central America, and the Caribbean]. A radio station in Australia has just been added -this started in March and is aired on Thursday evenings.

Our radio Pastor spends a couple of days every five weeks to prepare the radio messages while his wife devotes 15-20 hours per month performing administrative work, responding to correspondence, sending out mailings and keeping contact with the radio stations. We thank them for their labors.

2. FINANCES:

Revenues for 2005 totaled about \$83,500 with almost \$20,000 being received from individuals and the same amount from collections over and above assessment revenues. The projected budget for 2006 should be just over \$84,000 with revenues amounting to around \$70,000. We have increased the Pastor and his wife's annual stipend by \$1200 to \$4500 as a token of appreciation for all their labors. We also thank the Treasurer for all his labors.

3. SERMON AUDIO:

We continue to receive reports from this organization. Between 200-300 sermons are being downloaded per month from all over the world. The cost of this service is \$30 per month with a \$1.50 fee for each sermon uploaded to their system. Since the internet is being used more and more, we would like to make local evangelism committees aware of this tool for evangelism outreach. Br. Jim Koopman is thanked for his labors, ensuring that this means of communication runs smoothly.

At this time we would like to emphasize again that local outreach via radio broadcasts is accessible to individual churches since in many cases this can be done using computer technology for about \$300 of equipment. We advise local churches to contact Br. Jim Koopman of the Brantford Church for more information.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYNOD:

- a. To retain the Quota level of \$10.00 per year for 2007.
- b. To re-appoint Br. J. Koopman for another three year term to 2009 since he has completed one full term.
- c. To approve the actions of the committee.

May the Lord richly bless all your deliberations and decisions at Synod 2006.

On behalf of the Evangelism / Radio Mission Committee,
L. Roth, Secretary

Radio Evangelism Fund
 Free Reformed Churches of America
 Banner of Truth - Radio Evangelism Fund
 Balance sheet as at December 31,2005

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
ASSETS			
Cash & Short Term Deposits	3	\$100,367	\$87,241
Accounts Receivable	5	583	959
Securities	4	15,000	15,000
 Total Assets		 <u>\$115,950</u>	 <u>\$103,200</u>
 LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable			
Other			
Total Liabilities		<u>\$ ~</u>	<u>\$ ~</u>
 EQUITY			
Opening Balance		\$101,373	\$115,365
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		14,577	-13,992
		<u>115,950</u>	<u>101,373</u>
		<u>\$115,950</u>	<u>\$101,373</u>

Banner of Truth, Radio Evangelism Fund
 Free Reformed Churches of America
INCOME STATEMENT - with comparison of 2004 results
 For the year ending Dec. 31 ,2005

	2005	2004	Variances	F(U)		2005	2006
	Actual	Actual	~	%	Notes	Budget	Projection
REVENUES							
Assessments	42,730	33,848	8,882	26%		43,750	43,120
Interest	1,624	2,289	-665	-29%		1,500	2,100
Foreign Exchange - Gain (Loss)		-569	569	-100%			
Collections	19,387	17,741	1,646	9%	6	25,000	20,000
Donations - Individuals	19,820	5,598	14,222	254%		2000	5,000
	<u>\$83,561</u>	<u>\$58,907</u>	<u>\$24,654</u>	<u>42%</u>		<u>\$72,250</u>	<u>\$70,220</u>
Expenditures							
Web Broadcasting	529	~				600	600
Radio Stations	59,374	63,668	-4,294	-7%		72,000	72,000
						72,600	72,600
Administration:							
Tape/mailings	3,386	3,699	-313	-8%		4,500	5,500
Bank Charges	72	~	~	~		100	250
Administration	5,623	5,532	91	2%		5,500	6,500
	<u>9,081</u>	<u>9,231</u>	<u>-150</u>	<u>-2%</u>		<u>10,100</u>	<u>12,250</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$68,984</u>	<u>\$72,899</u>	<u>-3,915</u>	<u>-5%</u>		<u>\$82,700</u>	<u>\$84,850</u>
OPER. SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>\$14,577</u>	<u>(\$13,992)</u>	<u>\$28,569</u>	<u>-204%</u>		<u>(\$10,450)</u>	<u>(\$14,630)</u>

Banner of Truth, Radio Evangelism Fund
Free Reformed Churches of America
INCOME STATEMENT - with budget comparison
For the year ending Dec. 31 ,2005

	2005	2005	Variances	F(U)		2006	2007
	Actual	Budget	\$	%	Notes	Budget	Projection
REVENUES							
Assessments	42,730	43,750	-1,020	-2%	5	43,120	43,200
Interest	1,624	1,500	124	8%		2,100	2,000
Foreign Exchange - Gain (Loss)			-569	-100%			
Collections	19,387	25,000	-5,613	-22%		20,000	20,000
Donations - Individuals	19,820	2,000	17,820	891%		5,000	5,000
	<u>\$83,561</u>	<u>\$72,250</u>	<u>10,742</u>	<u>15%</u>		<u>70,220</u>	<u>70,200</u>
Expenditures							
Web Broadcasting	529	0	529	0		600	600
Stations	59,374	72,000	-12,626	-18%		72,000	75,000
						72,600	75,600
Administrat ion:							
Tape/mailings	3,386	4,500	-1,114	-25%		5,500	6,500
Bank Charges	72	100	-28	-28%		250	350
Administration	5,623	5,500	123	2%		6,500	7,000
	<u>9,081</u>	<u>10,100</u>	<u>-1,019</u>	<u>-10%</u>		<u>12,250</u>	<u>13,850</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$68,984</u>	<u>\$82,100</u>	<u>(\$13,116)</u>	<u>-16%</u>		<u>\$84,850</u>	<u>\$89,450</u>
OPER.SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>\$14,577</u>	<u>(\$9,850)</u>	<u>\$23,858</u>	<u>-242%</u>		<u>(\$14,630)</u>	<u>(\$19,250)</u>

Banner of Truth-Radio Evangelism Fund

Free Reformed Churches of America.

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31,2005

1. Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the Radio Missions fund are prepared using the Accrual basis of accounting. All representations are in Canadian dollars. The exchange rates used for the financial statements are as follows:

	Avg	Closing
2004	1.131	1.2222
2005	1.227	1.153
2006	1.2	1.2
2007	1.2	1.2

2 . Review of the statements:

The Financial Statements of the Radio Mission Fund have been reviewed, utilizing the 1996 audit program by Messrs. Gary Neven and Greg Neven (both from Brantford). They were found to accurately represent the financial transactions and current portion of the fund.

3 Cash:

Cash and short Term deposits consist of the following:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cnd chequing:		
Bank Balances	6,690	
Deposits held over year end	<u>3,225</u>	
	9,915	19,287
Investment Account 2.60%	<u>89,840</u>	<u>67,469</u>
	99,755	86,756
US chequing	<u>612</u>	<u>485</u>
	<u>\$100,367</u>	<u>\$87,241</u>

4. Securities:

Securities held are Guaranteed investment certificates.

Identification #	Face Value		Accrued Interest		
	Interest %	2005	2004	2005	2004
BNS924520021598	1.20	15,000	15,000	101	173
BNS924520030090	2.40			173	101

5. Accounts Receivable

	2005	2004
Interest from Securities	173	101
GST refund	520	731
Exchange on US act at year end	123	107

Assessments:

Congregation

Abbotsford	0	1,920	1,920	0		
Bellevue	0	180	180	0		
Bornholm	0	770	770	0		
Brantford	0	4,700	4,700	0		
Chatham	0	2,420	2,420	0		
Chilliwack	110	3,160	3,270	0		
Pompton Plains	-82	2,140	2,058	0		
Dundas	0	4,560	4,560	0		
Grand Rapids	0	3,250	3,250	0		
Hamilton	0	3,460	3,460	0		
Lacombe	0	450	450	0		
Langley	0	740	740	0		
London	0	1,020	1,020	0		
Mitchell	0	1,930	1,930	0		
Monarch	0	2,220	2,220	0		
Pelham(Wellandport)	0	2,330	2,563	-233		
St Thomas	0	3,140	3,140	0		
Toronto	0	130	130	0		
Vineland	0	4,210	4,210	0		
	28	42,730	42,991	-233	-233	20
TOTAL Accounts Receivable					583	959

6. Collections by various Congregations:

Abbotsford	245
Brantford	690
Cowichan Valley	600
Hamilton	4,419
Langley	4,230
Mitchell	3,746
Monarch	2,457
	<hr/>
	19,387

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
TO SYNOD 2006 OF
THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Esteemed brothers:

The External Relations Committee (ERC) reports the following:

INTRODUCTION

As usual and in God's gracious providence we met twice since Synod 2005. We also met with delegates of other churches; this year most notably in South Africa at the meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches. All these activities were carried out with the hope and prayer that the Lord, the Head of the Church would bring together those who truly belong together.

In accordance with our mandate we seek contact with churches, which, to the best of our knowledge are churches that maintain an unreserved commitment to and agreement with (1) the infallibility and inerrancy of Scriptures as the Word of God and (2) the validity and relevance of our Confessions. In our meetings with other churches we attempt to seek confirmation of this commitment, develop an appreciation of their history, discuss what we have in common, where we differ, and gauge the degree of spiritual unity, which is the essential basis for all formal unity. While the goal of eventual union with churches with whom we have developed an ecclesiastical relationship may seem unattainable in most cases, we do not wish to preclude this ideal in our dialogue with other denominations.

We lament the brokenness of the Church, and the seemingly little concern about this in our congregations. We encourage more prayer in our churches for the unity of the Body of Christ. Let us personally and corporately beseech the Head of the Church to graciously send awakenings, revival and reformation, as a way to genuine spiritual unity amongst those who are now separated.

**NORTH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED COUNCIL
(NAPARC)**

We delegated two members, Rev. E. Moerdyk and Elder E. Laman, of our committee to attend the annual meeting of NAPARC. We have applied for membership in NAPARC and were provisionally accepted. NAPARC is planning a two day event in 2009 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. A report is planned for *The Messenger* before Synod convenes in June 2006. We propose to send four delegates to NAPARC's 2006 meeting to be held in Laval, Quebec.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES (ICRC)

As members of the ICRC we delegated the Revs. Procee and Wullschleger to the October 2005 meeting in South Africa. The conference was chaired by Rev. B. de Graaf of the CGK. An extensive report was published in *The Messenger*. We continue to value this opportunity to meet with other Reformed and Presbyterian churches which have a high view of Scripture and adhere to the classic Reformed confessions. There were opportunities for our delegates to meet separately with representatives of many other churches during this seven day conference.

CONTACT WITH OTHER REFORMED AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken (CGK)

We regularly have ministers from our sister churches preach on our pulpits, with appreciation. We continue to have concerns about developments in the CGK; these were pointed out by our delegate to the 2004 CGK Synod.

Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)

No meetings were held with this denomination this past year.

Free Church of Scotland - Continuing (FCSC)

No meetings were held with this denomination this past year.

Heritage Reformed Congregations (HRC)

At the invitation of the HRC Classis, delegates of our committee attended their meeting in Grand Rapids, where we were warmly welcomed. We received an opportunity to address the meeting. We related that we greatly value our ever-increasing cooperation at PRTS and look forward to further cooperation in other areas as well. We noted that the degree of interest by our members in the HRC depends largely on their knowledge about the HRC, its ministers and members. We urged them to hold on to the best of their heritage and to continue to strive for a balanced scriptural-experiential Gospel ministry. We felt much at home with these brothers and are glad that barriers continue to be removed.

We met twice with members of the HRC Church Correspondence Committee: in London on October 22, 2005 and in Hamilton on February 18, 2006. The mutually agreed-upon Reformed Doctrinal Statements were circulated to HRC consistories in December 2005, after adding to it a jointly drafted statement on our differences. At our February 2006 meeting we made some improvements to the Reformed Doctrinal Statements taking into consideration the comments received from both FRC and HRC consistories. Since not all HRC consistories had responded by the time of our meeting in February, we anticipate submitting the final version not until Synod 2007.

They and we look forward to our first combined Office Bearers Conference in October 2006 at the London FRC. We noted an increase in the number of HRC men that are being invited to our pulpits. Several of our men have preached on their pulpits, but not to the same degree. As many as eight FRC men teach at the PRTS. For a number of years Dr. G.M. Bilkes has been attending all PRTS Board of Trustees meetings as an advisor. At the March 2006 meeting of the HRC Classis it was decided to add a second advisor from the FRCNA to this board.

Last year we notified Synod of our committee's unanimous decision to in principle move to the next level of ecclesiastical relationship (Limited Correspondence) with the Heritage Reformed Congregations. We have discussed this with the HRC brothers who expressed appreciation of our relationship and concur with the move towards closer ties. At our March 2006 meeting, reflecting on the great extent to which our two federations agree on doctrine, and also the growing sense of spiritual unity we unanimously decided to recommend to Synod 2006 to move to the Limited Correspondence level. We are inviting them to attend our 2006 Synod meetings.

We encourage consistories to seek (more) contact at the local level, to avoid a growing appreciation and acquaintance only at the committee level: unknown is unloved!

Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches (OCRC)

No meetings were held with this denomination this past year.

Presbyterian Reformed Church (PRC)

At Synod 2005 we decided to offer a Limited Contact relationship with this denomination. We expect their formal acceptance of this offer later this year. No meetings were held with this denomination this past year, other than an informal one at the NAPARC meeting.

Reformed Church of America (RCA) congregations

We had a combined meeting with the Springford and Grand Rapids (Providence) RCA congregations in November 2005. A statement on Reformed doctrines was discussed. There is much in common. They continue to frequently call upon our ministers to preach in their congregations. We sensed a genuine spiritual oneness with these brothers, and look forward to increased cooperation. We wish to grow towards a special relationship with these congregations as outlined at Synod 2005, and hope for a specific proposal by Synod 2007.

PULPIT SUPPLY

In accordance with a policy adopted by Synod 1997, the following ministers from other denominations were granted approval to preach in our churches for another

year, provided they remain in good standing in the church they serve: The Revs. T. Atkinson, J. Beeke, J. Gangar, J. Greendyk, C. Heiberg, M. Ives, D. Jussely, J. Kingswood, R. Lanning, J. Lewis, D. Lipsy, A. Miskin, J. Pipa, M. Roberts, W. Scott, D. Silversides, M. Vandenberg. It should be remembered that this list reflects only approved requests by FRC consistories. We as a committee do not initiate any *Colloquia Doctum*. It is by no means an exhaustive list of faithful non-FRC ministers!

In determining whether to grant a preaching license to a minister referred to us by a congregation we strive to reach a consensus which, with few if any exceptions, so far has been reached. In case this ideal is not attainable, we require a two-thirds majority.

Synod 2001 decided to automatically remove the licence to preach for non-FRC ministers who have not served in our churches for three or more years, with reinstatement to be granted by a unanimous decision of the Executive of this Committee. We wish to express appreciation to the consistories for informing our secretary when one of these brothers preach in their church.

REQUEST TO CALL NON-FRC MINISTERS

The Abbotsford consistory has requested permission to call **Rev. James D. Greendyk** (47) a minister without a charge in the Heritage Reformed Congregations. Rev. Greendyk was trained at the Theological School of the Netherlands Reformed Congregations and has been a minister in the Heritage Reformed Congregations for twelve years. He is married to Nanette, has seven children and is currently serving the Abbotsford congregation as a guest minister.

The Lacombe consistory has requested permission to call **Rev. Jerrold H. Lewis** (35) a minister of the Associated Presbyterian Churches of Scotland and Canada (APC). Rev. Lewis has completed the APC's ministerial training program, and is currently pursuing graduate studies. Rev. Lewis is married to Catherine, has seven children and has been serving the Vancouver congregation since 2002.

In accordance with the Church Order we have commenced the process of a "thorough inquiry", including conducting an extensive interview, evaluation of the ministerial training, and the checking of references. In the case of Rev. Lewis this work has been completed, and we have advised the Lacombe consistory to proceed with the planned call, while recommending that Rev. Lewis take some additional studies. The Church Order requires a proposed candidate to sustain a *colloquium doctum*, at Synod, with regard to his doctrinal views, sense of call to the ministry and personal life, once he has accepted a call from a congregation. The request from Abbotsford is expected to be dealt with at Synod 2007. In the meantime we recommend that Rev. Greendyk be granted a one-year license to preach in Abbotsford.

Churches which call non-FRC ministers should remember that they are responsible for all costs associated with the calling of such men.

We encourage all congregations to invite Rev. Greendyk and Rev. Lewis to preach on their pulpit in order to become better acquainted with these pastors.

APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS

Since the term of more than half the committee members are expiring this year we are proposing to stagger the length of the term of all (re)appointments this year. Due to the size of our committee we are proposing to add a second alternate. Dr. L.W. Bilkes, our Chairman, has served on our committee for 15 years, and must now retire. We wish to express our appreciation for the many years of valuable input and capable leadership. We also express appreciation to Elder Chris Vandoodewaard who is not available for reappointment due to serious health problems. May the Lord grant him an abundance of grace in carrying this heavy load. We recommend the following brothers for (re)appointment:

Reappoint: Rev. E. Moerdyk, Rev. G.R. Procee and Elder E. Laman for a three year term, and
Rev. W. Wullschleger and Elder C. Keuning for a two year term;

Appoint: Elder D. Tamminga as an alternate member for a one year term to succeed Elder C. Vandoodewaard, and Rev. L.J. Bilkes as a second alternate member for a three year term.

MISCELLANEOUS

We plan to publish more articles in *The Messenger* about churches with whom we have a formal relationship.

We have no plans to attend any Synod or General Assembly meetings of other denominations, besides the October 2006 Classis meeting of the HRC.

We intend to have discussions with delegates of the Hersteld Nederlands Hervormde Kerk in The Netherlands as soon as an appropriate opportunity arises. We also plan to meet with representatives of the Reformed Church of Quebec at the 2006 NAPARC meeting, with a possible visit to their seminary in Montreal.

We are asking Synod to relieve our committee from representing our federation to the various levels of government, in view of our ever-increasing workload. We recommend that a new permanent committee of contact with governments be appointed. We suggest that such a committee also be charged with monitoring and advising on legal and ethical affairs affecting our churches, in close cooperation with our local congregations as well as churches with whom we have a relation-

ship. We propose that Synod appoints the men currently serving on the Legal and Ethical Affairs ad-hoc committee to this new committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYNOD 2006

1. To approve the list of non-FRC ministers granted permission to preach on our pulpits for one year;
2. To offer the Limited Correspondence form of relationship to the Heritage Reformed Congregations, and to encourage more contact at the local level with these churches;
3. To approve ongoing efforts towards the development of a special relationship with the Springford and Grand Rapids (Providence) RCA congregations, including a standing invitation to our Elders and Deacons conferences;
4. To approve the sending of the Revs. Moerdyk, Procee, Pronk and Roth as delegates to the November 2006 NAPARC meeting in Laval, Quebec;
5. To approve the re-appointment of Rev. E. Moerdyk, Rev. G.R. Procee and Elder E. Laman for a three year term; to approve the re-appointment of Rev. W. Wullschleger and Elder C. Keuning for a two year term; to approve the appointment of Rev. H. Bergsma for a three year term to succeed Dr. L.W. Bilkes; to approve the appointment of Elder D. Tamminga as an alternate member for a one year term to succeed Elder C. Vandoodewaard;
6. To approve the creation of the position of a second alternate member; and to approve the appointment of Rev. L.J. Bilkes as the second alternate member for a three year term;
7. To appoint a new committee to represent our churches to governments, with the additional task to monitor and advise on legal and ethical issues affecting our churches in close cooperation with our local congregations as well as churches with whom we have a relationship;
8. To grant Rev. Greendyk a license to preach in Abbotsford for one year;
9. To encourage the churches to invite Rev. Greendyk and Rev. Lewis to preach on their pulpits;
10. To approve the actions of this committee.

Encouraging our congregations to multiply private and public prayer to heal the brokenness of the Church, and imploring God's gracious intervention in the way of revival and reformation, we respectfully submit this report.

Connor J. Keuning, Secretary
External Relations Committee

**2005 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
TO SYNOD 2006 OF
THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Esteemed Brothers,

Based on the meetings held during the past year, the Finance Committee would like to make the following recommendations and report on the various matters for your approval.

We are now required to file a Charities Form annually with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. In connection with this, we remind all the committees to forward their financial statements and a signed copy of the Review Program (as approved by Synod 1997) to the finance committee by March 31 of each year.

We recommend that all of our Canadian churches join the Canadian Counsel of Christian Charities, as this organization has proven to be a very valuable resource for us. You can find them on the internet at www.cccc.org.

We also provide for your information, a requirement for the deacons to issue T5007 slips for benevolent payments made to individuals. All churches are required to issue a T5007 slip when a series of payments are made which total more than \$500. For example, a single payment of \$1,000 would not have to be reported, but five payments of \$200 each to one individual would. You also need to file the slips and a summary with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. The churches located in the US should evaluate filing requirements in their jurisdictions.

We also want to inform the churches that if they pay their members interest for loans, Canada Revenue Agency requires that a T5 slip be issued.

Synod has requested that a full report be prepared for Synod 2006 regarding proposed changes to the emeritus fund to a locked-in group RRSP program. It is attached to this report as a separate document. We hope that it has answered all your questions. We would appreciate it that if you have any unanswered questions that you forward them to the finance committee prior to Synod by email. We will compile the questions and answer them prior to Synod by emailing the questions and answers to all the congregations. This process will ensure that ALL your questions are adequately answered and to have a more productive meeting at Synod. If any pastor has specific and confidential questions that apply specifically to him, they will be answered only to him.

In order that the committee can be effective in its work, we request that Synod

decide on which direction they want to go. With that regard, we provide you with two options.

1. That the Emeritus fund be used as a benevolent fund, which would provide pastors with an income in their retirement years.
2. That a group RRSP plan / 401K plan be established in addition to the current Emeritus fund effective January 1, 2007.

1. MINISTERS' EMERITUS FUND:

We remind the pastors that the current Emeritus plan effectively also acts as an life insurance and disability plan. Currently a Pastor who is disabled while in office will receive an amount equal to the minimum salary guidelines from the Emeritus fund. Therefore in addition to a group RRSP plan or a Pension plan, other insurance alternatives also need to be considered by the church and/or pastor.

The minister's emeritus fund was designed to assist the congregations in meeting the financial needs of their emeritus pastors. This amount is in addition to the various government programs (i.e. CPP and OAS) and personal savings that a retired minister has accumulated.

Since the emeritus fund was designed to assist the congregations in meeting the financial needs of their emeritus pastors, it is also the committee's opinion that emeritus pastors who enter into an employment relationship should have their emeritus payments equally reduced. A minister should not feel the pressure of needing to seek employment to provide for their financial needs once emeritus status has been granted. Should an emeritus minister have financial needs that are not being met, he should meet with his deacons just as any other church member may.

As we consider the assessments for the emeritus fund, we feel that there is a need to increase this assessment. If we do not increase the assessment, we would be burdening future generations with increases to as high as \$60 per member.

The Minister's Emeritus Fund financial statements have been reviewed by James Neven (St George) and by Jim Koopman (Brantford) and where found to be in good order.

The committee submits for your approval:

- a. The Canadian Consumer Price Index is 2.2% for the year 2005. We propose to increase emeritus payments calendar year 2007 by 2.2% from \$23,972 to

\$24,499 for emeritus ministers and from \$19,179 to \$19,601 for ministers' widows. All payments are made in Canadian dollars.

- b. To increase the assessment for 2007 from \$12 per member to \$18.
- c. To have Emeritus payments reduced to emeritus pastors who enter into an employment relationship by an amount equal to their employment income.
- d. Any minister who receives a honourable discharge from service, before receiving emeritus status will receive from the emeritus fund an amount equal to 3% of the current guidelines for each year of service as a pastor in FRCNA to a maximum of 100%, beginning at age 65.
- e. To approve the attached financial statements for the calendar year 2005.

2. MINISTERS' SALARY GUIDELINES:

We are advising all congregations that it is the local congregation's responsibility to adequately provide for their ministers as per our church order Article 11. We ask that you prayerfully consider this matter in your congregation and that your pastor is paid based on his financial needs and not based on what your congregation can afford. Representatives from our finance committee are available to meet with your congregation and/or consistory to discuss these matters. With this regard, we as a finance committee feel we can not adequately recommend a minimum salary guideline to suit the needs of every pastor since the needs of a pastor vary based on their stage in life and the area they live in. We want to remind the deacons that Synod requires that they meet with their pastor on an annual basis to discuss his financial needs.

Synod has also previously approved that in addition to the basic salary each pastor receives \$400 for every year in the ministry, up to a maximum of \$4,000, paid in Canadian dollars in Canada and US dollars in the USA.

We also wish to advise the Canadian churches that you may be allowed to split the pastors' income with his wife. If income is split with the pastors' wife, there is an expectation of her to participate in the ministry. This would result in income tax savings. Should a church want setup this type of arrangement, the call letter to the pastor needs to reflect this arrangement.

We also want to remind the churches that any car allowance paid to their pastor that is not paid strictly on a per kilometer basis is taxable to the pastor. Reports need to be submitted to the treasurer to show that the car allowance is paid on a per kilometer basis.

Synod has adopted the per kilometer/mileage allowance set each year by the Canadian and American governments. Current guidelines for the calendar year 2006 are \$0.44 per kilometer in Canada and \$0.445 per mile in the USA.

The committee submits for your approval:

- a. The Canadian Consumer Price Index for the year 2005 is 2.2% and the American Consumer Price Index is 3.4%. We recommend that the salaries increase by 2.2% for Canadian ministers and by 3.4% for American ministers for the calendar year 2007. We therefore request approval to increase the basic salaries for ministers effective January 1, 2007 as follows:

Canadian ministers from CDN \$35,959 to CDN \$36,750
American ministers from US \$33,974 to US \$35,129

3. PULPIT SUPPLY AND CATECHISM SUPPLY:

The remuneration for pulpit supply effective January 1, 2006 is \$125 per service plus synodically approved travel allowance.

The remuneration for Catechism supply effective January 1, 2006 is \$75 per hour plus synodically approved travel allowance.

4. NEEDY CHURCHES FUND:

We have received two requests for assistance. They are \$48,000 American dollars from Bellevue and \$47,000 from Lacombe. We have attached their requests to this report for your consideration.

By the end of 2006 we will have sufficient cash resources to fund Bellevue for the 2006 year and Lacombe for the last six months of 2006 with an assessment of \$12 per member. However if we anticipate this need again for 2007, the assessment will need to increase to \$24 per member. Therefore we propose that we increase the assessment to \$18 for 2006. We could then maintain this assessment for 2007 as well. As you consider these requests, we are asking you evaluate this for the 2006 and 2007 year. This will provide these churches with funding at the beginning of the year, rather than the need to wait for six months before receiving any funds. To fund these two projects long-term will require an assessment of \$24 per member.

The Needy Churches Fund financial statements have been reviewed by James Neven (St George), and by Jim Koopman (Brantford) and were found in good order.

The committee submits for your discussion and approval:

- a. That a church receiving funding from the Needy Churches Fund be relieved from the assessment charge for Needy churches.
- b. To increase the assessment from \$12 per member to \$18 for the 2006 and 2007 year.
- c. To approve the financial statements for the year 2005.
- d. To discuss the request from the Bellevue and Lacombe congregations and also consider the possible requests for the 2007 year.

5. WIDOWS OF PASTORS AND ORPHANS OF PASTORS

We acknowledge the fact that the matters dealt with above are difficult to comprehend and it is the Committee's hope and prayer that we do not experience such a situation. In the event that such a situation would arise, the following denominational policies have been established.

The following has been approved at Synod 2001:

- a. In addition to the spouse receiving the emeritus payments for widows, the family shall also receive 45% of the widows emeritus payments for the first child, 35% for the second child, and the balance for the other children. The total remuneration provided to the family of a deceased pastor shall not exceed the minimum salary guidelines, as set by Synod each year.
- b. In the event that both parents were deceased, it is the committee's view that the children should be provided for until each child reaches the age of eighteen or age twenty-one if he/she is a full-time student.
- c. The family shall receive 45% of the minimum salary guidelines for the first child, 35% for the second child and the balance for the other children. The total remuneration to the family of the deceased pastor and his wife shall not exceed the total minimum salary guidelines, as set by Synod each year.
- d. That all orphaned disabled children over the age of eighteen receive an amount not greater than the minister's widows emeritus payment. The total payment will be reduced by other disability payments that may be received by the disabled person. Payment will be made on a need basis and requires recommendation by the local consistory.

That all spousal and children payments cease if the spouse of a deceased pastor is remarried.

6. INVESTMENT AND LENDING GUIDELINES

The current lending guidelines are as follows:

- a. No more than 20% of the emeritus fund may be lent out to any church.
- b. Qualifying applicants are members' churches, and / or mission posts.
Lending committee to be comprised of a quorum of the finance committee.
- c. Rates to be set based on Market prime lending rates
- d. Mortgage security to be comprised of land and buildings owned by the borrower.

The current investing guidelines are as follows:

- a. Investments with banks with guaranteed rates of return.
- b. Investments with Christian organizations such as Christian Stewardship Services (www.csservices.ca) or Christian Retirement Homes with guaranteed rates of return.

7. MISCELLANEOUS:

The committee submits for your approval:

- a. To re-appoint for a three year term George Brink (Mitchell) and Hank Vander Woerd (Abbottsford).
- b. That Synod approves the actions of the committee.

May the Lord bless your meeting,
Respectfully submitted,

The Finance Committee

**BELLEVUE APPLICATION
TO NEEDY CHURCHES**

April 10, 2006

Free Reformed Churches of North America
Needy Churches Fund
Attn: Mr. Jim Koopman, President
Finance Committee

Dear Brother Koopman:

The Free Reformed Church of Bellevue is herewith making application to the Needy Churches Fund for financial assistance in 2006. Our 2006 budget anticipates an overall operating deficit of USD \$48,000 this year (see file embedded below). Our operating deficits were met over the last several years, and will continue to be met this year, through a combination of denominational support and "internal transfers" from the other FRCB funds (i.e., Building and Deaconate). Any assistance provided by the Needy Churches Fund would be used to help meet our operating requirements for this year.

We are requesting financial assistance for 2006 from the FRCNA denomination in the amount of USD \$48,000.

The accompanying Excel file contains the FRCB financial data for 2005, as well as our proposed budget for 2006. Should you have any questions or need more information pertaining to this request or concerning any items in the financial data herein presented, please do not hesitate to contact the FRCB Treasurer.

With Christian greetings,

The Free Reformed Church of Bellevue
P.O. Box 6547
Bellevue, WA 98008-0547
Rev. Kuldip S. Gangar, President
John W. Ming, Treasurer
Email: FRCB@ihmail.com

Bellevue Financial Spreadsheet Summary

FRCB 2005 Financial Statement Combined Accounts

Description	General Fund	Building Fund	Deaconate Func	Radio Fund	2005 Totals
Beginning Balances	\$15,442.69	\$194,457.35	\$5,808.05	\$0.00	\$215,708.09
Plus: Receipts	86,406.70	101,387.61	2,762.95	2,618.06	193,175.32
Less: Disbursements	91,332.37	12,111.75	2,576.60	1,050.00	107,070.72
Ending Balances	\$10,517.02	\$283,733.21	\$5,994.40	\$1,568.06	\$301,812.69

FRCB 2004 Financial Statement Combined Accounts

Description	General Fund	Building Fund	Deaconate Fund	2004 Totals
Beginning Balances	\$13,521.06	\$129,820.97	\$10,276.14	\$153,618.17
Plus: Receipts	105,579.90	87,623.13	1,031.91	194,234.94
Less: Disbursements	103,658.27	22,986.75	5,500.00	132,145.02
Ending Balances	\$15,442.69	\$194,457.35	\$5,808.05	\$215,708.09
Plus: Note Receivable (Avondale Property Sale)				90,000.00
			Total Assets	\$305,708.09

FRCB 2003 Financial Statement Combined Accounts

Description	General Fund	Building Fund	Deaconate Fund	2003 Totals
Beginning Balances	\$6,871.01	\$135,315.90	\$9,585.34	\$151,772.25
Plus: Receipts	113,733.89	8,528.07	6,003.80	128,265.76
Less: Disbursements	107,083.84	14,023.00	5,313.00	126,419.84
Ending Balances	\$13,521.06	\$129,820.97	\$10,276.14	\$153,618.17
Plus: Real Estate (Avondale Property) at Cost				160,000.00
			Total Assets	\$313,618.17

Bellevue Income Statement

	2005	2004
OPERATING RECEIPTS		
Tithes & Offerings	64,676	52,104
Other Income	78	935
Interest Income	57	42
Miscellaneous	-	-
	-	-
TOTAL OPERATING RECEIPTS	\$64,811	\$53,081
 OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS		
Salary	39,976	43,385
Allowances	22,800	22,800
Insurance	12,480	11,565
Rent	7,029	18,525
Radio Broadcast	3,488	-
Telephones	1,928	1,777
Assessments	1,044	2,124
Admin	899	1,221
Miscellaneous	538	427
Publications	445	447
Honoraria	405	857
Travel	300	532
	-	-
TOTAL OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS	\$91,332	\$103,658
 OPERATING EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	 (\$26,522)	 (\$50,577)
 NON-OPERATING SOURCES:		
Internal Transfers	12,000	27,500
Denominational Support	9,596	25,000
Total Non-Operating Sources	\$21,596	\$52,500
 Non-Operating Sources Less Operating Deficit	 (\$4,926)	 \$1,923

Bellevue Balance Sheet

	2005	2004
Assets		
Current		
Cash in Bank	\$199,815.40	\$88,906.78
Certificate of Deposit	101,997.29	126,801.31
	<u>\$301,812.69</u>	<u>215,708.09</u>
Note Receivable ¹		90,000.00
Total Assets	<u><u>\$301,812.69</u></u>	<u><u>\$305,708.09</u></u>
 Liabilities & Members' Equity		
Liabilities ²	35,000.00	-
Members' Equity	<u>266,812.69</u>	<u>305,708.09</u>
Total Liabilities + Members' Equity	<u><u>\$301,812.69</u></u>	<u><u>\$305,708.09</u></u>

Notes:

¹ Note Receivable at face value pursuant to sale of the property located at 14300 188th Avenue NE, Woodinville, WA 98072 (the Avondale property). The property was sold on April 15, 2004. The final note was due on October 13, 2004, but wasn't paid in full, with accrued interest and fees, until January 10, 2005.

² Forgivable Loan Note. The Finance Committee was requested by Synod 2004 to provide the Free Reformed Church of Bellevue with a Forgivable Loan Note in the amount of US \$35,000. According to the terms of the Note, the loan is forgivable if the congregation of Bellevue exists on June 8, 2006. If the congregation does not exist on June 8, 2006, the loan is payable on demand or on terms as stated by Synod, as well as all accumulated interest, as per Synodical guidelines.

Bellevue Budget

	2005	2006	Delta (06-05)
OPERATING RECEIPTS			
Tithes & Offerings ²	64,676	48,420	-16,256
Other Income ³	798	800	2
Interest Income	57	35	-22
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL OPERATING RECEIPTS	\$65,531	\$49,255	(\$16,276)
OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS			
Salary⁴			
Base	32,889	33,974	1,085
Longevity	4,000	4,000	-
Car	-	4,200	4,200
Retirement	<u>2,822</u>	<u>3,226</u>	<u>404</u>
Total Salary	39,711	45,400	5,689
Allowances⁵			
Housing	21,600	21,600	-
Books	<u>-</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Total Allowances	21,600	22,800	1,200
Insurance⁶	12,480	15,054	2,574
Rent	7,029	6,916	-113
Telephones	1,928	2,120	192
Radio Ministry⁷	3,488	1,920	-1,568
Assessments	1,044	1,075	31
Admin	899	900	1
Publications	445	445	-
Honoraria	405	400	-5
Miscellaneous	538	400	-138
Travel	300	300	-
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS	\$89,867	\$97,731	\$7,864
OPERATING EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	(\$24,336)	(\$48,476)	(\$24,140)
NON-OPERATING SOURCES:			
Internal Funds Transfers	12,000		
Denominational Support ⁸	17,084		
Total Non-Operating Sources	<u><u>\$29,084</u></u>		<u><u>\$0</u></u>
Non-Operating Sources Less Operating Deficit	\$4,748	(\$48,476)	

Bellevue Budget

Notes:

¹The 2005 data contained in the proposed 2006 budget are presented on an **accrual** basis. The 2005 Income Statement is presented on a **cash** basis. The following notes explain the differences.

²Tithes & Offerings in 2005 includes a large one-time gift given in July. We have netted that gift amount out of our 2006 budget since it is clearly a non-recurring source.

³The \$798 included in the 2005 column is the total amount of sermon tape revenues paid to FRCB in 2005, but actually deposited to our accounts in 2006. We're estimating a similar amount for 2006.

⁴The Salary actually paid to Pastor in 2005 was \$39,976 (see Income Statement). The 2005 *cash* Salary is converted to the *accrual* figure shown above (\$39,711) by subtracting the 2004 Retirement portion of Salary paid in 2005 (\$3,087) and adding the 2005 Retirement component paid in 2006 (\$2,822). Beginning in 2006, we will pay the salary components in the year earned to avoid the confusion introduced by deferring certain payments until the following year. In 2005, Pastor voluntarily forfeited the \$4,200 Car component of Salary to help control costs. It is reinstated in 2006.

⁵The Allowance figure shown here for 2005 (\$21,600) is the Housing Allowance. It excludes an additional \$1,200 paid in 2005 for the 2004 Book Allowance. Beginning in 2006, we will pay the Allowance components in the year earned to avoid the confusion introduced by deferring certain payment until the following year. In 2005, Pastor voluntarily forfeited his Book Allowance to help control costs. It is reinstated in 2006.

⁶The 2006 amount budgeted for Insurance includes \$14,773 health insurance for Pastor's family and \$281 liability insurance for the Bellevue church (as required by the terms of our use of the Grace Lutheran Church facilities).

⁷The 2005 figure (\$3,488) consists of \$1,758 in non-recurring startup costs (recording equipment and software) for our weekly thirty-minute radio program, *The Old Paths*, and \$1,730 for radio advertising of FRCB Bible studies and worship services. The 2006 budget consists of the annual cost of FRCB sponsorship of one thirty-minute broadcast each month of *The White Horse Inn (WHI)*, a weekly theological discussion program from a Reformed perspective hosted by Dr. Michael Horton, Professor of Historical Theology and Apologetics at Westminster Seminary in California. During our sponsored broadcast, FRCB is recommended as a solidly Reformed church in Bellevue with our contact information. *WHI* is focusing this year on themes from Paul's epistle to the Romans. *WHI*, aired each Sunday evening at 9:00 PM PST over KGNW AM (a 50,000-watt Christian radio station covering all of Washington, and from Portland, Oregon, in the south to Vancouver, B.C. in the north), has a substantial listenership in the greater Puget Sound area. We will re-evaluate our sponsorship of *WHI* this summer, and consider re-directing some resources toward spot announcements on KGNW.

⁸Denominational support from the Needy Churches Fund was authorized in the amount of CDN \$20,000 at Synod 2005. The USD equivalent (\$17,084) was paid in 2006.

**LACOMBE APPLICATION FOR NEEDY CHURCHES
LACOMBE FREE REFORMED CHURCH
BOX 1634 RIMBEY, AB T0C 2J0**

Lacombe, AB
March 24, 2006

Needy Churches Fund
FRCNA
Attn. Mr. Jim Koopman

On behalf of Lacombe consistory we would like to re apply for financial assistance from Needy Churches. This is needed to offset the extra funding required to support a full time pastor.

At this present time we are seeking to call Pastor Jerrold Lewis to be our pastor
We realize that this is still dependent on

- Pastor Lewis being approved by Synod
- A subsequent call by Lacombe FRC
- The acceptance of such a call by Pastor Lewis before Synod

For your examination our financial budget is attached.

We trust that the information given will be adequate for your examination to determine the legitimacy of our request

If you have any question please feel free to contact me by phone @ 403-748-3760 or by email @ ajvdhoek@platinum.ca

Respectfully submitted
In His service
Clayton deGroot, President
Anthony VandenHoek, Clerk
Lacombe Free Reformed Church

**LACOMBE REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE
LACOMBE FREE REFORMED CHURCH
BOX 1634 RIMBEY, AB T0C 2J0**

To: Members of Finance Committee

As you are very well aware we are in the process of call Pastor Lewis to be our pastor and teacher. We are submitting this request in the event that Pastor Lewis will accept our call to Lacombe. In the event that Pastor Lewis should accept a call to Lacombe we will as consistory and our minister will work with the Home Missions committee and its counselor to discuss ways of reaching out to the community and that we will present an outline of our ideas to the Finance Committee in due time.

We as consistory find it difficult to present such an outline until such a time as when Pastor Lewis accepts a call. All that we are requesting at this time is the assurance that if Pastor Lewis accepts our call to Lacombe that the funds will be forthcoming.

We as consistory of Lacombe request assistance from Needy Churches to support our new Pastor and leader. Based on the figures given in the budget we would request the amount of \$47,000.

With Christian greetings

Anthony VandenHoek, Clerk
Clayton deGroot, President
Lacombe Free Reformed Church

BUDGET FOR LACOMBE FREE REFORMED CHURCH

The following budget are submitted for your examination to substantiate our needs

Minister basic salary	38000
Housing allowance	18000
Office Supplies	1200
Car @.50 per km	5000
Alberta Health Care	3000
Book Allowance	1200
Total	\$66400

Added Expenses

UIC - CPP	2500
Pulpit Supply	2000
Church Supplies	1000
Total	\$5500

Church Maintenance/Utilities	3500
Insurance	1500
Advertising	1500
Total	\$7500

Synodical Assessments Est. \$4500

Total Requirements for Year \$83,900

For comparison actual 2005 at Dec 31, 2005

General fund collection \$36,000

Asserts as of Feb 28, 2006

General Fund bank balance \$10,000

Benevolence fund bank balance \$10,500

Value of Church Building and property \$140,000

We own the Church building and property and have no outstanding debts or mortgages

To consider:

- Calgary contribution
- Minister moving expenses

**LACOMBE CHURCH EXPENSES
LACOMBE FREE REFORMED CHURCH
BOX 1634 RIMBEY, AB T0C 2J0**

To Members of Finance Committee

As per your request please find below a detailed expense report for 2005

Ministers travel and Honoraria	\$17,000
Synod Assessment	7000
Rental (See Note below)	4800
Office Supplies and books	3000
Building Maintenance	2000
Utilities	1300
Advertising	700
Equipment Purchases	700
Subscriptions	700
Insurance	500
Legal Fees	400
Kitchen Supplies	300
Interest and bank charges	50
Total Expenses	<hr/> \$38450

Note: The rental fee is from when we were still renting the Anglican Church prior to the purchase of our own building.

With Christian greetings

Anthony VandenHoek, Clerk
Clayton deGroot, President
Lacombe Free Reformed Church

Needy Churches Fund Balance Sheet

FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA
NEEDY CHURCHES FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash	\$1	\$5,108
Accounts Receivable	542	777
TOTAL ASSETS	\$543	\$5,885
 <u>EQUITY</u>		
Opening Balance	\$5,885	26,070
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	51,278	-20,185
Total Equity	\$57,163	\$5,885

Needy Churches Fund Income Statement

FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA
NEEDY CHURCHES FUND
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - Income Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2005

	2005	2005	Variances F/(U)		2004
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>					
Assessments	51,276	25,767			5a 25,386
Interest					
Bank	2	-	2	100%	2
Total Revenues	<u>\$51,278</u>	<u>\$25,767</u>	<u>\$2</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>25,388</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
Payments to Churches	-	-	-	0%	45,562
Administration					
Bank Charges	-	-	-	0%	11
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>\$45,573</u>
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	<u>\$51,278</u>	<u>\$25,767</u>	<u>\$2</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>(\$20,185)</u>

Needy Churches Budget

FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA
NEEDY CHURCHES FUND
BUDGET For the Years ended December 31, 2006 & 2007

	2005	2006	Variances		2007
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Projected</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>					
Assessments	51,276	52,302	1,026	100%	106,695
Interest					
Bank	2	-	(2)	-100%	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$51,278</u>	<u>\$52,302</u>	<u>\$1,024</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>\$106,695</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
Payments to Churches	-	45,000	45,000	0% 5b	104,600
Administration					
Bank Charges	-	-	-	0%	-
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$45,000</u>	<u>\$45,000</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>\$104,600</u>
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	<u>\$51,278</u>	<u>\$7,302</u>	<u>\$46,024</u>	<u>90%</u>	<u>\$2,095</u>

Needy Churches Notes

FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

1 Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the Needy Churches Fund are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. All representations are in Canadian dollars.

2 Review of the Statements:

The financial statements of the Needy Churches Fund have been reviewed, utilizing the 1996 standard audit program, by Jim Koopman (Brantford) and James Neven (St. George). The records were found to be accurate and in good order.

3 Cash:

Cash and Short Term Deposits consist of the following:

	2005
Chequeing	\$56,620

4 Accounts Receivable:

	Beg. Bal.	C/Y Assess.	Amt. Paid	O/S Balance
Abbotsford	-	2,304	2,304	-
Bellevue	-	216	209	7
Bornholm	-	924	924	-
Brantford	-	5,640	5,640	-
Chatham	-	2,904	2,904	-
Chilliwack	-	3,792	3,792	-
Dundas	-	5,472	5,472	-
Grand Rapids	-	3,900	3,900	-
Hamilton	-	4,152	4,152	-
Lacombe	-	540	1,308	(768)
Langley	-	888	888	-
London	744	1,224	744	1,224
Mitchell	(6)	2,316	2,316	(6)
Monarch	-	2,664	2,664	-
Prompton Plains	39	2,568	2,522	85
St. Thomas	-	3,768	3,768	-
Toronto	-	156	156	-
Vineland	-	5,052	5,052	-
Wellandport	-	2,796	2,796	-
	777	51,276	51,511	542

5 Variance Explanations:

- a Assessment was increased to \$12/member at Synod 2005, based on expected needs that were brought forward at the Synod meetings.
- b Payments include the '05 loan of CDN \$20,000 and the expected '06 needs for the Bellevue congregation. The '05 request was paid after Finance Committee approval.

**EMERITUS FUND REPORT
TO SYNOD 2006 OF
THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

WHAT IS THE EMERITUS FUND?

The emeritus fund was set up so that ministers and their families can receive an income during their retirement years. Entitlement is gained by receiving an honorary emeritus status at Synod, and upon request by the consistory of the church where the emeritus minister is a member. The fund also provides for them in the event that they become disabled while in office. The amount that they receive is stipulated by Synod each year. No part of this fund is set aside for any particular minister.

WHAT IS VESTING?

If a fund were vested, it would mean that a minister is entitled to receive a certain amount that will follow him like a pension plan. He is free to do with the fund what he wants to do, when he wants to. Some restrictions may apply, including no withdrawals until retirement. It also gives the minister the flexibility to change the amount that he wants to receive. For example, if an emeritus minister wishes to take some extra vacation time and needs money to do this, he would withdrawal additional money from his fund. In the past few years, Synods have discussed vesting as an alternative to the present system so as to grant entitlement to Pastors in recognition of their many years of service. As the present fund technically to be distributed on a needs basis, concern has been expressed that the emeritus fund ought instead to be available on an entitlement basis, in keeping with 1 Tim. 5:18

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

OPTION 1:

We have the option to leave the Emeritus Fund as it currently is operating. It is not possible under present government rules for this fund to provide vesting.

The Emeritus Fund really should be administrated as a benevolent fund whereby pastors need to apply annually to state their need and that their financial needs are met. This has historically not been done, but rather a stipulated amount as approved by Synod each year is paid to all Pastors when they retire in the Free Reformed Churches of North America.

A positive aspect of the fund is that all emeritus ministers receive the same amount of benefits, regardless of their years of service in FRCNA.

A negative aspect of the fund is that if a minister leaves FRCNA before, or after retirement he is not permitted to receive emeritus payments. This certainly does not provide any retirement benefits to those pastors who have faithfully served the denomination, and who may need to relocate in their retirement years.

OPTION 2:

A plan that would adequately provide for ministers and their families that would also include vesting. Under this option we have pursued 4 alternatives:

Alternative 1:

We have looked at the option of starting a Pension Plan with a life insurance company. We have made contact with several different companies, however in every case they were not interested in doing business UNLESS we invest up front an amount in excess of \$500,000. Although we currently have more money than this, we can not start a Pension Plan this way, which would require that the money be allocated to individual persons. Since our current emeritus fund is not allocated to individuals we could not start a Pension Plan by using the present funds available. If we allocate these funds to a pastor, it would also be required that this be reported to them as income and therefore create a large tax burden for the pastors.

Alternative 2:

We could start a Pension plan with the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. In our discussions with Peter Luth from Free Reformed Missions International, he indicated that although they use this for the missionaries, the historical rates of return have been low. No further investigation was done with this plan.

Alternative 3:

We could have Pastors in Canada start an individual RRSP plan and Pastors in the USA an individual 401K plan. The group RRSP plan would enable the Finance Committee to review the investing of the pastors, and also allow the use of funds from churches without ministers to contribute to the retirement of Pastors in the Free Reformed Churches of North America. With this individual plan, ONLY churches with pastors would contribute.

Alternative 4:

We could have Pastors in Canada start a Group RRSP plan and Pastors in the USA an individual 401K plan.

ADVANTAGES:

- Payroll deduction, at source by churches participating
- Immediate tax relief on contribution, amount is not taxed at source

- Employer could match all or some of the contributions
- Could also make spousal contributions and create income splitting in retirement years.
- Can set vesting options
- Administered from one location, low admin costs if any.
- Federation controls investment – or employee could
- Federation controls withdrawal of their portion of the contribution
- Employer can match contribution directly

DISADVANTAGES:

- Control may be an issue.
- Employer could cancel at any time
- Poor investment choices can negatively affect many plan holders
- Employees could withdraw their funds and squander them

Because a Group type of plan is not feasible in the USA, we would have to have the individual congregations contribute to their Pastor’s 401K plan.

OUR RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the finance committee to start a Group RRSP plan for pastors in Canada and individual 401K plan for the pastors in the USA. This will be in addition to the current emeritus fund.

HOW WILL IT BENEFIT THE PASTORS?

First of all, let us look at the situation of new pastors starting with the proposed plan.

New pastor at age	25	30	35
Annual investment (1)	4,800	4,800	4,800
Rate of inflation	2%	2%	2%
Rate of return	5.10%	5.80%	6.90%
Years to retirement	40	35	30
Retirement age	65	65	65
Years of retirement	20	20	20
Annual payments at retirement (2)	\$54,095	\$48,995	\$44,377
Value of fund at age 80	\$335,629	\$281,552	\$244,848
Projected emeritus payments at retirement	\$54,095	\$48,995	\$44,377

(1) Annual investment calculated as 8% of \$60,000 annual salary for the first year and increased by the rate of inflation each year.

(2) Annual payments are increased by the rate of inflation each year.

As you can see with these examples, a pastor starting in the ministry at a younger age requires a lower rate of return to achieve the same annual payments as anticipated with the current emeritus fund.

The difference between this proposal and the emeritus fund is that additional funds can be withdrawn if necessary and there may be a remaining value left for his estate. In addition, income splitting can occur by making spousal contributions and as a result tax savings can be anticipated.

BIBLICAL BASIS

To determine a biblical basis, on which we may base decisions concerning the Emeritus Fund, is a somewhat difficult pursuit. The scriptures do not contemplate these modern arrangements, and thus do not speak directly to these types of issues. However we may draw some conclusions from how the Bible deals with matters of merit and need concerning those called to the ministry.

Although prescribed amount has been set by previous synods, it has been generally agreed that the present fund is a benevolent type fund. This is based on discussions at previous synods, and the fact that no amounts in the fund are due to a specific pastor of the federation, but rather the fund exists to assist them and their wives during their retirement years. Additionally the fund exists to assist widows and dependant children of deceased pastors.

The scriptures indicate that ministers of the Word are entitled to eat of that Word 1 Cor. 9:14, Matt. 10:10, Luke 10:7, 1 Tim. 5:18. The basis for the minister to live off the gospel is based on him being worthy by virtue of his office and by command of God. The workman is worthy of his hire. Entitlement appears to be in view in these passages. The minister is deserving to be paid for the work he does. This does not appear to be based on some expressed need being made clear by a minister, but rather he should be able to expect that the Church will provide for him according to the Word of God by virtue of his office. The difficulty that has arisen from the committee's point of view is that if the fund is indeed to be a benevolent fund, then it performs a diaconal function. In such cases, the recipient discloses a lack of resources or income whereupon the deacons decide prayerfully how to give assistance in the name of Christ. This might disqualify some of our pastors, if they have built up a personal retirement fund, or perhaps own other assets that could be used to fund their retirement. Church Order article 11 also contemplates an obligation on the part of congregations to pay their ministers so "they will have no financial worries". We note that church order does not reference need as being the basis of compensation.

The committee has been requested to consider the matter of vesting. This would move us away from the benevolent nature of the plan, to a merit basis. The com-

mittee is not able to directly reference scripture directly in this regard. We indicate the wisdom of such a plan based on Proverbs 6:6-8; 21:20; Gen. 41:25-56; while guarding that such savings do not cross the boundary into hoarding Luke 12:13-21.

Lastly, we note that vesting, or RRSP accounts owned by pastors to a greater extent safeguard their ability to pass on an inheritance to their children.

Emeritus Balance Sheet

FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA
MINISTERS' EMERITUS FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2005

Assets:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash	48,293	33,254
Accounts Receivable	23,329	20,190
Investments	968,380	903,657
Total Assets	<u><u>1,040,001</u></u>	<u><u>957,101</u></u>
Equity:		
Beginning Balance	957,101	882,605
Operating Surplus	82,900	74,496
Total Equity	<u><u>1,040,001</u></u>	<u><u>957,101</u></u>

Emeritus Income Statement

FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA
MINISTERS' EMERITUS FUND
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OF DECEMBER 31, 2005

	<u>2005</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>% Variance F/(U)</u>	<u>\$ Variance F/(U)</u>	<u>2004</u>
Revenue:					
Assessments	51,276	51,280	0%	(4)	50,772
Interest					
From Bank Balance	3	5	-29%	(1)	2
From Securities	55,421	50,000	11%	5,421	6a 46,651
Total Revenue	<u>106,700</u>	<u>101,285</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>5,415</u>	<u>97,425</u>
Expenditures:					
Pension Payments	23,456	23,502	0%	46	22,929
Administration				-	
Bank Charges	89	25	-249%	(63)	-
Other				-	
Miscellaneous	255	350	27%	95	-
Total Expenditures	<u>23,800</u>	<u>23,877</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>22,929</u>
Operating Surplus	<u>82,900</u>	<u>77,407</u>	<u>7%</u>	<u>5,338</u>	<u>74,496</u>

Emeritus Budget

	<u>Actual 2005</u>	<u>Budgeted 2006</u>	<u>% Variance F/U)</u>	<u>\$ Variance F/(U)</u>	<u>2007 Projected</u>
Revenue:					
Assessments	51,276	51,789	1%	513	52,825
Interest					
From Bank Balance	3	5	36%	2	5
From Securities	55,421	57,500	4%	2,079	60,000
Total Revenue	<u>106,700</u>	<u>109,294</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>2,594</u>	<u>112,830</u>
Expenditures:					
Pension Payments	23,456	31,978	-27%	(8,522) 6b	48,927
Administration				-	
Bank Charges	89	25	255%	64	25
Other				-	
Miscellaneous	255	350	-27%	(95) 6d	350
Total Expenditures	<u>23,800</u>	<u>32,353</u>	<u>-26%</u>	<u>(8,554)</u>	<u>49,302</u>
Operating Surplus	<u>82,900</u>	<u>76,940</u>	<u>-8%</u>	<u>(5,960)</u>	<u>63,527</u>

Emeritus Notes

Emeritus Fund of the Free Reformed Church of North America Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2005

1. Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the Emeritus Fund are prepared utilizing the accrual basis of accounting.

All representations are made in Canadian dollars.

2. Review of the Books:

The financial statements of the Emeritus Fund have been reviewed, utilizing the 1996 standard review program, by Jim Koopman (Brantford) and James Neven (St. George). The records were found to be accurate and in good order.

3. Cash:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash and Term deposits consist of the following		
TDCT Chequeing	14,366	23,951
TD Investment Account	33,927	9,303
	48,293	33,254

4. Account Receivable:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Accounts Receivable consists of the following:		
Interest from Securities	23,274	19,199

Assessments:

Congregation	Opening Balance	Curr.Yr. Assess.	Amount Paid	Ending Balance
Abbotsford	-	2,304	2,304	-
Bellevue	(50)	216	209	(43)
Bornholm	-	924	924	-
Brantford	-	5,640	5,640	-
Chatham	-	2,904	2,904	-
Chilliwack	-	3,792	3,792	-
Dundas	-	5,472	5,472	-
Grand Rapids	-	3,900	3,900	-
Hamilton	-	4,152	4,152	-
Lacombe	-	540	1,308	(768)
Langley	-	888	888	-
London	1,488		1,488	1,224

Emeritus Notes

		1,224		
Mitchell	(12)	2,316	2,316	(12)
Monarch	-	2,664	2,664	-
Pompton Plains	4	2,568	2,503	69
St. Thomas	(68)	3,768	3,768	(68)
Toronto	(24)	156	132	-
Vineland	(96)	5,052	5,052	(96)
Wellandport	<u>(252)</u>	<u>2,796</u>	<u>2,796</u>	<u>(252)</u>
	<u>990</u>	<u>51,276</u>	<u>52,212</u>	<u>55</u>

Total Receivables: 23,329

5. Investments:

The committee maintains the following investments, in accordance with the prescribed guidelines:

	<u>Face Value</u>	<u>Amortized Value</u>
Nfld. & Lab. Hydro	25,000	25,000
Government of Canada Bonds	95,000	95,000
Ontario Hydro	80,000	75,908
B.C. Hydro	5,000	5,000
Prov. of Saskatchewan	85,000	85,000
Prov. of Ontario	404,801	405,816
Prov. of Manitoba	113,000	119,620
GIC's	50,000	50,000
Province of Alberta	38,000	38,550
Province of PEI	9,000	10,797
Province of Nova Scotia	<u>56,000</u>	<u>57,689</u>
	<u>960,801</u>	<u>968,380</u>

6. Variance Explanations:

- a. Slightly higher yields on '05 security purchases contributed to a favourable interest variance.
- b. The '06 budget includes the possibility of 1 additional retirement, beginning in Sept. '04.
The '07 budget includes 2 Emeritus pastors.
- d. '05 expenses include membership fees for the Canadian Counsel of Christian Charities and costs for new cheques.

**FOREIGN MISSION REPORT
TO SYNOD 2006 OF
THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

To: The Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of North America
In Session June 05-09, 2006

Esteemed Brothers,

The Deputies for Free Reformed Missions International are pleased to submit the following report of our work since Synod 2005

1. COMMITTEE WORK

Since Synod 2005, the board of FRMI has met 5 times (August 31/05, November 28/05, February 16/06, April 13/06, with a meeting planned for May 09/06). In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, communication with the mission workers is maintained through the Regional committee as well as through personal contacts with board members. Two brothers (R. Postma and Rev. J. Koopman) of the mission board visited Cubulco and San Felipe/Quetzaltenango, Guatemala in March 2006. The agenda consisted of meetings with the Regional committee and with the local workers with key focus on the translation work as well as a visit to Xela. In the last report to synod, it was noted that a Regional committee was in the process of being established. This has been completed with the first meeting held in September and additional meetings held in December and March. The executive consists of Santiago Alvarez (president), Celestino Alonzo (secretary), Jose Maria Rosales (Chema) (treasurer); and Santos Sunun and Domingo Alvarez as General members. Rev. Everts and Nico also form part of the committee in the role of advisors and mentors. We are thankful that almost all of the churches send their representatives who give reports on the spiritual and material needs of their churches. It is encouraging to see that little by little the churches are becoming more organized and taking on more responsibilities. However, we recognize that there is much work to be done towards achieving greater independence. We continue to struggle with the somewhat lack of maturity, materialism and spiritual focus of the church leaders. The Regional committee needs to be encouraged to focus more on the spiritual condition of their congregations rather than the material aspects. By God's grace, this should be improved with further instruction.

As the work of the mission is becoming quite large, the board has decided that an executive director be employed on a part time basis (four to six hours per week). We are thankful that we may accept brother R. Postma's offer to fill this position. The basic responsibility will be to aid and assist the execution of the decisions of FRMI. Br. Postma has been carrying this out through regular con-

tact (via teleconference) with the mission field as well as maintaining contact with the members of the board, particularly the executive. This has proved very effective as there is greater focus on the work, particularly, the translation work as well as improvement in communications and overall oversight/monitoring of the work in Guatemala. As this is a paid position, br. Postma will no longer be a director of the board, but will continue to be present during the meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

The board has also been active in providing updates and information via the Mission Inserts in the *Messenger*.

The balance of the report seeks to provide you with a summary and update of the work as it is at present.

2. IGLESIA REFORMADA OF CUBULCO

Three worship services are held every week. The Saturday and Sunday evening services are in Spanish; the Sunday morning worship service is conducted in the Achi language. Sunday school classes for all ages are also held on Sunday mornings before the service. This past year frequent special services have also been held in the homes of the people. These services are usually well attended by members and non-members alike and have been a great opportunity to expound the Word of God. This has resulted in some new families attending services. The young people are very involved in the church. They are helping out in visiting the elderly, which we are thankful for, as they hold the future of the church. There is also a group of women under the leadership of Rina and Lia that receive classes and make visits each Tuesday. We thank God for the opportunities we have to share the Gospel with people who do not know the Lord. We pray that the Lord will continue to do His work in these people.

3. CHURCHES IN THE ALDEAS

There are several churches in the aldeas. There is much reason to give thanks for the Lord's work in these areas as well as concerns needing our prayers.

With regards to the church in Patuy, they now have their own church building, which was inaugurated on October 2005. We are thankful that Felipe, the obrero which serves this church, is doing much better and has returned to this aldea to support the brothers and sisters. However, he is still receiving treatments and will need to be remembered in prayer. The church in Chirramos, which is served by the obrero Chema, has experienced improvement in church life with the installation of elders and deacons in September of last year. Xinacati II and Portesuelo Hondo are two of the churches in the aldeas that do not have an obrero leading them. The church in Pichal continues to experience some growth. In order to have more unity and to encourage one another, the members hold serv-

ices regularly in their homes. The churches in Xeul and Chwiweza have endured some problems among the brethren, which have recently subsided. Some members have left the church, however, there are also other people who are interested in the Word of God and have been attending services.

The brethren in Los Pajales and Salamcho continue to mature and grow in their walk with the Lord. Services are held regularly and well attended. Plans are in place to construct/reconstruct their own building. The group in Pa'aj also continues to mature. We are grateful that there is little influence from other churches. Although the group is small, there is much interest in the Word of God.

Details of each of the churches in the aldeas have been provided in the report to Synod 2005 and the January 2006 Mission News insert.

Rev. Everts and Nico also continue to teach classes in the aldea churches with regards to the election of office bearers.

4. BIBLE INSTITUTE (Centro Teologico de Cubulco)

This is attended by the obreros and members of the churches in the aldeas. As mentioned in the previous report to Synod, most of the students have only obtained elementary education. Therefore, additional academic training was necessary in order for them to advance in theological training. The obreros have now completed their grade nine education. The Bible Institute classes have resumed in February, which is being attended by the obreros to resume their theological studies. The curriculum will include more biblical and Reformed doctrine. Each course contains 24 hours of instruction/trimester. Each trimester has 3 courses that will be taught mainly by teachers from the Presbyterian Seminary and by Nico and Rev. Everts, who teach OT introduction and courses on Reformed doctrine, respectively.

5. EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

As there is a need for improved education, particularly Christian education, in the Cubulco area and the aldeas, the mission is looking into options to address this, especially for the children of our church in Cubulco and the aldean churches. In order for us to evaluate the different options/proposals we have enlisted the services of Carlos Alfredo to conduct a study of the current state of education in Cubulco and the aldeas. Alfredo is a member of the Cubulco church and has a great deal of experience concerning education in the area. The problems with the education of the children are diverse. In the rural area the biggest problem is the availability of education. There are schools with many children but few teachers. Another problem in the rural area is the poverty of the people, which has resulted in children leaving school before finishing grade 6. In the urban area there are many schools, and the attendance of the children is better. However,

the expenses for these schools are higher than necessary, due to the school requiring children to buy uniforms and other school materials. In both rural and urban areas there is a lack of spiritual and moral education as there is no attention to biblical teaching. In Cubulco, there is a Christian school, however, it is hard to get qualified Christian teachers. In general, the quality and availability of education in the Cubulco area is poor. Various solutions and options are still being considered including partnering with AMG/Word & Deed (Holland), as they are looking into the possibility of starting a vocation school in Cubulco.

6. RADIO

This ministry continues under the direction of Celestino who has taken over from Alejandro Ortiz. Celestino prepares programs for the radio every Monday through Friday. We are thankful that we continue to hear positive feedback from his programs. He generally conducts these programs live as he can also at the same time attend to the in-coming calls and thank-you letters. When he, as an obrero, is required to visit the aldeas, he pre-records the programs on cassette. The programming also includes Bible messages and readings in both the Spanish and Achi language.

7. TRANSLATION WORK

The translation department reports directly to the FRMI board with Jorge managing the department. The translation efforts have received greater focus this year with Nico and Evert taking a more active role with the work, and with the assistance of a consultant, Dr. Samuel Berberian. Dr. Berberian is an advisor and consultant for the International Bible Society (IBS) and an expert in the field. This has resulted in improved progress in this area of work.

The draft translation into Achi has been completed up to and including 2 Kings 14, Joshua and Ruth. The content review is completed up to Numbers 21, Judges and Ruth and the readability review is completed up to Numbers 8. The next step is the back translation, which is done by Lucia. She translates from Achi to Spanish directly. She has completed up to Leviticus 20, including Joshua and Ruth. The next two steps include the Hebrew check and the review by the consultant, which are presently the bottlenecks in the translation process. The Hebrew check is done by Rev. Everts, however, the translation team is considering using a professor to assist in this work. Hebrew check of Genesis, Joshua and Ruth have been completed. The consultant step is an additional step recently introduced which ensures the quality of the translation. This has been carried out by Dr. Samuel Berberian from IBS who will now be assisted by Ramiro Bolanos (Rector of SEP) to overcome this additional bottleneck. The final step is the review of grammar and punctuation. The goal for 2006 is to complete the draft translation up to and including 2 Chronicles and possibly Ezra, if time permits; complete the content revision, reading & comprehension revision and back-

translation for the books up to and including Ruth.

Also included in the plan for the coming year is to update, record and print the gospels of Mark and John and print the book of Genesis.

The translators are also involved in COPROMAC, an organization established by the translators with a goal to promote and defend the Cubulco Achi language. Many people have respect for the work that the translators are doing because it aids in the development of the Achi language. They have a concern that the written Achi language was developing in a way which was different from what they were translating into (i.e. dominance of Rabinal Achi which is different in some fundamental ways from Cubulco Achi), so they were forced to become involved in the work. They regularly meet with the Mayan Academy of Languages to try to get them then to recognize the Cubulco Achi so that its use will be maintained.

8. REV GANGAR – INDIA MISSION

As mentioned in the *Messenger* of February 2006, Rev Gangar will not be actively pursuing further work in India for the time being. The reason for this is because of the responsibilities in his own congregation and the promising Gospel work in his home area. We hope and pray that this holding back is temporary and that the ministry in India will resume.

9. SOUTH AFRICA MISSION

A letter was received from the mission deputies of the CGKN concerning the work of the Mukhanyo Theological College at KwaMhlanga, South Africa, particularly with respect to the support of Dr. P.J. Buys, who is a professor there. The college is supported by the CGKN and other partners, with the CGKN being, until recently, the main financial sponsor. However, due to budget restraints, the CGKN has had to withdraw a major part of the financial support and has asked the FRMI to consider the possibility of providing some of the support for the work of Dr. Buys. Some of the deputies of the FRMI have attended a presentation of the work by Dr. Buys during his visit in Canada and were impressed by the extension teaching, evangelism and relief ministries undertaken in this area of S. Africa. However, it was decided that, due to limited resources and the demands of the work in Guatemala, the FRMI would not pursue mission endeavours in new areas, for the present time.

10. MISSION WORKERS - FRMI

10.1 Rev. Evert and Rina Everts

The family is doing well. Their children continue to be home schooled and enjoy music. Rev. Everts continues to preach during the Sunday evening Spanish worship service and continues with regular visits to the aldea churches. He teaches Sunday school to the young people and also conducts

catechism classes to a group of 25 youth. At the request of the director of a local school Rina together with the assistance of Nico teaches Bible Classes to students of the lower grades 1-4. Before going to the Netherlands this past year, they spent a large part of their furlough visiting congregations in Western Canada.

10.2 Nico and Lia Kattenberg

With regards to family life, the Kattenbergs are doing quite well. Their two children (Nico and Ellen) are growing quicker than most children their age. They are full of energy, which keeps them very busy. They also had a special time during Christmas as Lia's mother could spend this time with them. Nico continues to make regular visits to the aldeas, some of which includes staying overnight. His goal is to visit each church once a month. Nico continues to conduct the Saturday afternoon services and is working through the book of Judges. He also teaches an adult Sunday school class which is taught in Spanish. As mentioned previously, at the request of the director, Nico teaches Bible Classes at a local elementary school, which is a task shared with Rina. He continues to take care of much of the administrative work, bookkeeping, vehicle maintenance, bookstore, and the purchases etc. The Kattenbergs have spent some time of furlough in NA this year and visited the churches of the east to provide an opportunity for the churches to be more acquainted with them through their presentations.

10.3 John and Connie Otten

John continues as the administrator for the hospital in Cubulco under AMG. Although they have struggled somewhat with their health the family is doing well and the children continue to be home schooled. As mentioned above, one of the projects that John will be focussing on in the future is the feasibility of establishing a school for providing vocation training for the local people. Various options are being considered. John has also been a key player in co-ordinating a work team's effort from NA with W&D/FRMI this past year, which was very successful. The Ottens are also quite active in the Cubulco church, particularly with the youth. The Ottens are considering repatriating to Canada in approximately four years and have presented the board with a preliminary exit plan.

10.4 Rev. Ken and Jackie Hefts

This past year has been a memorable and challenging time for the Harvests. As a result of the devastating effects of Hurricane Stan, the Herfst's have been heavily involved in both rescue and relief efforts. To co-ordinate this effort the church "Iglesia Evangelica Presbyteriana – Bethel" where the Herfst's attend, formed an emergency committee (COED) of which Pastor Herfst is the general coordinator. Bethel opened as a shelter to families

who lost their homes or were evacuated because of flooding and provided meals to the victims. Food bags and medical attention were provided to those who have lost homes as well as those in isolated areas, which were reached via helicopter. By God's Grace, Bethel has been a compelling witness not only in Quetzaltenango, but also in Guatemala City. Through this committee and CEPO (Emergency Committee of the Western Presbytery) of which Pastor Herfst has been appointed chairman, two key areas are being addressed. In El Cedro, 50 families need to be relocated and in Provincia Chiquita, 5000 people are without potable water. A fortified drink "Incaparina" is provided to these communities as it forces people to boil their water and ensures consumption of key nutrients. Relief packages to these communities also include the gospel of John, as the majority of those affected are not Christians. A serious concern is that Guatemala will face major hunger crises. Most rural Guatemalans are subsistence farmers who live from harvest to harvest. In some communities as much as 50 to 90% of the crops were destroyed. Throughout these relief efforts, Pastor Herfst has been working with the government at all levels. This has provided an opportunity to show a genuine concern for their neighbour's well-being in the public forum. Bethel has gained the respect of the community, which presents an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ in a tangible way.

Pastor Herfst continues to teach at SEP (Seminario Evangelico Presbiteriano) and SETO (Seminario Evangelico Teologico de Occidente). The focus this past year has been primarily on courses which deal with diaconal ministry. He also taught Hebrew at SETO. This year, the focus will be on various courses in theology, ethics, world religions and OT exegesis. Pastor Herfst has also led or participated in various conferences this year, two of which were hosted by SEP, namely, the "Integral Mission Conference" with lectures by Dr. Rene Padilla and the CONEM/COMCA, which is part of an Iberoamerican network dedicated to cross cultural missions.

Because of his involvement in relief work, Pastor Herfst has delayed his Doctoral studies temporarily and will resume these studies later this year.

The family is doing well. Jackie attended a course in Canada last August for teaching dyslexic children. She was accompanied by Justin who has remained in Canada. They continue to attend the Bethel church and are actively involved in it, including teaching the young adult Sunday school class, the weekly discipleship class (which includes young single professionals i.e., doctors, lawyers, bankers etc) and preaching.

The Herfst's are grateful for the privilege to live, minister, preach and teach in

Guatemala again. While not without struggles and adjustments, we are thankful for God's continued faithfulness.

11. LOCAL MISSION WORKERS/HELPERS

Alejandro and Kathryn Ortiz

Both Alejandro and Kathryn Ortiz are doing well. Their daughter Abigail had her second birthday this past year. Kathryn received an emergency appendectomy in a private hospital in Quetzaltenango (Xela) last December, which went very well. They are impressed with the quality of the medical care received during this operation. They continue to live in Xela and are thankful that their house was not damaged by Hurricane Stan. They have also been very much involved in the rescue and relief efforts during the aftermath of the hurricane. Alejandro is doing very well with his studies, however, due to his level of previous education, he is not always challenged and is not advancing at the level he is capable of. The rector and Pastor Herfst are working on increasing the level of instruction for Alejandro. The family continues to attend the local Presbyterian Church in Xela and are very much involved in the church. Alejandro also helps out a small group in Paconche (2-1/2 hours from Xela), teaching Sunday School to adults and conducting the services. We pray that the Lord will richly bless his studies as he prepares for the tasks the Lord has in store for him.

Additionally, we have the obreros who serve the various churches. They are as follows:

Santiago Alvarez Ramirez:

His main areas of responsibility as obrero are the church in Chwiwesa, the group in Salamcho, the group in Puertosuelo Hondo and the new group in El Rodeo de las Vegas. Santiago is also an elder in the central church. He delivers the message in the Achi service every other Sunday and visits various members of the church on a regular basis. Santiago is also involved with the regional committee and holds the position of president.

Celestino Alonzo Calo:

Celestino attends the church in Cubulco. He participates in the services and on occasion delivers the message. As mentioned above he is responsible for the radio ministry and works with the translation team. He also functions as the secretary of the regional committee and the executive committee and is required to write up the minutes and the reports to the board of FRMI.

Felipe Alonzo Calo:

Felipe serves the church of Patuy. He hopes to begin teaching Sunday school classes in his church this coming year for adults and children. Because of his health he presently only takes care of his church. We hope that in the future he will be able

to cover the group in Puertosuelo Hondo on a regular basis.

Froilan Calo Jeronimo:

Froilan works as an obrero for the church in Cubulco and also delivers the message for the Achi service every other Sunday. He is actively involved with visiting the various members of the church as well as visiting families in areas where we have no churches. Each week he makes numerous visits to different areas, especially the areas of Xeoch, Xemes, Pa'ajche, Pa'oj and Piedras Blancas. He also makes monthly visits to the aldea churches.

Jose Maria Rosales Teletor (Chema):

Chema serves the church of Chirramos and is actively involved with organizing his church. He is a man with vision for the church. For this reason he has been teaching adult Sunday school in his church for a number of years. He also recently started teaching confession of faith class to the young people in his church so that they will be able to become members. Chema also has a heart for the children in his church and his community. This is evident in the fact that he with the help of his church organized two days of VBS in his aldea in December. Recently they started having Sunday school classes for the children of the church, which is taught by one of Chema's daughters. He is also responsible for the group of believers in Xinacati II. Chema functions as the treasurer of the regional committee.

Santos Sunun Juarez.

Santos is the obrero of the church in Pichal. The members of the church in Pichal do not only come from this aldea, but also from some of the surrounding aldeas like Pachijul and Wayneb' (pronounced "whynep"). Santos regularly visits these areas and holds services there. He is also required on a weekly basis to cover the churches in Xeul and Los Pajales. Santos holds a position in the regional committee as the one who fills the position of any one that is missing.

12. FINANCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

12.1 2005 Financial Statement

The 2005 Financial Statement is attached. It should be noted that, for clarity, there are now separate budgets for each department being supported.

12.2 2006 Proposed Budget

The proposed budget for the year 2006 is attached for your consideration and approval.

12.3 Appointment of Auditors

The Mission Board recommends the appointments of Mr. Jim Koopman and Mr. Nick Zuidema as auditors for the year 2006

12.4 Appointment of Directors

The Mission Board recommends the re-appointments of G. Postma, Rev. H. Overduin, H. DeWaal and P. Vandersloot, as directors for a three-year term.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mission Board makes the following recommendations to Synod:

- 13.1** That the re-appointments of G. Postma, Rev. H. Overduin, H. DeWaal and P. Vandersloot, as directors for a three-year term be approved
- 13.2** That the part-time employment of R. Postma by FRMI as an ex-officio executive director be ratified
- 13.3** That the budget for the year 2006 be approved
- 13.4** That the appointments of Mr. Jim Koopman and Mr. Nick Zuidema as auditors for the year 2006 be approved
- 13.5** That the actions of the Mission Board be approved

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Mission Board and wishing you the Lord's Blessing

John J. Brink
Secretary

Foreign Missions Financial Report

Christian Witness to Israel

CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL ACCOUNT

2005

RECEIPTS	
Abbotsford	114.50
Bellevue	0.00
Bornholme	1,017.95
Chilliwack	1,690.00
Hamilton	3,069.50
Langley	245.00
Mitchell	539.74
St Thomas	468.75
Toronto	86.00
Total FRC	7,231.44
Bank Interest	0.26
Total Income	7,231.70
DISBURSEMENTS	
Christian Witness to Israel	18,920.32
Bank Charges	0.00
Balance December 31 2004	11,688.62
Increase in Fund	-11,688.62
Balance December 31 2005	0.00

A letter was sent to CWI informing them that regretfully we can no longer support their ministry under the current conditions. They replied that they appreciated our support in the past and can understand the position we are required to take. They are currently pursuing affiliation with another Canadian organization and will inform us on further developments. Once that is in place we can resume our support with CWI.

**HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
TO SYNOD 2006 OF
THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Esteemed Delegates,

The Home Missions Committee has met twice since our last report to Synod 2005, namely, on October 24, 2005 and March 22, 2006. From our discussions we would like to report the following matters to you.

1. REPORT ON THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Calgary Home Mission Station

- a. New Building:** This past year has been one of stabilization and maturation of this church planting endeavor. The blessing of having acquired their own building in an industrial park has been very beneficial. This Home Mission Station no longer needs to shift times and locations for their gatherings due to rental facilities. Although their building is not a church as we are accustomed to view it, the interior is very functional and very adequate for Sunday services, classroom activities, and nursery duties. On October 16, 2005 the building could be dedicated to the service of the Lord with about 94 people in attendance.
- b. Membership / Stabilization:** This Home Mission Station consists of 34 people who have either become members or are regular attendees with guests joining for worship from time to time. In addition to acquiring their own building, through the leadership of elders Ray Pennings and Harold Slingerland, the teaching ministry has sought to inculcate and display the three marks of the Church, namely, faithful preaching and administration of the sacraments as well the mutual exercise of church discipline. To facilitate this endeavor, the steering committee is publishing a four page quarterly review of their church life.
- c. Finances:** This small congregation has given generously to the cause of Christ and their building project with the present budget being in the \$55,000 range. About \$50,000 was received for their building project from the Free Reformed churches and individual donors with a shortfall of \$30,000. This amount was loaned by the Home Missions Committee in October 2005 but has subsequently been repaid in full at our spring meeting.
- d. Need for Full Time Worker:** With the present workload of the membership in fulfilling their duties within the church setting as well as their personal

work commitments, the steering committee sees the need of receiving a full time evangelist to labor in their vicinity. At the present time they are finding it increasingly difficult to find the time to do necessary follow-up work with respect to inquiries regarding their church as well as working with those who remain regular attendees at this time. During the first two months of the new year only a few inquiries were received regarding the church but in a two week period in early March eight inquiries were received as well as a greater number requests for the radio messages given by Rev. Schoeman. This development reminds us that ultimately the Lord builds His Church.

2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- a. **Messenger Insert:** After soliciting responses from all of our local Free Reformed churches to come to an understanding of the activities in which they are engaged to spread the Gospel in their local area, we have drawn up a four page insert for the *Messenger* which gives more insight into the work of Home Mission activity itself, includes some recent developments in Calgary, and relates the Home Mission activities of an established local church.
- b. **Educational Pamphlets:** Your committee is in the process of finalizing 750 word pamphlets on subjects including Church Membership, The Sabbath Day, Infant Baptism, Psalmody etc. These short discourses are designed to give a bird's eye view why we worship as we do and may be used in Home Mission settings.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The assets of the Home Missions Committee at the end of 2005 were about \$100,000 with a deficit of about \$4,600 last year. Expenses include \$2000 monthly in support of the Calgary Home Mission Station in light of heavy travel costs for pulpit supply. Radio ministry support amounting to \$3500 is also paid by this committee annually which is 1/3 of the cost for radio broadcasting. The Monarch Church and Calgary pick up 1/3 of this cost as well. While our Committee has agreed to leave the quota at \$1.00 per member if things remain as they are presently at the Calgary Home Mission Station, if this church plant would receive an evangelist to labor there on a full time basis we will need to raise the quota to \$10.00 per member. Our Committee recommends supporting this endeavor up to a total of \$60,000 annually, thus \$36,000 above the amount of support we are presently giving. The financial statements were found to be in good order and are attached to this report. We thank the Treasurer for his labors.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYNOD

- a. To leave the Home Mission quota at \$1.00 per member in view of financial-

commitments made to the Calgary home mission station with the understanding that it will have to be raised to \$10.00 per member if they receive a full time evangelist.

- b.** To renew Revs. K. Gangar and J. Schoeman's term for another 3 years since they have served three and one term respectively. To accept Br. P. Reinstra's resignation from this committee due to relocation to Alberta and therefore to make Br. R. Pennings a permanent member of this Committee. Also, we wish to add Rev. P. VanderMeyden to our Committee. We thank Br. Reinstra for his labors.
- c.** To approve the actions of the Home Missions Committee.

May the Lord richly bless all your deliberations and decisions at Synod 2006.

On behalf of the Home Missions Committee,
L. Roth, Secretary

Home Missions Fund

Free Reformed Church of North America
Home Missions Fund
Statement of Financial Position - Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 2005

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash & Short Term Deposits	3	\$ 27,064	\$ 34,714
Assessments Receivable	4	2,766	3,643
Loans Receivable	5	10,000	-
GIC		46,928	55,000
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$ 86,758</u>	<u>\$ 93,357</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts Payable			
Other			
Total Liabilities		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
 <u>EQUITY</u>			
Opening Balance		\$ 93,357	81,701
Operating Surplus(Deficit)		(6,059)	11,656
Other	7	(540)	
Closing Balance		<u>\$ 86,758</u>	<u>\$ 93,357</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		<u>\$ 86,758</u>	<u>\$ 93,357</u>

Home Missions Fund

Free Reformed Church of North America
Home Missions Fund
For the year ended December 31, 2005

	Notes	2005 Actual	2005 Budgeted	Variances		Notes	2004 Actual
				F(U) \$	%		
<u>REVENUES</u>							
Assessments		42,310	21,579	(213)	-1%		42,310
Collections	6	5,364	1,000	4,364	81%		1,751
Interest		1,117	500	617	55%		876
Other		-	-	-			
Total Revenues		\$ 27,846	\$ 23,078	4,768	17%		44,937
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>							
<u>Support- Mission Stations</u>							
Bellevue Radio/ Cowichan Valley		1,000		(1,000)			27,500
Alberta Calgary Radio Mission	6	28,706	24,000	(4,706)	-16%		3,761
		4,173	3,500	(673)	-16%		2,000
		33,879	27,500	(6,379)	-19%		33,261
Other: Miscellaneous Bank Charges		-		-	0%		
		26	200	174	669%		20
		20	200	174	669%		280
Total Expenditures		\$ 33,905	\$ 27,700	\$ (6,205)	-18%		33,281
Operating Surplus(Deficit)		(6,059)	\$ (4,622)	\$ (1,437)	24%		11,656

Home Missions Statement of Operations

Free Reformed Church of North America
Home Missions Fund
Statement of Operations - Income Statement
For the year ended December 31, 2005

	2005 <u>Actual</u>	2006 <u>Budgeted</u>	Variances F(U)		Notes	2007 <u>Projection</u>
			\$	%		
<u>REVENUES</u>						
Assessments	21,365	4,300	(17,065)	-80%		22,500
Collections	5,364	1,000	(4,364)	-81%		1,000
Interest	1,117	750	(367)	-33%		500
Other	-	-	-			-
Total Revenues	\$ 27,846	\$ 6,050	(21,796)	-78%		24,000
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
<u>Support- Mission Stations</u>						
Bellevue Radio Mission	1,000		1,000			-
Alberta Calgary Radio Mission	28,706	24,000	4,706	16%		60,000
	4,173	4,000	173	4%		1,000
	33,879	28,000	5,879	17%		61,000
Other: Advertising	-	-	-	0%		
Misc	26	25	(1)	-900%		25
	26	25	(1)	-900%		25
Total Expenditures	\$ 33,905	\$ 28,025	\$ 5,581	17%		61,025
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(6,059)	(21,975)	(15,916)	-263%		(37,025)

Home Missions Notes to Financial Statements

Free Reformed Church of North America Notes to Financial Statements As at December 31, 2005 Home Missions Fund

1. Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the Home Missions Fund are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. All representations are in Canadian dollars.

2. Review of the Statements:

The financial statements of the Home Missions Fund have been reviewed, utilizing the 1996 standard audit program, by brother G. Neven and brother L. Schuurman (Brantford). The records were found to be accurate and in good order.

3. Cash:

Cash and Short Term Deposits consist of the following:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Savings / Chequing	\$ 27,064	34,714
Short Term Deposits		
	\$ 27,064	\$ 34,714

4. Accounts Receivable:

Accounts Receivable consist of the following:

Assessments

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Current Yr. Assessment</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>Note</u>
Abbotsford	540	\$ 960	1,500	\$ -	7
Bellevue	273	90	85	278	
Bornholm	-	385	385	-	
Brantford	-	2,350	2,350	-	
Chatham	(1,123)	1,210	2,027	(1,940)	
Chilliwack	78	1,580	1,658	-	
Dundas	-	2,280	2,280	-	
Grand Rapids	-	1,625	1,625	-	
Hamilton	(1,133)	1,730	1,730	(1,133)	
Lacombe	-	225	225	-	
Langley	507	370	370	507	
London	2,235	510	-	2,745	
Mitchell	1,525	965	965	1,525	
Monarch	-	1,110	1,110	-	
Pompton Plains	126	1,070	1,047	149	
St. Thomas	(4)	1,570	1,570	(4)	
Toronto	(20)	65	45	-	
Vineland	807	2,105	2,105	807	
Wellandport	(168)	1,165	1,165	(168)	
	\$ 3,643	\$ 21,365	\$ 22,242	\$ 2,766	3,643

Total Accounts Receivable

\$ 2,766 \$ 3,643

5. Loans Receivable

A \$30,000 loan was granted to the Calgary Home Mission station, of which \$20,000 has been repaid.

6. Collection / Calgary Support

A collection from the Dundas congregation of \$4,706 was forwarded to Calgary.

7. Correction of Outstanding Receivable

A request from Abbotsford to clear the "outstanding" balance of \$540 was received and removed from their account. It appears that this receivable was not properly cleared in 2001.

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
TO SYNOD 2006
OF THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

c/o Convening Consistory, 253 Weirs Lane, RR#1, Dundas, ON, L9H 5E1

Esteemed Delegates,

To facilitate their ongoing activities, your Publications Committee has been enabled to meet twice since Synod 2006, namely, 30 November 2005 and 21 March 2006. We may report the following concerning our activities.

MESSENGER

The *Messenger* could be published 11 times in 2005. We are very thankful for the fine work of our editor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Pronk. We also thank our contributors for continuing to supply materials that have filled The *Messenger*. May the God of grace use these articles for the salvation and instruction of the readers and welfare of the denomination.

The increase of its usual size from 16 to 20 pages in 2005 and the addition of a color cover appears to be appreciated by our readership. The only drawback was that some readers had difficulty reading the meditation on the glossy cover paper. To remedy this, announcements have been shifted to the inside front cover.

The *Messenger* costs are not recovered by the *Messenger* subscriptions; however, the committee feels it would not be wise to increase the subscription price at this time, since it may reduce the number of subscriptions and thereby only increase the printing cost per issue. Furthermore, as the “face of our denomination,” it should be accessible.

YEARBOOK

The 2006 yearbook was published using statistics as of October 31, 2005. It included two articles: “2005 in review” by Rev. Wullschleger and “Return to Guatemala” by Rev. Herfst. Especially Br. David Tamminga is thanked for his work in preparing this useful booklet.

READING SERMONS

The Reading Sermons sub-committee continues to distribute reading sermons via email, rather than the regular post, in order to save on postage costs and allow elders to change the font size if necessary. In addition, the reading sermons are now available on the www.frcna.org website.

A total of 36 reading sermons were published by the Reading Sermons sub-com-

mittee in 2005. We thank the 5 of our 18 ministers who submitted sermons, as well as Br. J. D. Tamminga is responsible for this ongoing project. We would like to remind *all* the pastors of the standing commitment to submit at least two (2) sermons per year to Br. J. D. Tamminga for publication.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Several publications are at varying stages of development. Roughly ordered by stage of development, they include:

1. *Voices from our Heritage*. This is a book of sermons and biographical sketches of 7 early FRC Ministers. Approximately 1600 copies were printed for the October 2005 Elders and Deacons Conference. Around half of the stock has been sold and most of the costs incurred have been recovered.
2. *Vacation Bible School* curriculum. A seven year cycle of VBS materials continues to be published and made available on CD.
3. *Psalmody Through the Ages* by Ted Postma. This well-researched book traces the history of singing from Bible times to the present time. The publication date of this book was delayed due to the need to obtain copyright permission for numerous songs which are quoted. It is scheduled to be ready for distribution the beginning of June 2006.
4. *Introducing the FRC Brochure*. In consultation with the External Relations Committee, a brief brochure has been developed. Its primary aim is to introduce our churches to those at conferences, etc., who are unfamiliar with our churches. This brochure is currently being formatted for publication.
5. *Sunday School Teachers' Manual and Curriculum*. The earlier produced manual for Sunday School teachers is being further edited. Together with the Sunday School Association, a subcommittee is developing activity sheets for three age groups. The manual will be published together with these activity sheets in five volumes. The first volume should be published by September 2006.
6. *Bible Lessons for Juniors* by VanderVeer. We have received permission to reprint a limited number of these booklets originally published by Baker Book House and used in our churches. They are being scanned and reformatted and should be available by September 2006.
7. *Catechism Material*. Mrs. F. Pronk has collected numerous materials from our ministers. No proposal has been developed for an integrated course of catechetical instruction starting at a younger age.
8. *What is Free Reformed?* by J. H. Velema, C. A. Schouls et al. We are pursuing ways of producing an up-to-date and well-structured book.

Congregations are encouraged to purchase FRC Publications materials in order to make them available to their congregations for their edification. Bulk orders receive a discount.

NEW PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

Currently, Mrs. F. Pronk is our publications coordinator. Over the years she has done a great deal of work and is still very active in the new publications work. However, she would like to resign from this position after completing the projects in which she is currently involved. She is heartily thanked for all the work she has done as coordinator.

The committee recommends that Synod appoint Br. Henk Kleyn of Grand Rapids to be the new publications coordinator and by virtue of that appointment be made an ex officio member of the publications committee. The committee also recommends reimbursing him up to \$400 per month for this work. This position involves managing the copy-editing, obtaining of copyrights, revision, design and layout, and printing processes that are required to transform a manuscript into a published book.

WEBSITE

The website continues to be updated and more information continues to be added. The following may be of interest:

- In 2005, a section for reading sermons was added.
- The subcommittee is still working with The *Messenger* publisher to be able to put The *Messenger* on the website as soon as it is published. Back issues of the *Messenger* continued to be keyed in by Rehoboth Christian School (Copetown) typing classes.
- The local congregations and denominational committees are reminded to use the “Denominational News” section for any events they may wish to make known.
- The subcommittee is working on making audio files of speeches/sermons from denominational functions (Church Day, Elders & Deacons Conference, etc.) available to download from the website.
- Local congregations may make use of their own subdomain (e.g. www.abbotsford.frna.org) to set up their own websites. There is not room for local congregations to host audio sermons on their subdomain. If they desire to make their sermons available on the internet, they may use services, such as www.sermonaudio.com, which is used by several of our congregations as well as the Banner of Truth Broadcast already.

Br. Mark Koopman, the webmaster, and those involved with the website are thanked for their work. May also this advanced technology be a means to spread God’s Word even to places we may never see.

CLASSIS PROPOSAL

As mandated by Synod 2005 (Article 46), the publications committee has come up with a proposed classis system. Please see the attached report from the church order subcommittee.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2005 financial report and 2007 budget are attached. The books are to be audited by brothers Jack Hoek and Jeff Haalstra. Brother Dennis DeVries is thanked for all his punctual work as treasurer and administrator of the committee.

Due to the sizeable number of planned publications and the increased cost of *The Messenger*, the committee recommends that the quota be raised from \$4.00 to \$6.00 for 2007.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CLERK TO SYNOD

As has been the practice for the last number of years, the Committee again recommends that Elder Ray Pennings of Calgary be appointed as Assistant Clerk to Synod 2006.

APPOINTMENTS

One vacancy remains, since Br. Jack Westerink was unable to accept his appointment by Synod 2005. The committee recommends that Br. Hans vanDoodewaard of Pelham be appointed as Committee member.

The term of Rev. C. A. Schouls expires this year. Since he has served four consecutive terms, he is not eligible for re-nomination. The Committee thanks him for all the work he has done for the Committee and recommends that Rev. C. Pronk (who is now an ex officio member without the right to vote) be appointed a full member of the committee.

The terms of Rev. J. W. Wullschleger and Rev. J. Koopman expire this year. The Committee recommends that both Rev. Wullschleger and Rev. Koopman be reappointed as Committee members.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Publications Committee presents the following recommendations to Synod 2006:

1. To appoint Br. Ray Pennings as assistant to the first and second clerks of Synod 2006;
2. To accept the appended Classis Proposal as fulfillment of the assignment of Synod 2005;
3. To maintain the current subscription price of the *Messenger* (\$25.00/yr for Canada & U.S.A.).

4. To increase the quota of the Publications Committee from \$4.00 to \$6.00 for 2007;
5. To approve the financial report for 2005 and budget for 2007 of the Publications committee;
6. To ratify the appointment of Rev. C. Pronk as Editor, and Rev. C. A. Schouls as assistant Editor of The Messenger.
7. To appoint Br. Henk Kleyn as a new-publications coordinator and an ex officio member of the committee for a 3 year term ending 2009;
8. To appoint Br. Hans VanDoodewaard as a member for a three year term ending in 2009;
9. To appoint Rev. C. Pronk as a member for a three year term ending 2009;
10. To reappoint Rev. J. W. Wullschleger for a three year term ending 2009;
11. To reappoint Rev. J. Koopman for a three year term ending 2009;
12. To remind our pastors of the standing commitment to submit at least two reading sermons per year to the Committee for publication;
13. To approve of the actions of your deputies.

With brotherly greetings, on behalf of the Committee,

Rev. J. W. Wullschleger, Chairman

Rev. D. H. Kranendonk, Secretary

Attached:

Appendix A – Financial Reports

Appendix B – Classis Proposal

Appendix A: FINANCIAL REPORTS

Free Reformed Church of North America
Publications Committee
Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 2005

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
CIBC chequing	3,846	7,080
CIBC term deposit	0	0
Accounts receivable	0	281
Equipment	1,041	0
Homestead Christian	30,000	30,000
Inventory	19,000	19,000
Total assets	53,887	56,361
<u>Liabilities and equity</u>		
Accounts payable	526	2135
Opening equity	54,226	42,412
Net surplus for year	-865	11,814
Total	53,887	56,361

Free Reformed Church of North America
Publications Committee
Statement of Operations (Income Statement)
For the year ended December 31, 2005

	2005	2005	\$ Variance	%		2006
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>F/(U)</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>F/(U)</u>	<u>Budget</u>
					<u>Notes</u>	
<u>Revenues</u>						
Assessment	17,068	20,000	-2,932	-14.70%		20,000
Publications	26,489	16,400	10,089	61.50%		12,000
Interest	2,419	100	2,319	2319.00%		1,000
<u>The Messenger</u>						
Subscriptions	38,230	35,000	3,230	9.20%		35,000
Announcements	1,150	1,000	150	15.00%		1,000
Miscellaneous	125	3,300	-3,175	-96.20%		
Total Revenues	<u>85,481</u>	<u>75,800</u>	<u>9,681</u>	<u>12.80%</u>		<u>69,000</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>						
Publications	25,017	17,400	-7,617	-43.80%		10,000
Website	1,603	1,200	-403	-33.60%		2,000
<i>Messenger</i> printing & mailing	57,854	52,200	-5,654	-10.80%		53,500
Office supplies	472	1,000	528	52.80%		1,000
Honorarium	1,400	1,000	-400	-40.00%		1,200
Total expenditures	<u>86,346</u>	<u>72,800</u>	<u>-13,546</u>	<u>-18.60%</u>		<u>67,700</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>-865</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-3,865</u>	<u>-128.80%</u>		<u>1,300</u>

Free Reformed Church of North America
Publications Committee
Budget
For the year ended December 31, 2006 & 2007

	2005	2006	\$ Variance	%		2007
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>F/(U)</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>F/(U)</u>	<u>Budget</u>
					<u>Notes</u>	
<u>Revenues</u>						
Assessment	17,068	20,000	-2,932	-14.70%		26,000
Publications	26,489	12,000	14,489	120.70%		12,000
Interest	2,419	1,000	1,419	141.90%		1,000
The Messenger						
Subscriptions	38,230	35,000	3,230	9.20%		35,000
Announcements	1,150	1,000	150	15.00%		1,000
Miscellaneous	125	0	125			
Total Revenues	<u>85,481</u>	<u>69,000</u>	<u>16,481</u>	<u>23.90%</u>		<u>84,000</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>						
Publications	25,017	10,000	-15,017	-150.00%		15,000
Website	1,603	2,000	397	19.90%		2,000
Messenger printing & mailing	57,854	53,500	-4,354	-8.10%		58,000
Office supplies	472	1,000	528	52.80%		1,000
Honorarium	1,400	1,200	-200	-16.70%		6,200
Total expenditures	<u>86,346</u>	<u>67,700</u>	<u>-18,646</u>	<u>-27.50%</u>		<u>82.2</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>-865</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>-2,165</u>	<u>-166.50%</u>		<u>1,800</u>

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2005*

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

The financial statements of the Publications Committee are prepared utilizing the accrual basis of accounting. All representations are made in Canadian dollars. Due to the fact that previous statements were not prepared on an accrual basis all equipment purchases made in prior years and inventory are disclosed in the notes.

2. AUDIT OF THE BOOKS:

The financial statements of the Publications Committee will be reviewed at a later date and reported on at Synod.

3. CASH:

Cash consists of \$3,846 in a CIBC chequing account and \$30,000 investment in Homestead Christian Care.

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

The total accounts receivable is zero. The total accounts payable is \$526.

5. INVENTORIES:

Total inventory has an estimated value of \$24,000.

Our current (Jan.'06) inventory of books consists as follows:

Description	Quantity
Bible Lessons for Juniors	
● Kings and Prophets	19
● The Life of Christ	3
The Heidelberg Catechism in Simplified Questions & Answers	264
Introduction to the Heidelberg Catechism	32
Covenant and Election (by Rev. C. Pronk)	9
1892-1992: Lessons for Today	140
The Secession of 1834 (by Rev. A. Baars)	15
The New Age Movement (by Rev. P. VanderMeyden)	44
Baptism Certificates – Free Reformed Church	10
CD ROM – Free Reformed Churches Database	12
Godly Sorrow	1,922
Canons of Dort	141
Faith of Our Fathers	913
Thy Only Comfort in Life and in Death (Sermons on the HC)	30
Explanatory Notes on the Heidelberg Catechism (Kremer)	144
Signs of the Times	396
Selected Sermons of Early Free Reformed Ministers	811
Study Report: Public Confession of Faith	300
Revised Church Order (Nov 2004)	122
Bible Translation Report	125

6. CAPITAL ASSETS

2005 Computer \$1,041

APPENDIX B: CLASSIS PROPOSAL

FREE REFORMED PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE CHURCH ORDER

To: Synod 2006 of the Free Reformed Churches of North America

C/o Convening Consistory (Clerk@dundas.frcna.org).

Esteemed brothers,

Having again considered the classis proposal the Publications Committee with the assistance of its Church Order Sub-Committee presents the following report:

Article 46 of the *Acts of Synod 2006* records the following deliberation and decision:

A proposal from the ad-hoc [pre-advice] committee assigned in Article 15 is tabled for consideration.

Synod, having received the report of the Publications Committee regarding the Classis proposal, and having heard the discussion at the floor of synod, realizing the efficiency of our present synodical structure, recognizing the need for more local consultation between individual consistories, so as to promote unity and mutual edification among the churches decides:

1. *To implement two regional classes, West and East, which will meet every November, starting November 2005. The classes shall be chaired by the local consistories by alphabetical order.*
2. *That the matters to be discussed at these classes meetings are:*
 - *Art. 41 reports*
 - *Church discipline matters*
 - *Advice regarding ecclesiastical matters*
 - *All such matters that promote the unity among the churches*
 - *Topics of mutual edification*
3. *To confirm the present synodical structure of having annual meetings in which consistorial representation is maintained, through the appointment of delegates by consistories, allowing them to maintain direct contact between consistories and synod.*
4. *That the costs of these classes meetings are to be borne internally by the classes and shall not be submitted to the synodical treasurer. Synod advises the congregations to remunerate the travel expenses of their own delegates and arrangement sufficient remuneration for the hosting church.*

Ways and means: November 2005 Abbotsford and Bornholm shall be the calling churches. Due to geographic centrality, convening churches shall be the churches of Abbotsford and Brantford.

A discussion is held in which the following major points are made:

- The original proposal had a trial period in it and this should again be included;
- The proposal is not really for a classis but rather a combined consistory meeting.
- The suggestion is made to change the hosting churches to Abbotsford and Dundas.

A motion is made to send this report to the Publications Committee for further discussion.

Moved/Seconded/Carried

We are concluding from the above decision and the record of what appears to be a consensus that developed during the discussion that Synod 2005 has given the matter back to the Publications Committee to work on and submit a new proposal with the proviso that the classis system proposed include:

- Two classes, East and West, each meeting at least once a year, and
- An annual synod, with consistorial representation.

As indicated before, we again struggled with the idea of combining the two models, since:

- Characteristic of the traditional reformed (what we can call the) *classis-synod* system is
 - that delegation to synod is appointed by classis or regional synod;
 - that anything that comes to synod comes via classis;
 - that delegates represent their classes, not their consistories.
- Characteristic of our current (what we can call the) *consistory-synod* system is:
 - that delegation to synod is appointed by each local consistory;
 - that anything that comes to synod comes directly from a local consistory (overtures, appeals) or from a committee;
 - that delegates represent their consistories.

It is clear from this that you cannot have both systems simultaneously. A choice needs to be made. While being committed to the classis system (as Synod has declared a few times since 1992), synod 2005 actually decided to maintain significant aspects of our present consistory-synod system.

While wanting our existing system to remain, synod 2005 did recognize the need for consultation on a regional level. Regional consultation would be useful, among others, for the following reasons:

- Discipline matters can be dealt with faster and more efficiently at a regional level.
- Church visitation reports can be handled at a regional level. (As Church visitation reports can be very time consuming, this can expedite our Synodical meetings considerably)

As mandated by Synod 2005, the Publications Committee has come up with the following proposal:

Proposal: The Publications Committee recommends the following to Synod:

1. That the churches implement two regional assemblies, called “**Combined Consistories**,” West and East.
 - a. That these Combined Consistories meet at least once per year, starting November 2006.
 - b. That the churches will take turns in alphabetical order as calling churches (that is, the calling churches for these first meetings are Abbotsford and Bornholm.) and that the Combined Consistories shall be chaired by these same convening (calling) consistories in their turn.
 - c. That the regular Hosting Churches be Abbotsford (West) and Dundas (East).
 - d. That each Consistory sends 2 voting delegates to the Combined Consistory meeting. (Additional consistory members are welcome to attend)
2. That **Matters** to be discussed at these Combined Consistory meetings include:
 - a. Art. 41 (Consistory) reports and/or Article 43 (Church Visit) reports
 - b. Church discipline matters
 - c. Advice regarding ecclesiastical matters
 - d. All such matters that promote the unity among the churches
 - e. Topics of mutual edification.
3. The **Costs** of these combined consistories meetings are to be borne internally by the combined consistories and shall not be submitted to the synodical treasurer. Synod advises the congregations to remunerate the travel expenses of their own delegates and to arrange sufficient remuneration for the hosting church.
4. That **Synod, constituted by two (2) delegates appointed by each local consistory**, continues to meet once every year to consider:
 - a. All matters previously dealt with at Synod and not now relegated to the Combined Consistories
 - b. Matters arising out of Church Visitation reports which Combined Consistories believe merit the attention of all the churches at Synod
5. That this be implemented for a **trial period** of three (3) years, during which time no changes will be made to the Church Order, after which Synod will vote to ratify the procedure and commission the appropriate changes to the Church Order.

Sincerely,

Rev. D. Kranendonk, Secretary of the Publications Committee.

**REFUGEE COMMITTEE REPORT
TO SYNOD 2006
OF THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

To: Synod 2006 of the Free Reformed Churches of North America

Esteemed Brothers,

Your deputies for the Refugee Committee are pleased to provide you with the following report of their activities during the past year.

INTRODUCTION

Our committee, appointed by last year's Synod, has met three times. From the outset a change needed to be made. Melvin Wubs (Chilliwack FRC) declined his appointment. Although we regret this, we could also understand his reason. He is actively involved in the church life of his congregation, and had made a prior commitment not to take on other work. We are grateful Bert Bos, also from the Chilliwack congregation, was willing to take his place. We ask Synod to approve of this.

Also, Hank Van Der Woerd, who is doing his studies in Chicago, has not been able to attend our meetings. We have kept him informed by sending him minutes of our meetings.

THE PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

During this past year we have started familiarizing ourselves with the work. Sponsoring refugees is done under Canada's Private Sponsorship Program. Canada is unique in the world in having such a program! This program has been in existence since 1976, and enables private groups to sponsor refugees.

Emmanuel Free Reformed Church is one of 85 – 90 Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH) in Canada. These are organizations that have a contract with CIC for the private sponsorship of refugees.

REFUGEE ADMINISTRATOR

Ben Van Der Woerd has been doing refugee work since 1993. He is the SAH representative who works under the supervision of the Abbotsford consistory. Although he hopes to continue for some time, and is enjoying good health, a gift for which he is thankful to the Lord, he also sees the wisdom in thinking ahead. The day will come, sooner or later, that he will have to give it over to others. This was the reason why the Abbotsford consistory approached Synod with an overture last year, asking our churches to give their support to this work. Synod approved of this, and appointed our committee.

SUCCESSOR

As indicated in Abbotsford overture it was a priority for us to find a successor for Ben.

With gratitude to the Lord we report that we have found a successor in the person of Mrs. Heddie Driegen. She was recommended to us by Ben Van Der Woerd. Mrs. Driegen is a communicant member of the Canadian Reformed Church in Langley. She is married and has four children. She has worked as a sales and travel consultant. She is an established secretary. Over the last number of years she has been very active already in refugee work. She attended, for instance, a week long meetings of the Canadian Council for Refugees in Victoria. She is very enthusiastic about it. We also received a letter of reference from her pastor, Rev. J. Visscher with an unqualified recommendation. At our last meeting we had an interview with her. The interview was favourable. We believe that the Lord is providing in this position. The coming time will be a transition time during which Ben will acquaint Mrs. Driegen with all the ins and outs of the work.

COMMITTEE MANDATE

The mandate Synod gave to our committee was to continue and oversee the refugee program. In practice this means that we keep in close contact with the refugee administrator, be updated on the work from time to time, and give moral and financial support.

We have not been able yet to raise awareness among our churches for the cause of the refugees. We hope to start doing this in the near future. Ben Van Der Woerd gave a presentation in the Chilliwack FRC.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In light of the need for a successor for Ben Van Der Woerd – which will be a paid work – your deputies take the freedom to request a quota of \$6 per member. With this amount we will be able to support Mrs. Driegen as a part-time worker. Whether she will become a full-time worker in the future depends on the question whether we will be able to raise funds from outside our denomination. This is a question we are still struggling with within the committee. However, in order to get a total picture, we do include this in our budget. See the attachment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our committee makes the following recommendations:

1. To approve Mrs. Heddie Driegen as the successor of Ben Van Der Woerd as refugee administrator.
2. To approve the proposed budget.
3. To approve a quota of \$ 6 per member.
4. To officially appoint Bert Bos from the Chilliwack FRC as member of the committee for a three year term.
5. To approve the actions of the committee.

May the Lord bless your meetings.

On behalf of the Refugee Committee,

John Howard
Secretary

Refugee Committee Budget
 Annual Budget: Refugee placement co-ordinator
 Free Reformed Church of North America

Synodical assessments 4273 X \$6	\$25,638
Contributions of other churches	\$20,000
Contributions of other private individuals	\$3,362

Total Contributions **\$49,000**

Salary - (\$15 per hour)	\$30,000
Employers tax contributions	\$5,000
Car allowance	\$3,000
Travel expense	\$3,000
Office equipment - Laptop & projector	\$3,000
Phone (long distance & cellular)	\$1,000
Internet (ADSL account)	\$500
Office supplies	\$2,500
Miscellaneous	\$1,000

Total Expense **\$49,000**

Contributions - Expense **\$0**

Refugee Committee Notes

Notes to accompany the: Annual Budget - Refugee Coordinator.

- The budgeted salary is based on an average forty hour work week at \$15 per hour, \$2,500 per month. Coordinator is to maintain a log book of hours worked.
- Car allowance would cover expenses for the coordinator to use his (her) car to the various promotional meetings, and other refugee related business including picking up refugees at the airport.
- Travel expense would allow for air travel to attend two semi-annual meetings, which deal with refugee work.
- Any expenses that exceed the budget would need to be financed by either; contributions of other churches or contributions of other private individuals.

**THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR SYNOD 2006
OF THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Esteemed Brothers,

Your Deputies for Theological Education are pleased to provide you with the following account of their actions since we reported to Synod 2005.

The present executive of the committee consists of Rev. P. VanderMeyden as chairman, Rev. C. Pronk as vice-chairman, and Rev. G.R. Procee as secretary. We met three times: October 24, 2005, March 23 and 24, 2006. At these meetings the following matters were discussed and/or implemented.

**THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AT PURITAN REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Deputies are pleased to report to you that the work of theological education at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids is progressing well. The two main professors, Dr. J.R. Beeke and Dr. G.M. Bilkes supply together around 60% of the total teaching.

At present (Spring 2006) Dr. G.M. Bilkes is teaching NT Exegesis II, Epistles of Paul; O.T. Introduction. In the fall 2006 he is slated to teach: Biblical Theology I: OT. NT Exegesis IV (Acts and Revelation); and Text of the Bible. Besides this Dr. Bilkes is also involved in the practice preaching sessions.

Various ministers from our denomination continue to teach individual courses at PRTS. Recently Rev. P. den Butter from the Netherlands taught two courses: one on the theology of John and another on Practical Preaching from the O.T.

PRTS is now offering a THM course to be started in the fall 2007, allowing half of the credit work to be done on campus and the other half at home.

STUDENT KEUNING

Student J. Keuning is progressing well with his studies. He conducted an extensive internship in the Grand Rapids congregation during the summer of 2005. This work was much appreciated by the consistory as well as by Student Keuning himself.

Your deputies deemed it necessary to interview student Keuning at our fall 2005 meeting as well as in the spring 2006 meeting. At both occasions Student Keuning preached a sermon to the committee.

In the fall 2005 Student Keuning preached on Lord's Day 12. The committee appointed Rev. Pronk and Rev. VanderMeyden to invite Student Keuning to preach in their congregations for a whole Lord's Day. He was requested to preach on Psalm 16:5 and Hebrews 6: 17-19. The ministers loci would be present in order to critique the sermons.

At the spring 2006 meeting Student Keuning preached on Psalm 27:4. Critique was offered by Rev. VanderMeyden and Rev. Overduin. Your deputies are pleased with the progress that can be noted in the preaching of Student Keuning. Academically Student Keuning is doing admirably well. During personal interviews with the committee, Student Keuning explained his desire to be called to a work which would be evangelism or mission oriented.

Seeing all these developments and the progress that has been made, your deputies wish to propose Student Keuning to be examined at Synod 2006 with the view of making him eligible for call within the FRCNA whereby the churches are reminded that your deputies feel that the calling for student Keuning lies particularly in an evangelistic/mission context.

EXAM SCHEDULE STUDENT KEUNING.

Your deputies suggest the following exam schedule:

1. Rev. Wüllschleger on Old Testament, 20 minutes
2. Rev. Gangar on New Testament, 20 minutes
3. Rev. Pronk on dogmatics, 20 minutes
4. Student Keuning will preach a sermon before the synod. Rev. Overduin is to critique the sermon and to examine in homiletics, 20 minutes.
5. Rev. VanderMeyden on Church Polity, 10 minutes
6. Chairman of synod is to conduct the personal interview.

NEW APPLICANTS FOR THE MINISTRY.

Your deputies are pleased to inform you that three men presented themselves before your committee with the view of being examined to be students for the ministry. All three men were accepted. These brothers are:

1. Derek Baars from the Grand Rapids congregation.
2. Timothy Bergsma from the London congregation.
3. Greg Slingerland from the Vineland congregation.

Your deputies go on record that regarding brother Baars, while being persuaded of his sense of call to the ministry, they, at this stage, are not convinced that this calling would be to the pastoral ministry, observing the fact that the vision of brother Baars is impaired.

Your deputies request prayer from the churches for these three men that the Lord may equip them and make them able ministers of the New Testament.

ST. THOMAS OVERTURE ART. 35 ACTS 2004.

Synod of 2004 adopted an overture from the St. Thomas congregation stating that the Theological Education Committee would consider the possibility that students could conduct their studies at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Also the request was made to adapt “The *Messenger*” announcement so as to be more inviting to applicants for the ministry.

Rev. Koopman and Rev. Schoeman visited the fall 2005 meeting of the Theological Education Committee to underscore and give further explanation to the committee of the intention of this overture.

In response to this your deputies conducted an extensive investigation resulting in a rather lengthy report which, due to sensitivities, will be handed out on the floor of synod and will not be publicized. A synopsis of the report with the two recommendations will be an addendum to the current report to Synod and is sent to the consistories in advance.

**REPORT TREASURER SEMINARY FUND
FOR SYNOD 2006
OF THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Brother John D. Tamminga, Treasurer of the Seminary Fund, provided your committee with a report of the finances of the Seminary Fund, which shall be also forwarded to Synod 2006. The salary of the Theological Instructor has been adjusted according to the salary grid adopted at Synod 2005.

The Treasurer noted a further decreasing of funds. The income from the churches was \$88,164.03 for 2005.

Your deputies are grateful for generous offerings for this cause. But at the same time a concern is raised: Not every congregation carries a proportional burden. Some sizeable congregations contribute very little to this work. Your deputies urge that every local congregation try to contribute around \$30 a member to the Theological Seminary Fund during the year 2006. An official quota will not yet be in place, but this could be requested from Synod 2007 when churches do not understand their responsibility in this respect.

MESSENGER INSERTS

In consultation with the editor of *The Messenger*, your deputies have agreed to a proposal that PRTS supply quarterly *Messenger* inserts regarding theological education at PRTS.

MINISTERIAL RETREAT

The minister's retreat held in October 2005 was very well received by all the participants. Dr. A. Baars from The Netherlands and Dr. G. M. Bilkes were the lecturers. The total expense for the 2005 Retreat was \$5,223.85. The financial reports drafted by brother J.D. Tamminga are found to be in good order. Dr. P. de Vries from The Netherlands and Dr. G.M. Bilkes are scheduled to be the speakers for the Retreat to be held on October 11 – 13, 2006. The location is again to be the retreat centre of the Presbyterian Church in the Puslinch-Crieff area. The costs of the retreat are to be paid out of the Synodical Fund as decided by Synod 2005. Thereto the synodical quota was raised by an amount of \$1.00 per year.

Your deputies received a request from the Crieff resort for financial support for the renovation of their facilities. Synod is requested to donate \$500 towards the renovations of the Crieff resort, to be paid out of the Synodical Fund.

FREE REFORMED HISTORICAL CENTRE

Your deputies have appointed a sub-committee Free Reformed Historical Centre

consisting of Rev. L.W. Bilkes, Rev. D. H. Kranendonk, R. Maartense, and J.D. Tamminga. Advisors to this committee are Rev. C. Pronk, and Dr. G.M. Bilkes. The aim of this work is to preserve historical data and documents from the Free Reformed Churches. Individual congregations and ministers are urged to request older members to submit historical materials to this sub-committee. Material from Canada should be sent to brother J. D. Tamminga. The managing of this centre shall be assigned to R. Maartense. A database is being compiled of vital information.

RE-APPOINTMENT POLICY ELDERS.

Your deputies wish to propose a change in the policy of re-appointments of elders to our committee. It is deemed useful and necessary that only serving elders be re-appointed. However it can easily happen that an elder whose term is expiring as member of the Theological Education Committee cannot be re-appointed because this happens to coincide with his temporary retirement as elder. Due to this much experience and expertise would be lost for the committee. Your deputies propose then the following: Elders who are out of office because their term is up be re-appointable for a one year term only and if after a year they are still not in consistory that they then will retire as member from the committee.

APPOINTMENTS

The terms of various members of the committee are expiring in this present year. Your deputies nominate the following re-appointments:

- Rev. L.W. Bilkes to be re-appointed for a three year term, expiring in 2009.
- Elder C. Keuning to be re-appointed for a three year term, expiring in 2009.
- Rev. H. Overduin to be re-appointed for a three year term, expiring in 2009.
- Rev. G.R. Procee to be re-appointed for a three year term, expiring in 2009.
- Elder J. Wilbrink to be re-appointed for a one year term, expiring in 2007.

CHURCH DAY 2006

Church Day 2006 is scheduled to be in Dundas on September 4. St. George is hosting church. Speakers: Rev. C. Pronk in the morning session and Dr. G.M. Bilkes in the afternoon session. Rev. L.J. Bilkes is the alternate speaker.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Your deputies submit the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. Conduct an examination of student J. Keuning as per the exam schedule laid out in the report and upon good result declare him eligible for call in the FRCNA.
2. Approve the acceptance of the brothers Derek Baars, Timothy Bergsma, and Greg Slingerland as students for the ministry in the FRCNA.

3. Encourage the churches to continue to support the matter of theological education by means of prayer and offerings. The individual congregations are requested to contribute \$30 per member to the Free Reformed Seminary Fund.
4. Approve Report Treasurer Seminary Fund for 2005.
5. In answer to the St. Thomas Overture synod adopt the following proposal: Considering our commitment to the principle of *pietas cum scientia* (“piety with knowledge”) and the principle of the training ministers “by the church, for the church;” and also considering:
 - The comparatively high quality of PRTS instruction;
 - The comparatively greater number of credit hours devoted to the M.Div. degree proper;
 - The amount of Free Reformed contribution made to the education of our students;
 - The ability of our committee to monitor more closely the academic, spiritual and moral development of our students;
 - The ability of our students to be involved in the worship, church life and ministry of a local Free Reformed congregation;
 - That Synod confirm its choice of PRTS as the seminary through which Free Reformed students for the ministry will be trained.
6. Adopt the proposed *Messenger* announcement for students of the ministry as its standard announcement to begin in 2007.
7. Approve the recommendations for the minister’s Retreat 2006 as outlined in the report.
8. Mandate the Treasurer of the Synodical Fund to donate \$500 towards the renovation of the Crieff resort.
9. Approve the recommendations for Church Day 2006
10. Adopt the policy that elders who are out of office because their term is up be re-appointable to the Theological Education Committee for a one year term only and if after a year they are still not in consistory that they then will retire as member from the committee.
11. Re-appoint Revs Bilkes, Overduin, and Procee, and elder Keuning all for a three year term and elder Wilbrink for a one year term.
12. Approve the actions of your deputies.

May the Lord Himself guide and lead you as you deliberate these matters placed before you. Respectfully submitted, on behalf of your deputies,

G.R. Procee, secretary.

Seminary Fund Balance Sheet

Free Reformed Church of North America
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2005
All amounts in CDN\$

Assets:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash & Term Deposits	121,953	156,246
Accrued Interest	404	623
Total Assets	<u>122,357</u>	<u>156,869</u>
Equity:		
Beginning Balance	156,869	221,308
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(34,512)	(64,439)
Total Equity	<u>122,357</u>	<u>156,869</u>

Seminary Fund Income Statement

Free Reformed Church of North America
Statement of Operations
For the year ended December 31, 2005
All amounts in CDN\$

	<u>2005</u>	<u>Actual 2004</u>
Revenue:		
Receipts:		
Abbotsford	2,498	1,028
Bellevue	-	-
Bornholm	3,102	4,031
Brantford	8,695	11,057
Chatham	3,924	3,522
Chilliwack	6,380	3,306
Dundas	19,206	8,386
Grand Rapids	7,236	4,242
Hamilton	30,013	17,793
Lacombe	-	-
Langley	1,235	2,950
London	1,371	-
Mitchell	2,756	1,195
Monarch	1,685	1,720
Pompton Plains	3,887	3,076
St. Thomas	1,319	2,431
Toronto	88	99
Vineland	1,729	1,932
Wellandport	4,164	3,453
Church day	3,952	1,875
Sales - Theological Journal	3,194	3,016
Prayer Service - Synod 2005	1,265	-
PRT Seminary - Building Fund	-	50,409
PRT Seminary - Scholarship	-	3,500
Interest	902	1,865
F/X Translation Gain/(Loss)	(6,492)	(2,556)
Total Revenue	<u>102,109</u>	<u>128,330</u>
Expenditures:		
Salaries & Benefits	109,257	103,965
Theological Journal	1,792	2,060
PRT Seminary - Building Fund	-	50,409

Seminary Fund Income Statement

PRT Seminary - Building Fund Donation	-		32,533
PRT Seminary - Scholarship	-		3,500
PRT Seminary - Operating Fund	24,228	c	-
Other General Exp./Teaching Pastors	1,344		302
Total Expenditures	136,621		192,769
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(34,512)		(64,439)

Seminary Fund Budget

Free Reformed Church of North America
Budget
For the years 2006 and 2007
All amounts in CDN\$

	<u>Actual 2005</u>	<u>2006 Budgeted</u>	<u>% Variance F/(U)</u>	<u>\$ Variance F/(U)</u>	<u>2007 Projected</u>
Revenue:					
Church Gifts	99,288	132,850	34%	33,562	136,600
Church day	3,952	4,000	1%	48	4,000
Prayer Service - Synod	1,265	1,500	19%	235	1,500
Sales - Theological Journal	3,194	3,200	0%	6	3,200
Interest	902	250	-72%	(652)	-
F/X Translation Gain/(Loss)	(6,492)	-	-100%	6,492	-
Total Revenue	102,109	141,800	39%	39,691	145,300
Expenditures:					
Salaries & Benefits	109,257	115,000	-5%	(5,743)	118,500
Theological Journal	1,792	2,100	-17%	(308)	2,300
PRT Seminary - Operating Fund	24,228	23,200	100%	1,028	23,000
Other General Exp./Teaching Pastors	1,344	1,500	-12%	(156)	1,500
Total Expenditures	136,621	141,800	-4%	(5,179)	145,300
Operating Surplus	(34,512)	-	100%	34,512	-

Seminary Fund

Free Reformed Church of North America Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2005

1 Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the Seminary Fund are prepared utilizing the accrual basis of accounting.

2 Audit of the Books:

The financial statements of the Seminary Fund have been reviewed, utilizing the 1996 standard review program, by John Brink (Hamilton) and Rick Naves (Hamilton). The records were found to be accurate and in good order.

3 Cash:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash and Term deposits consist of the following		
Chequing Account	83,318	92,179
GIC's	<u>38,635</u>	<u>64,067</u>
	<u>121,953</u>	<u>156,246</u>

3 Account Receivable:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Accrued Interest from GIC's	<u>404</u>	<u>623</u>

4 Variance Explanations:

Received cheque of \$276.00 on January 27, '06, will be reported in the fiscal 2006 statements.

Due to GIC withdrawal

PRT Seminary Operating Fund - Gift of US \$20,000 (see Acts of Synod 2005 Art. 32)

**THEOLOGICAL STUDENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE
FOR SYNOD 2006
OF THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Dundas, Ontario
April 11, 2006

Synod of the Free Reformed Churches,
In Session June 5 – 9, 2006
Dundas, Ontario

Esteemed Brethren,

The Theological Student Support Committee submits the following report.

We are thankful to report that all congregations have paid the required assessment to the Theological Student Support Fund for the year 2005. We acknowledge also, with appreciation, extra donations received from various congregations.

The books of the Theological Student Support Fund were audited by Mr. Raymond Roth and Mr. Bill DenBoer, of the Hamilton congregation. The financial records were found to be in good order.

A copy of the financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2005 and a proposed budget for the year 2007 are included with this report.

We propose that the assessment for the year 2007 remain at \$10.00 per member, due to a favourable balance in our account at the end of 2005.

The term of brother John Brink expires this year. We propose that this brother be re-appointed for another term, and that brother John Tamminga remain on the committee as an alternate member.

PROPOSALS TO SYNOD

- a. To leave the assessment for the Theological Student Support Fund for the year 2007 at \$10.00 per member
- b. To approve the financial statement for the year 2005 as presented.
- c. To approve the proposed budget for the year 2007 as presented.
- d. To re-appoint brother John Brink for another term, and brother John Tamminga as an alternate.
- e. To approve the actions of this committee.

May the Lord richly bless your meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Hamstra, Secretary

Theological Student Support Fund

Free Reformed Church of North America
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2005

Assets:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash & Term Deposits	92,417	82,882
Accounts Receivable	(156)	(383)
Total Assets	<u>92,261</u>	<u>82,499</u>
Equity:		
Beginning Balance	82,499	51,597
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	9,762	30,902
Total Equity	<u>92,261</u>	<u>82,499</u>

Theological Student Support Fund

Free Reformed Church of North America Statement of Operations December 31, 2005

	<u>2005</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>% Variance</u> <u>F/(U)</u>	<u>\$ Variance</u> <u>F/(U)</u>	<u>2004</u>
Revenue:					
Assessments	42,462	42,730	-1%	(268)	72,967
Collections/Donations:					
Abbotsford (Cowichan Valley)	100		100%	100	200
Bellevue			100%	-	
Bornholm			100%	-	
Brantford	250		100%	250	
Chatham	2,213		100%	2,213	
Chilliwack			100%	-	
Dundas			100%	-	
Grand Rapids	-		100%	-	
Hamilton	3,000		100%	3,000	3,000
Langley	840		100%	840	1,560
London	-		100%	-	
Mitchell	-		100%	-	
Monarch	975		100%	975	1,360
Pelham			100%	-	
Pompton Plains	-		100%	-	-
Toronto	32			32	
Vineland	-		100%	-	-
Churchday	-		100%	-	-
Synod Prayer Service				-	
Elders & Deacons Conf.	728			728	560
Interest	534	100	434%	434	22
Student Repayment	900	900	0%	-	900
Total Revenue	<u>52,034</u>	<u>43,730</u>	<u>19%</u>	<u>8,304</u>	<u>80,569</u>
Expenditures:					
Personnel:					
Students - Payments	42,455	58,000	27%	15,545	5a 49,666
Total Expenditures	<u>42,455</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>27%</u>	<u>15,545</u>	<u>49,666</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>9,580</u>	<u>(14,270)</u>	<u>100+%</u>	<u>23,850</u>	<u>30,903</u>

Theological Student Support Fund - Budget

Free Reformed Church of North America Theological Student Support Fund Budget December 31, 2005

	<u>Actual 2005</u>	<u>Budgeted 2006</u>	<u>% Variance F/(U)</u>	<u>\$ Variance F/(U)</u>	<u>2007 Projected</u>
Revenue:					
Assessments	42,462	42,730	1%	268 5b	42,730
Collections/Donations:					
Abbotsford	100		-100%	(100)	
Bellevue	-	-	-100%	-	-
Brantford	250		-100%	(250)	
Chatham	2,213		-100%	(2,213)	
Chilliwack	-		-100%	-	-
Dundas	-		-100%	-	-
Grand Rapids	-		-100%	-	-
Hamilton	3,000		-100%	(3,000)	
Langley	840		-100%	(840)	
London	-		-100%	-	-
Mitchell	-		-100%	-	-
Monarch	975		-100%	(975)	
Pompton Plains	-		-100%	-	-
Vineland	-		-100%	-	-
Churchday	-		-100%	-	-
Synod Prayer Service	-		-100%	-	-
Elders & Deacons Conf.	728		-100%	(728)	
Interest	534	100	-81%	(434)	300
-	-				
Other					
Student Repayment	900	900	0%	-	900
Total Revenue	<u>52,002</u>	<u>43,730</u>	<u>-19%</u>	<u>(8,272)</u>	<u>43,930</u>
Expenditures:					
Personnel:					
Students - Payments	42,455	26,000	39%	16,455	55,000
Total Expenditures	<u>42,455</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>63%</u>	<u>16,455</u>	<u>55,000</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>9,548</u>	<u>17,730</u>	<u>-46%</u>	<u>8,182</u>	<u>(11,070)</u>

Theological Student Support Fund

Free Reformed Church of North America Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2005

1 Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the Theological Student Support Committee are prepared utilizing the accrual basis of accounting. All representations are made in Canadian dollars.

2 Audit of the Books:

The financial statements of the Theological Student Support Committee have been reviewed, utilizing the 1996 standard audit program, by Raymond Roth (Hamilton) and Bill Denboer (Hamilton). The records were found to be accurate and in good order.

3 Cash:

Cash and Term deposits consist of the following

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
CIBC Chequeing	17,417	82882
CIBC GIC	75,000	
	<u>92,417</u>	<u>82,882</u>

Assessments:

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Curr.Yr. Assess.</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Abbotsford	-	1,920	1,920	-
Belleveue		180	179	1
Bornholm		770	770	
Brantford	-	4,700	4,700	-
Chatham	-	2,420	2,420	-
Chilliwack	-	3,160	3,160	-
Dundas		4,560	4,560	
Grand Rapids	-	3,250	3,250	-
Hamilton	-	3,460	3,460	-
Lacombe		450	450	
Langely	-	740	740	-
London	-	1,020	1,020	-
Mitchell	-	1,930	1,930	-
Misc			(212)	(212)
Monarch	-	2,220	2,220	-
Pelham		2,330	2,330	-
Pompton Plains		2,140	2,085	55
St. Thomas		3,140	3,140	
Toronto	-	130	130	-
Vineland	-	4,210	4,210	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>42,730</u>	<u>42,462</u>	<u>(156)</u>

Total Receivables: (156)

5 Variance Explanations:

a. Students

- Payments	40,334
- Tuition Fees	996.5
- Study Books	1,124
	<u>42,455</u>

b. based on 4,273 members at \$10.00 per member.

**YOUTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR SYNOD 2006
OF THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Esteemed Brothers,

**The Youth and Education Committee met twice since Synod 2005.
The executive is as follows:**

Chairman	Pastor Jack Schoeman (Monarch)
Secretary	Derek Naves (Hamilton)
Treasurer	Eric De Korte (Pelham)
Vice-all	Pastor Joel Overduin (Mitchell)

CAMP

The annual youth camp continues to function under the direct supervision of the Youth and Education Committee.

Kim Hamstra, a member of Brantford FRC, who is assisted by his wife, Jan, is appointed as the camp director for 2006. Camp is planned for the weekend of August 4-7, and will be held at Pearce Williams Christian Centre near St. Thomas, Ontario. Rev. Joel Beeke is scheduled to speak on “*Coram Deo: Living Before the Face of God*”.

The costs for Camp in Ontario are currently subsidized by the Youth and Education Committee. In order to distribute synodical funds equally, and because the Youth and Education Committee has concern for all the youth of the denomination, the committee will consider application for potentially available funds for youth activities across the denomination.

YOUTH MESSENGER

The Youth and Education Committee continues to publish the *Youth Messenger* as an official publication of the Free Reformed Churches. The committee continues to receive positive feedback. The committee has re-appointed Herman den Hollander as editor for another year.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Youth and Education Committee has appointed a temporary sub-committee to investigate and “tweak” the position paper on Christian Education adopted by St. Thomas FRC for possible future adoption at the synodical level. The committee would appreciate feedback from synod regarding this matter, specifically, whether synod believes this action to be appropriate and a step in the right direction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Appointments:

i. Due to an oversight in the committee's 2005 report to synod, neither Dick Naves' nor Herman den Hollander's terms, which ended in Spring 2005, were renewed. The committee recommends reappointing them now, with two-year terms ending in 2008. This will be the third term for them both.

ii. To reappoint Jerry Benjamins to a third term, ending in 2009.

iii. To reappoint Eric De Korte to a second term, ending in 2009.

b. To approve the reappointment of Kim Hamstra as camp director for one year.

c. To approve the reappointment of Herman den Hollander as the editor of the *Youth Messenger* for one year.

d. To approve the quota of \$4 per member.

To approve the attached financial statements.

To approve the actions of the committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Youth and Education Committee,

Derek Naves
Secretary

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Free Reformed Church of North America
Youth and Education Committee
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
For the year ended December 31, 2005

REVENUE	2005	2004	2003
Quotas	18,679.66	15,281.80	14,057.23
Collections	337.03	373.12	662.72
Sale of Books	501.68	637.32	772.67
Interest Income	1.45	.16	0.00
Other	0.00	1,830.00	0.00
Total	19,519.82	18,122.40	15,442.62
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Purchase of Books	393.95	0.00	0.00
Seminar Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
Office Expense	71.00	21.47	38.40
Committee Expenses	0.00	4,000.00	0.00
Magazine Expenses	0.00	0.00	3,756.12
Camp Expenses	3,935.00	3,800.00	0.00
Bank Charges	29.00	73.00	139.14
Publication Expenses	8,745.11	9,067.79	5,231.77
Conference Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,638.62
Total	13,174.06	16,962.26	10,804.05
Net Surplus	6,345.76	1,160.14	4,638.57

Balance Sheet

Free Reformed Church of North America
Youth and Education Committee
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2005

ASSETS	2005	2004	2003
Cash & Terms Deposits	16,436.52	10,090.76	8,930.62
Total Assets	16,436.52	10,090.76	8,930.62
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan Payable	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
 <u>EQUITY</u>			
Beginning Balance	10,090.76	8,930.62	292.05
Operating Surplus	6,345.76	1,160.14	4,638.57
Ending Balance	16,436.52	10,090.76	4,912.65
Total			
Liabilities and Equity	16,436.52	10,090.76	8,930.62

Youth & Education Committee of the Free Reformed Church of North America
Notes to Financial Statements. For the year ended December 2005.

1. Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the Youth & Education are prepared utilizing the accrual basis of accounting. All representations are made in Canadian dollars.

2. Review of Books: *The financial statements of the Youth & Education have been reviewed, utilizing the 1996 standard review program by The records were found in good order.*

3. Budget and Variance analysis: *As a result of the immaterial cash flows within this fund, a variance analysis and budget have not been prepared.*

Other Reports

POMPTON PLAINS RELEASE LETTER

**Free Reformed Church
160 West Parkway
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444**

Ebenezer Free Reformed Church
253 Weirs Lane
Dundas, Ontario Canada
Att: Tony Brouwer, Clerk

RE: Synod Correspondence

Dear brothers:

As consistory of the Free Reformed Church in Pompton Plains we wish to inform you that we will be submitting an executed copy of an Agreement of Release between the Pompton Plains congregation and Rev. L. Roth for ratification at Synod. This agreement has been signed by consistory representatives, Rev. Roth, our church visitors (Rev. Pronk and Dr. L. Bilkes), as well as the consistories of the two nearest congregations (Vineland and Fenwick). According to the terms of this document all decisions are final and no appeal by either party is permitted.

This agreement will be included with our Article 41 report to Synod. It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to remember us as a congregation and as a denomination, also for the upcoming synodical meetings.

With Christian Greetings:

Henry Driesse, Chairman

**TREASURER OF SYNOD REPORT
FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Burlington, Ontario April 10, 2006

To the Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of North America.

Esteemed Brethren,

Attached are the Financial Statements for the calendar year 2005.

During the course of the year, the annual assessments have been received from all the congregations.

In addition, the 2005 Acts of Synod were mailed to all consistories as well as the External Relations Committee of the Chr. Geref. Kerken, The Netherlands; The Theologische Universiteit of the Chr. Geref. Kerken, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands; Documentatiecentrum of the Chr. Geref. Kerken, The Netherlands; The Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids. MI. U.S.A.; The Mid-American Reformed Seminary, Dyer, IN, U.S.A.; and The Canadian Reformed Seminary, Hamilton, On.

We would like to make the following proposals:

1. To maintain the annual quota for 2007 at \$12.00 per member.
2. To approve the attached Financial Statements and actions of the Treasurer of Synod.

May the Lord bless your meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

J.D. Tamminga, Treasurer Synod.

Synodical Fund Balance Statement

Free Reformed Church of North America
Synodical Fund
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2005

Assets:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash & Term Deposits	17,776	11,201
Total Assets	<u>17,776</u>	<u>11,201</u>
Equity:		
Beginning Balance	11,201	10,104
Operating Surplus	6,575	1,097
Total Equity	<u>17,776</u>	<u>11,201</u>

Synodical Fund Income Statement

Free Reformed Church of North America
Synodical Fund
Statement of Operations
For the year ended December 31, 2005

	<u>2005</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>% Varianc</u>	<u>\$ Variance</u>	<u>2004</u>
Revenue:					
Assessments	51,276	47,003		4,273	46,541
Publications:					
Acts of Synod	5,643	-		5,643	7,562
Minster's Retreat	-	-	-	-	
Total Revenue	<u>56,919</u>	<u>47,003</u>		<u>9,916</u>	<u>58,999</u>
Expenditures:					
Meetings & Travel:					
Delegates	16,064	15,000		(1,064)	13,381
Committee Meetings	11,495	17,000		5,505	16,536
Meals - Synod	1,886	1,700		(186)	1,626
Delegate - Chr. Geref. Kerken	-	-	-	-	1,134
Delegation - Can. Reformed Churches	-	-	-	-	992
Delegation - Free Church of Scotland (Cont.)	-	-	-	-	1,218
Delegate - Ref. Presb. Church of Ireland	-	-	-	-	1,100
Delegation - NAPARC	842	1,000		158	1,549
Delegation - United Reformed Church	-	-	-	-	848
Delegation - India	-	-	-	-	3,534
Delegation - ICRC Conference	3,681	4,500		819	-
Delegate Presb. Ref. Church	384	-		(384)	-
ICRC Int'l. Membership	330	500		170	367
Church Visitation	3,356	3,500		144	1,728
Minster's Retreat	5,224	-		(5,224)	4,896
Administration:					
Telephone & Postage	866	1,000		134	877
Stationary	87	500		413	44
Remuneration - Synod Recording Assist.	400	400		-	400
Publications:					
Reimburse. To Pub. Cmtee.	5,643	-		(5,643)	7,562
Other:					
Miscellaneous	86	300		214	110
Total Expenditures	<u>50,344</u>	<u>45,400</u>		<u>(4,944)</u>	<u>57,902</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>6,575</u>	<u>1,603</u>		<u>4,972</u>	<u>1,097</u>

Synodical Fund Budget

Free Reformed Church of North America Synodical Fund Budget For the years ended December 31, 2006 & 2007

	2005 <u>Actual</u>	2006 <u>Plan</u>	%	\$ <u>Variance</u>	2007 <u>Projected</u>
Revenue:					
Assessments	51,276	51,744		468 4c	51,744
Publications:					
Acts of Synod	5,643	-		(5,643)	-
Total Revenue	<u>56,919</u>	<u>51,744</u>		<u>(5,175)</u>	<u>51,744</u>
Expenditures:					
Meetings & Travel:					
Delegates	16,064	17,000		(936)	17,500
Committee Meetings	11,495	15,500		(4,005)	16,000
Meals - Synod	1,886	1,800		86	1,900
Delegate - Chr. Geref. Kerken	-	-	-	-	1,500
Delegation - Free Church of Scotland (Cont.)	-	-	-	-	1,500
Delegate - Ref. Presb. Church of Ireland	-	-	-	-	1,500
Delegation - NAPARC	842	1,000		(158)	1,000
Delegation - ICRC Conference	3,681	-		3,681	-
Delegate Presb. Ref. Church	384	-	-	384	-
ICRC Int'l. Membership	330	500		(170)	500
ICRC Delegation	-	-	-	-	-
Church Visitation	3,356	3,500		(144)	3,500
Minster's Retreat	5,224	5,500		(276)	5,600
Legal & Ethics Committee	-	7,500		(7,500)	-
Administration:					
Telephone & Postage	866	1,000		(134)	1,100
Stationary	87	300		(213)	300
Remuneration - Synod Recording Assist.	400	400	-	-	400
Publications:					
Reimburse. To Pub. Cmtee.	5,643	-	-	5,643	-
Other:					
Miscellaneous	86			(214)	
Total Expenditures	<u>50,344</u>	<u>54,300</u>		<u>(3,956)</u>	<u>52,600</u>
Operating Surplus	<u>6,575</u>	<u>(2,556)</u>		<u>(9,131)</u>	<u>(856)</u>

Synodical Fund Notes

Free Reformed Church of North America
Synodical Fund
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2005

1 Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the Synodical Fund are prepared utilizing the accrual basis of accounting. All representations are made in Canadian dollars.

2 Audit of the Books:

The financial statements of the Synodical Fund have been reviewed, utilizing the 1996 standard audit program, by John Brink (Hamilton) and Rick Naves (Hamilton). The records were found to be accurate and in good order.

3 Cash:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash and Term deposits consist of the following		
CIBC Chec	17,776	11,201
	<u>17,776</u>	<u>11,201</u>

4 Variance Explanations:

- a. Due to favourable travel costs and location.
- b. Now included in the assessment.
- c. Assessment for 2006 based on 4312 members @ \$12.00 = \$51,744

Appeals/Overtures

BRANTFORD - EMERITUS LETTER

April 11, 2006

To Synod 2006
c/o Ebenezer Free Reformed Church
253 Weirs Lane, Dundas, Ontario

Esteemed Brothers,

The Consistory of the Free Reformed Church of Brantford received at its meeting on April 3, 2006, a letter from our pastor, Rev. C. Pronk, in which he expressed his desire to retire from active duties of the ministries on September 15, 2006. The Consistory, considering the fact that our Pastor has reached the age of 68 years and has faithfully served as minister of the Word for 37 years, respectfully deems this request justified.

Our request to Synod 2006, based on Article 13 of the Church Order, is to grant Rev. C. Pronk emeritus status, and to commend him to God and the Word of His grace. We also wish to express our sincere thanks for the faithful labours Rev. Pronk has performed in the Free Reformed Churches of North America.

As Consistory, we wish to thank him for faithfully preaching the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and performing the duties of his office in our congregation. May our Lord continue to bless him and his wife in their retirement years and grant them continued good health; and may He grant His blessing on the work of the Synod of 2006.

On behalf of the Consistory of the Free Reformed Church of Brantford,
with brotherly greetings,

Jeff Postma
Clerk

BRANTFORD - RE REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

April 11, 2006

To Synod 2006
c/o Ebenezer Free Reformed Church
253 Weirs Lane, Dundas, Ontario

O V E R T U R E

Esteemed Brothers,

The Consistory of the Free Reformed Church of Brantford has been faced with situations in which it was necessary to provide advice and counsel regarding the broad issue of reproductive technology.

CONSIDERING:

- the increased availability and diversity of medical assistance to deal with the problem of infertility
- the variety of opinions and the complexity of the moral and ethical questions raised by the issue
- the desire of our churches to share an informed and Biblical response to the issue

and

CONVINCED:

- that the Word of God speaks to this issue,

Grace Free Reformed Church of Brantford overtures synod 2006

- to appoint an ad hoc committee or
- alternatively to broaden the mandate of the existing ad hoc Committee on Legal and Ethical Affairs
- to research and provide Biblical guidance to address the issues surrounding reproductive technology.

May the God of life, our God, grant His blessing on the work of the Synod of 2006.

On behalf of the Consistory of the Free Reformed Church of Brantford,
with brotherly greetings,

Jeff Postma
Clerk

FENWICK - RE CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

Overture regarding Christian counseling, sexual sin, and Church Order

Zion Free Reformed Church
Fenwick

Dear brothers,

Recent decades have brought the development of professional Christian counseling. On the one hand, such counseling is a welcome addition because it brings a level of expertise in certain situations which office bearers cannot attain to. This is especially true when it comes to sexual sins - both in dealing with victims and perpetrators. On the other hand, it brings with it added dimensions that pose a challenge to integrate with our church order, particularly those articles dealing with censure and discipline.

It seems that in the past, when a perpetrator of sexual abuse or other sexual sin confessed their sins, the consistory (in keeping with the church order) was looking primarily for these fruits of repentance: a broken spirit and a contrite heart. Christian counselors tend to focus primarily on progressive sanctification, rather than primarily the initial brokenness. Not only do they discuss issues which the elders did not and probably could not discuss, but counselors also work long term towards a changed pattern of behavior in a more thorough way. Sometimes a counselor will advise waiting with having reconciliation meetings or making confession of guilt to the consistory until much of this has taken place. This might take months or even a year. The question then arises whether censure must continue during this time. Further, the counselor is often not a member of the congregation and is therefore not as attuned to the needs of the family circle for closure. When more than one counselor is involved, setting up reconciliation meetings that fit everyone's schedules can be very time consuming.

We already have an adhoc committee working on the legal angles. We are proposing another adhoc committee to study how to blend the use of Christian counselors with the scriptural principles of our church order. Perhaps our church order also needs to be expanded to include a clear delineation of the role of the church and the role of the state as the instrument of God to punish those who commit those sexual sins which are also legal crimes (Rom 13).

One possible expanding of church order regards making announcements in situations where there is an established pattern of serial predatory sexual abuse. Church order speaks of confession of guilt announcements, or announcements that are part of the steps to excommunication. When the victims do not go to the police, there may be situations in which another kind of announcement needs to

be made to protect others from harm, as well as to bring forward those who are not yet known as victims. Because such perpetrators "seem" to remember their actions in stages, a confession of guilt announcement can not yet be made. Part of the purpose of such an announcement would be to determine to what degree the person in question has really confessed to everything. Hence neither the confession of guilt category nor the excommunication categories cover this situation. Counselors seem to favor such an announcement too.

Related to this is how to minister to victims, especially when the passing of months or even years gives them the impression nothing is being done about their situation.

OUR CONSISTORY:

CONSIDERING:

- The availability and benefits of Christian counseling,
- The increasing pressure we are under in a society that flaunts sexuality, and therefore the increasing need we will have for the intervention of good Christian counselors
- The apparently differing goals and timing of the church order and counselors
- The confusion that can exist about reporting abuse as a crime

ASKS SYNOD:

- To appoint an adhoc study committee with a mandate focusing on implementing and/or expanding our church order in these circumstances, paying special attention to:
 - Questions of timing reconciliation and confession of guilt in connection with counseling
 - Ministering to victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse
 - Ministering to those guilty of sexual sin
 - Whether there are circumstances which warrant a category of announcement not currently covered in our church order.
 - Whether our church order needs to be expanded in the area of how to cooperate with the authorities investigating such crimes

MONARCH - RE RAY PENNINGS

Bethel Free Reformed Church
Monarch, Alberta

April 6, 2006

Synod
Free Reformed Church of North America
Meeting at Dundas, Ontario, June 5-9

Esteemed Brethren:

As you know, last year our consistory asked synod to permit brother Ray Pennings to speak an edifying word in the churches. A pre-advice committee was appointed to respond to our request. The committee recommended:

1. That brother Pennings be given permission to speak an edifying word in the western churches upon a satisfactory examination by the western churches according to the stipulations of Article 3, C.O.
2. That this administration of the Word take place under the supervision of the eldership of Monarch.
3. That this permission be reviewed by Synod 2006 after a report of this is presented to synod

This advice was subsequently adopted by Synod (See Acts of Synod, 2005, pp. 20-22)

In line with this advice, the delegates from the west, along with Dr. L.W. Bilkes and Rev. C. Pronk functioning as synodical deputies, after listening to a sermon prepared by brother Pennings and after examining him with respect to his motives, doctrinal views, and his personal relationship to the Lord, decided to approve this request with the following recommendations:

1. Brother Pennings is to work with and receive advice from Rev. Pronk as a mentor; from Rev. Schouls regarding preaching and homiletics, and from Rev. Schoeman in the context of church relations and preaching at the local level.
2. The western consistories at their next combined consistory meeting will hear a sermon from brother Pennings on an assigned text and

provide feedback

3. The Lacombe consistory is encouraged to provide oversight and critique as needed
4. Brother Pennings is encouraged to utilize sermons from other FRC pastors and adapt them to the local setting
5. Care should be taken to maintain the language of Article 3, noting the distinctions between preaching and a word of edification
6. This permission is granted for a one-year period and to be reviewed at that time.

(See Acts of Synod, 2005, pp. 38-39)

Further to recommendations 1-4 (above), we are pleased to report the following:

1. Since last Synod, Brother Pennings has spoken a total of 28 times (13x in Calgary, 7x in Lacombe, 5x in Monarch and 1x in each of the churches in the Fraser Valley). Additionally, he has led an additional 11 services in Calgary adapting sermons prepared by other FRC ministers. On the whole his messages have been favourably received.
2. Brother Pennings was asked to prepare a sermon on I Timothy 1:15 which he subsequently delivered at a combined consistory meeting held in Abbotsford on Jan 28, 2006 at which office bearers from all the western churches were present. The sermon was critiqued by Rev. Overduin and Rev. Wullschleger. As a result of this meeting the brothers of the western churches recommended that the consistory of Monarch ask Synod 2006 to renew Brother Pennings' license.
3. Brother Pennings has received and read lecture notes on Homiletics prepared by Rev. Schouls. He has also received suggestions and advice from Rev. Schoeman and Rev. Pronk as well as the consistories of Monarch and Lacombe and from the steering committee in Calgary.

With this in mind, we hereby request that synod permit Brother Pennings to continue to speak an edifying word with the following recommendations:

1. That this license be granted for as long as brother Pennings is a member in Calgary under the conditions of and taking into consideration the cautions expressed by Synod 2005

Grounds: We feel that Brother Pennings has adequately demonstrated his ability to edify the churches making further re-application to synod unnecessary. However, by stipulating that the license be in effect for as long as brother Pennings is a member in Calgary we are seeking to honour the desire of Synod 2005 that granting elders the authority to speak an edifying Word remain an exception to meet local needs and circumstances.

2. That this license be extended to include all of the churches, not just the churches in the west.

Grounds:

- a. Whenever we grant permission for ministers outside of our denomination to preach in our churches this permission applies to all of the churches. Limiting Brother Pennings' license to the churches in the west is inconsistent with our current practice.
- b. In the absence of a classis system, limiting Brother Pennings' license to the churches in the west creates an artificial and unjustifiable division between the churches in the west and the churches in the east.

May the Lord bless your meeting and your deliberations on our request.

Respectfully,

Mr. Nick Timmerman
Corresponding Clerk
Bethel Free Reformed Church
Monarch, Alberta

ST. THOMAS - RE SMALL CHURCHES

Free Reformed Church

145 St. George Street
St. Thomas, Ontario
N5P 2M3



April 10, 2006

To the SYNOD of the Free Reformed Churches 2006
C/o Free Reformed Church of Dundas

Esteemed Brothers,

OVERTURE REGARDING CHURCH / HOME MISSION STATUS

The purpose of this overture is to assist Churches which have ceased to operate effectively because of reduced membership and/or are no longer able to function as churches because they do not have a sufficient number of elders and deacons.

BACKGROUND

Considering that there is an ebb and flow of members in our congregations, we recognize that at some point congregations may no longer be able to operate effectively without outside assistance to aid them.

We are asking Synod 2006 to approve a guideline for supporting congregations which have lost independent viability due to decrease of membership and/or office bearers.

Our church order stipulates in article 38:

*"A consistory **must** consist of a minimum of three persons. The number of elders shall not be less than the number of deacons."*

It is obvious that churches that fall below this threshold, church orderly speaking, no longer are a church with a proper consistory. Lacking a church orderly basis (a proper consistory) also has the implication that this church cannot legally be present and vote at our Synodical meetings. That this has happened in the past is no excuse to continue this in the future.

The consistory of St. Thomas FRC herewith petitions Synod to observe and adhere to church order in this matter in the future.

At this time there is no specific guideline for support of very small churches, which no longer qualify for church status according to our church order. This overture seeks to address this need.

We overture Synod 2006 to approve the following guideline:

That churches which do not have the required a number of office bearers, as required by article 38 of church order, (less than two elders and one deacon) after they have been substandard for one year, will become Home Mission Stations.

That churches, when membership has dropped below 20 members for a period of more than 1 year, will also become Home Mission Stations since they require support for their continued existence.

That, in order to provide continued contact between Synod and this Home Mission Church, one non-voting observer may be sent to the annual Synod by the Home Mission Church, at Synod's expense.

If a church closes when under direction of the Home Missions Committee, assets of this Church, (unless designated otherwise prior to involvement of the Home Missions Committee,) will rest with the Home Missions Committee, where they can continue to be used for the cause of spreading the Gospel.

RATIONALE AND BENEFIT

The Home Missions Committee will now be able to assist the church in developing plans for the future, and will review the viability of the Home Mission post, and assist in finding ways and means to expand. In addition, a nearby consistory will be appointed to substantially assist and expend efforts to stimulate growth and development.

This will be of great benefit for the group, since they are no longer alone, managing an endless status quo situation, with perhaps scant resources and limited possibilities for expansion or relocation.

In each such case the Home Missions Committee will prepare a two-year viability plan for approval to Synod. If the situation warrants this, it can assist the group with alternative solutions, including calling a Home Mission Pastor, or if the church shows that it is unsustainable, eventually closing.

May the Lord bless your assembly!

On behalf of the St. Thomas FRC, with Christian greetings

Pastor John Koopman
Chairman

Chris Van Doodewaard
Clerk

i. Home Mission Guidelines, Appendix III;C2 indicates:

“Approval: The classis (Synod) shall consider whether the applying group is large enough to be organized, whether there are enough brethren who could serve as office bearers, and similar questions.”

(Usually Synod has considered approximately 45 members a minimum for the establishing of a new congregation.)

ii. Subject to article 10 Home Mission Order.

iii. In accordance with article 1 B and C of the appendix Home Mission Stations, which reads:
1B “Worship Services and other gatherings in which words of edification are spoken or approved sermons read, whether on the Lord’s day or at other times, are under the auspices of the consistory of the nearest Free Reformed Church.

1C When the situation warrants it, the consistory of that church will give direction and assistance in choosing a provisional board to run the affairs of the station. Such a board shall consist of no fewer than three members of that station.”

ST. THOMAS - COMMITTEE MEMBER COORDINATOR CHANGE

To Synod 2006
C/o the calling church for Synod 2006
Free Reformed Church of Dundas
Mr. Tony Brouwer
1065 Studiman Road, R.R. 1
Cambridge ON N1R 5S2

SENT BY EMAIL

March 3, 2006

Dear brothers,

RE: Coordinator for Synodical Committee Meetings

For a number of years I have had the privilege of serving synod in the scheduling of the Synodical committee meetings.

I need to advise you that I will no longer be able to do this for health reasons. I do want to thank you for the confidence you have placed in me over the years.

I do understand that it can sometimes be difficult to come up with a name for a replacement standing the meeting of Synod.

For that reason I would like to submit a name for your consideration, in the event that there is no immediate solution at synod.

I would like to submit the name of my son (who has consented to serve, should synod appoint him):

Hans Van Doodewaard
236 Lane Road
Dunnville N1A 2W1
Telephone 905-701-5275
vandoo@allstream.net

Hans Van Doodewaard is a member (and an elder and clerk) of the Zion Free Reformed Church of Fenwick.

I wish you the Lord's blessings as you meet together to do the Lord's work for the denomination.

With brotherly greetings,
Chris Van Doodewaard

Ad-hoc Committee Reports

LEGAL AFFAIRS

April 1, 2006

Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of North America
c/o Convening Church of Dundas

RE: Interim Report of Ad-hoc Committee on Legal and Ethical Affairs

Esteemed Brethren:

We herewith submit an interim report on our work. This ad-hoc committee was established by Synod 2004 responding to a St. Thomas overture addressing concerns that emerge from the present hostile political and legal climate facing the church. Our mandate was to create a summary overview of relevant issues, draft templates of policies that could be recommended for churches to adopt, and a statement that Synod might adopt regarding these matters. (Acts of Synod 2004, Article 17). We were instructed to submit a preliminary report to Synod 2005 and a final report to Synod 2006.

We were able to submit an interim report to Synod 2005 outlining the specific issues we intended to cover with a proposal to retain the services of a law student to complete the required research. We noted that the research required for us to complete our mandate fell beyond the competence and time availability of our committee. Synod 2005 approved our spending of \$5,000 as "reasonable expenses" towards the completion of this assignment.

Subsequent to Synod, we developed a work plan with timelines in full anticipation of being able to submit our final report to this Synod. However, it became clear in January 2006 that this would not be achievable. The scope of the assignment and the complexity of the legal issues involved required more work and expertise, and the proposed arrangements were not adequate to properly complete the task.

At that time, we began to consider alternative ways to fulfill our mandate. The best available option was to enter into an arrangement with Herman Faber, a Hamilton-based lawyer and member of the Canadian Reformed Churches, to take responsibility for the research. We have worked with Mr. Faber to hire a law student to work under his supervision during the summer of 2006. With the benefit of this research, Mr. Faber has committed to provide us with a report by the end of the calendar year 2006. We hope to review this report and do the addi-

tional work required of us in a manner that will see us complete our mandate and present a final report to Synod 2007.

The arrangement into which we have entered is very reasonable given the work that is involved however, it does exceed the allotted budget granted to us by Synod 2006. We expect that the legal costs to us for this will approximate \$7,500. We have signed a retainer with Mr. Faber's law firm whereby we will be billed based on actual hours spent, with an upper limit set on the fees of \$10,000. The mandate given Mr. Faber was derived from the outline which we presented and was approved by Synod 2005, with only a few editorial and clarifying changes. Most significant among them is a proposal to add guidelines for dealing with criminal investigations of members. A copy of the retainer letter which outlines the parameters of the research agreed to is appended to this report.

After consultation with the Treasurer of Synod, we entered into this agreement with Mr. Faber in March so that he could proceed with student research help during the summer of 2006. Had we waited until Synod met before proceeding, our final report would be delayed for another year. We trust that Synod understands and will retroactively approve of our actions.

We expect to continue our work in three phases with the intention of fulfilling our mandate and reporting to Synod 2006. The first phase will be the researching, reviewing, and drafting of the legal aspects of our report (to be completed under the terms of the retainer described above.) The second phase will be a review of these matters and the development of appropriate reflections of how we ought to view these legal principles through the lens of Scriptures. After articulating the relevant legal and scriptural principles, our third step will be to draft appropriate policies to recommend for our churches (the second point of our mandate.) This will also enable us to consider appropriate recommendations for statements to government (the third point of our mandate.)

We seek the input of Synod regarding how they would like us to proceed with the distribution of materials. We anticipate three distinct documents emerging from our work.

1. A report to Synod which incorporates the legal research and the committee's recommendations regarding actions to be taken both by local congregations and statements that might be adopted by Synod, as per our mandate. This report will be submitted to Synod 2007 in the usual manner.
2. A series of appendix templates of policies that might be adopted by local churches. Given that these will be resources for each church to utilize as they have need, we would recommend that these documents

be distributed to the churches once they are prepared and that they not be submitted as official documents to Synod (requiring their publication in the Acts), since they will be quite voluminous and tedious and not that relevant at a Synodical level.

3. We also anticipate publishing a short readable (25-40 pages?) document which is intended to serve as a resource for office bearers to help them understand the legal issues that govern their activities. We would propose that once the text of this document is completed, that the Publications Committee takes responsibility for its publication and distribution.

We submit the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That Synod approve the work plan of this committee as outlined in this report;
2. That Synod approve the distribution plan outlined in this report;
3. That Synod appoint Mike Laman (St. George) and Paul Laman (Pompton Plains) to this committee in order to assist it in fulfilling its mandate;
4. That Synod approve the actions of this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Pennings, Convener
Rev. John Koopman
Rick Postma
Chris Van Doodewaard

RETAINER LETTER

We confirm your request that our firm conduct a review of various practices related to the operation of the Free Reformed Churches in North America (FRCNA). Our review will reflect the state of the law in the Province of Ontario at the time of the report and will form the basis of a handbook for use by the various churches. The material to be published will contain the appropriate disclaimers and caution the reader that it is intended as general background information and direct the reader to consult a solicitor in the appropriate jurisdiction in dealing with any particular issue.

The report is intended to be presented to the Synod of FRCNA as part of a Committee report. The report is to address the legal aspects of the following matters:

I. General Governance Issues

- a. Legal structure in Canada
 - i. Should a church incorporate?
 - ii. pros/cons of Charitable Status
 - iii. the Pastor as an employee and director/voting member of council
 - 1. including consideration that church is not a democracy
 - 2. Conflict of interest issues-documenting disclosure of interest
 - iv. Members' right of appeal under church order & natural law
 - 1. The place of the Church order and its importance in legal proceedings.

- b. Reporting
 - i. Taxation
 - ii. Property tax exemptions

- c. Charitable Issues
 - i. Benevolence benefiting Members
 - ii. Flowing funds to other Charities
 - 1. Relationship with FRCMI and denominational umbrella charity
 - 2. restrictions on transferring receipted monies to non-charitable organizations

- d. Insurance
 - i. Insurance Protection for officers and directors

II. The Church as Employer

- a. General
 - i. Employer number / contributions

- ii. EI/CPP/tax remittances
- iii. WSIB issues
- b. Moral requirements as employment standards [note: background material re non-ecclesiastical employees code of conduct to be provided]
- c. Vicarious liability
- d. Liability Issues generally

III. The Church As Property Owner

- a. Manner of holding title and ownership in event of schism
- b. Facility Usage
 - i. Liability Issues
 - ii. Discrimination Issues
 - 1. Same sex marriage law
 - 2. Benefits to members

IV. Abuse Policies

V. Counseling Policies: e.g. liability for elders, etc; duty to report

- i. Church discipline and criminal investigations-compellability of ministers or elders or confidential records in criminal proceedings

VI. Free Religion, Free Speech and Libel

- a. Free Speech and Libel
 - i. Discipline
 - ii. Addressing Controversial Public Issues
 - iii Political Involvement

The research provided by our firm in regards to this report can be used by the firm in other applications. Any use of the report by FRCNA will identify the author(s) and the firm.

In order to commence the review, we will require copies of the FRCNA church order and addenda, a listing of the local churches and their charitable organization number (for Canadian churches) and a copy of all synod decisions relating to the above. We may require further information as our research progresses and look forward to working with you in this matter.

Herman Faber-March 27, 2006.

GREENVILLE - MANDATES FROM SYNOD 2004 AND 2005

In answer to the mandates from Synod 2004 and Synod 2005:

RE: Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

RE: *Messenger* Announcement

Upon direction from Synod 2005, the Theological Education Committee pursued a number of aspects from the mandate of Synod 2004 regarding its investigation of Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, as well as the *Messenger* Announcement Regarding Application to Become Student in the FRC. At our Fall 2005 meeting, we were visited by Rev. J. Koopman and Rev. J. Schoeman, who further explained their consistories' concerns, especially with respect to the *Messenger* Announcement and the prerequisites relayed in it.

At its March Meeting, the committee considered reports on both issues.

PART I: GREENVILLE PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Upon instruction from the committee, two delegates of the Theological Education Committee made a three-day fact-finding visit to Greenville, South Carolina, in March 2006. During this visit, the delegates toured the campus, examined class syllabi, interviewed with a current student, and attended an evening session of a Theological Conference organized by GPTS. A speaker from Peru, Dr. Alonzo Ramirez spoke on the blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant and its implication for missions to the nations. They also attended workshops conducted by GPTS professors Dr. Anthony Curto (Asoc. Prof. Missions and Evangelism) and Dr. C.N. Willborn, (Asoc. Prof. Church History, Biblical Theol.) at the Greenville Spring Theological Conference. In addition, they visited an evening class in Counseling taught by Dr. G. Scipione. Our delegates were cordially received and had a very pleasant and extensive discussion in a special meeting with Dr. Pipa, Dr. Sid Dyer and Dr. Anthony Curto.

Our delegates composed a lengthy internal report for the committee. They reported at length on the ecclesiastical affiliation, creedal commitment, seminary facilities, the faculty qualifications, ecclesiastical environs, atmosphere in the classes, and their discussion with Dr. Pipa, Dr. Dyer, and Dr. Curto. They also reported on the existing relationship between GPTS and PRTS through the Accrediting Agency, ARTS, and PRTS' policy on receiving outside credits.

The delegates were appreciative of GPTS' firm creedal stance, namely one of "full subscription" to the Westminster Standards, their conservative commitment on current issues in the church today. They noted the Presbyterian focus of their creedal commitment with openness to and appreciation for the Heidelberg

Catechism. They noted, however, that the academic offerings were considerably fewer than PRTS and less aligned with our Theological Handbook, especially in the areas of exegesis, systematic theology, symbolics, and homiletics. Moreover, the environs provide an ecclesiastical situation which is different in terms of worship, church government, view of office and to some degree, their view of the congregation. Moreover, distance from the life of a local FRC was seen to be a significant problem.

In addition, it was noted that presently we contribute about 60% of the teaching of our students at PRTS. Thus our present arrangement is much more in harmony with the principle to which we are committed as churches; that is, that we want our students to be taught “by the church for the church.” Our academically qualified Free Reformed men who are involved in the teaching of our students at PRTS are also better able to help our men understand the Free Reformed heritage and churches and thus to prepare them to minister in our Free Reformed congregations.

The committee was very grateful to its delegates for their extensive report and confirms their considerations, concerns, and conclusions and thus recommends that synod adopt the following:

Considering our commitment to:

- The principle of *pietas cum scientia* (“piety with knowledge”)
- The principle of the training ministers “by the church, for the church;”

And also considering

- The comparatively high quality of PRTS instruction;
- The comparatively greater number of credit hours devoted to the M.Div. degree proper;
- The amount of Free Reformed contribution made to the education of our students;
- The ability of our committee to monitor more closely the academic, spiritual and moral development of our students;
- The ability of our students to be involved in the worship, church life and ministry of a local Free Reformed congregation;
- That Synod confirm its choice of PRTS as the seminary through which Free Reformed students for the ministry will be trained.

PART II: THE *MESSENGER* ANNOUNCEMENT

The Committee was mandated to review the announcement in the *Messenger*. After considering the announcement and in view of our Committee discussions of this matter over the past years, and our recent comparative investigation of GPTS, we have come up with following recommendation.

The following columns represent the existing and the proposed announcements. We recommend to synod to adopt the proposed announcement as its standard announcement to begin in 2007.

PRESENT ANNOUNCEMENT:

ADMISSION TO MINISTERAL STUDIES

The Theological Education Committee of the Free Reformed Churches invites men who feel called to the ministry of the Word in these churches to contact the Secretary of the Committee before March 1, 20__ in order to be invited for examination at the Spring meeting of this Committee.

Prerequisites for admission of applicants are the following:

- A personal letter of application, exploring in some detail the call to the ministry;
- Written attestation from the consistory;
- Written report from the personal physician attesting to good health;
- Ability to demonstrate knowledge of the Scriptures and the Three Forms of Unity.

In addition, the following academic requirements must be met:

- Completion or near completion of a Bachelor's degree, in which the major area of studies should include at least one of the following: History, Philosophy, Greek, and English.
- Successful completion of the following courses: *English (including "Creative Writing") - 4 semesters; *Modern foreign language (preferably Dutch) - 2 semesters; *History (including European) - 4 semesters; *Philosophy - 2 semesters; *Greek (Koine and N.T.) - 4 semesters.

The Theological Education Committee
of the Free Reformed Churches
Rev. G.R. Procee, Secretary
1120 Mohawk Road, Ancaster, ON L9G 3K9
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PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT:

ADMISSION TO MINISTERAL STUDIES

The Theological Education Committee of the Free Reformed Churches of N.A. invites men who feel called to the ministry of the Word to submit their applications before March 31, 20__ in order to be invited for examination at the Spring Meeting of this Committee.

Prerequisites:

- Having been a confessing member of the FRCNA for at least one year;
- Having completed, or nearly completed, a Bachelor's Degree including 4 semesters of Greek. Additionally, it is recommended that the applicant has taken courses in English composition; history; and philosophy.
- Having submitted to the Committee secretary:
 - A personal letter of application, explaining in some detail his call to the ministry;
 - Written attestation from his Consistory;
 - Written report from his personal physician attesting to good health;
 - Academic Transcript of his university level studies.

The applicant will be examined regarding:

- 1) His state of grace;
- 2) His sense of personal call;
- 3) His knowledge of the Scriptures and the Three Forms of Unity.

In case of questions regarding these prerequisites applicants are invited to contact the secretary of the Committee.

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