

Prayer Service

At Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Caerau, Cardiff
7:30 p.m. Wednesday
28 August 2013

Rev. Dr Peter Naylor welcomed all delegates and visitors to the church and to Wales.

ORDER OF SERVICE

‘Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth’ (Psalm 124: 8).

‘Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ’ (2 Corinthians 1: 2).

‘Oh come, let us sing to the LORD,
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with singing,
Let us shout joyfully to him with psalms’ (Psalm 95: 1).

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| Singing | Psalm 46 ‘God is our refuge and our strength’ (<i>Sing Psalms</i> ; tune Rachel) |
| Prayer | The Lord’s Prayer (all); prayer of invocation (minister). |
| Confession of faith: | the Apostles’ Creed. |
| Singing | Psalm 34 verses 1-10 ‘At all times I will bless the LORD’ (<i>Sing Psalms</i> ; tune Tender Love composed by Rev. Peter Wallace, OPC minister) |
| Reading | 2 Corinthians 2: 12-17, read by Rev. Andrew Young. |
| Sermon | ‘The Context and Privilege of Gospel Ministry, Rev. Ian Hamilton |
| Singing | ‘Hark! How the adoring hosts above’ (a paraphrase of Revelation 5: 9-13; tune Vox Dilecti) |
| Prayers | For the church – Rev. Todd Matocha
For the preaching of the gospel and the mission of the church – Rev. Gareth Burke
For the conference – Rev. Pieter VanderMeyden |
| Singing | ‘Lamb of God, you now are seated high on your eternal throne’ (tune In Memoriam) |
| Benediction | 2 Corinthians 13: 14 – Rev. Dr Peter J. Naylor. |

The text of the sermon is contained in Section III.

Session 1

Morning, Thursday
29 August 2013

1. Opening

Rev. Bruce Hoyt opened the eighth conference at 9:06 a.m. and welcomed all delegates, observers and visitors, from all over the world.

Singing: ‘Holy, holy, holy.’ (*Christian Hymns* 47; tune Nicaea)

Prayer.

Reading: Luke 18: 24-34

Remarks: Jesus speaks to his disciples about his suffering to come. His work was revealed beforehand by the prophets. This assures us that his death was no accident of history but according to the plan of God. This gives us confidence and deals with our doubts. He accomplished the will of God for our salvation.

Singing: ‘Man of sorrows’ (*Christian Hymns* 248; tune Hallelujah! What a Saviour).

2. Roll Call

Rev. Chris Kavanagh for the host church, the EPCEW, read the credentials and delegates stood to be identified.

2.1 Member Churches and their delegates

Calvinist Reformed Churches in Indonesia (CRCI)

Rev. Yonson G. Dethan	voting
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Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)

Rev. Anthon Souman	voting
Dr John Vanderstoep	voting
Rev. Dr James Visscher	advisory
Mr Harold Leyenhorst	advisory
Rev. Cornelius VanSpronsen	serving ICRC
Mr Henk Berends	serving ICRC

Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (CRCN)

Rev. Wim Wullschleger voting
Rev. William Middelkoop voting

Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales (EPCEW)

Rev. Matthew Jolley voting
Rev. Brian Norton voting
Rev. Dr Robert Letham advisory (alt. voting)
Rev. Chris Kavanagh advisory
Rev. Richard Holst serving ICRC
Rev. Dr Peter J. Naylor serving ICRC

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland (EPCI)

Rev. Gareth N. Burke voting
Rev. Andrew Lucas voting
Mr David Watson advisory
Mr John Grier advisory

Free Church of Scotland (FCS)

Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell voting
Rev. James Maciver voting
Rev. Prof. Robert Akroyd advisory
Rev. David Miller advisory

Free Church of Scotland Continuing (FCSC)

Rev. John MacLeod voting
Rev. David S. Fraser voting

Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCNA)

Rev. Laurence Bilkes voting
Rev. Pieter VanderMeyden voting

Free Reformed Churches of South Africa (FRCSA)

Mr Cornelis Roose voting
Rev. Dirk Boersma voting

Heritage Reformed Congregations HRC

Mr James Beeke voting

Independent Reformed Church of Korea IRCK

Rev. Byoung Kil Chung voting
Rev. Heon Soo Kim voting

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

Mr Mark T. Bube	voting
Rev. Jack Sawyer	voting
Rev. Dr George W. Knight III	advisory
Rev. Tony Curto	advisory
Rev. Chris Wisdom	alternate advisory

Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (PCEA)

Rev. George Ball	voting
Rev. Dr Rowland Ward	voting

Presbyterian Free Church of Central India (PFCCI)

Rev. Shyam Babu	voting
Rev. Samit Kumar Mishra	voting

Presbyterian Church in Korea (Kosin) (PCKK)

Rev. Dr Paul Geong Ho Bae	voting
Rev. Dr Ho Jin Jun	voting
Rev. Geong Yang Kim	advisory
Rev. Jung Whan Lee	advisory

Reformed Churches of Brazil (RCB)

Mr Luiz Fernando Silva	voting
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Reformed Churches in Indonesia NTT (RCI)

Rev. Pila Njuka	voting
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Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN)

Rev. Piet K. Meijer	voting
Rev. Dr Melle Herman Oosterhuis	voting
Rev. Jos Colijn (not yet seen)	advisory

Reformed Churches of New Zealand (RCNZ)

Rev. Bruce Hoyt	voting
Rev. Dirk van Garderen	voting

Reformed Churches in South Africa (RCSA)

Rev. Malan van Rhyn	voting
Prof. Douw G. Breed	voting
(Credentials received; delegates not yet seen. Arrived later.)	

Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)

Rev. Scott Henry	voting
Rev. James Sawtelle	voting

Reformed Presbyterian Church of India (RPCInd)

Rev. Hiralal Solanki	voting
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Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland (RPCI)

Prof. David McKay	voting
Rev. Robert Robb	voting
Rev. Malcolm Ball	advisory

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)

Rev. Bruce Parnell	voting
Rev. Bruce Martin	voting

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North East India (RPCNEI)

Mr Lalkiemlo Pulamte	voting
Rev. Ros Infimate	voting

United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)

Mr Huibert den Boer	voting
Rev. Dick Moes	voting
Rev. Raymond Sikkema	advisory

2.2 Member Churches not represented

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)
 Free Church in Southern Africa (FCSA)
 Reformed Churches of Spain (RCS)
 United Reformed Church in Congo (URCC)

2.3 Observers: churches applying for membership***Africa Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Kenya) (AEPC)***

Rev. Daniel Kithongo

Christian Reformed Churches of Australia (CRCA)

Rev. Geoff van Schie

Sudanese Reformed Churches (SRC)

Rev. Patrick Jok Ding Wic

Universal Reformed Christian Church - NKST (URCC-Tiv)

Rev. Peter G. Azuana

Not yet seen. (Arrived Thursday afternoon).

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Malawi (EPCM)

Not represented. Delegate refused visa to enter the UK.

2.4 Visitors

A number of other churches were represented.

Ely Presbyterian Church (Cardiff)

Rev. Philip Haines

Rev. Richard Matthews

Evangelical Church Alliance (in London) (ECALondon)

Rev. David Min

The Reformed Christian Church of India (RCCInd)

Rev. Paulrai JY

Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ)

Rev. Hiroshi Ogawa

Rev. Takashi Yoshida

Reformed Churches in Korea (RCK)

Rev. Dongsup Song

Reformed Church of North India (RCNInd)

Rev. Rajesh Kumar

Tushino ERC Moscow

Rev. Valerian Ten

Other visitors were:

Mr Paul Zakir of Presbyterian Church of Pakistan.

Mr Piet de Vries (reporter for *Lux Mundi*)

M/S/C: To receive the delegates and observers.

3. The Executive Committee

Rev. Bruce Hoyt presented the Interim Committee's proposal for the Executive Committee:

Chairman:	Rev. C. Richard H. Holst
Vice-chairman:	Rev. Dick Moes
Recording secretary:	Rev. Dr Peter J. Naylor
Corresponding secretary:	Rev. Dr James Visscher; Cornelius Van Spronsen retiring.
Treasurer:	Kyle Lodder after this conference Mr Henk Berends

Rev. Hoyt explained that the URCNA had offered to host the conference in 2017. Therefore it was usual to appoint one of its ministers as a vice-chairman, who would then become the chairman for the next conference.

No other nominations.

The conference approved the appointment of the Executive Committee.



The Executive Committee 2013

From left to right: Richard Holst, Dick Moes, Peter Naylor,
Henk Berends, Cornelius VanSpronsen, James Visscher

4. Transfer of chairmanship

Rev Bruce Hoyt handed over the chairmanship to Rev. Richard Holst.

Rev David McKay prayed.

Recess 10:00 a.m.

Reconvene 11:15 a.m.

5. Credentials

The list of churches and voting members was presented and accepted.

6. Daily Timetable and Programme

The programme and daily timetable were presented to the conference.

6.1 Daily timetable

9:00 a.m.	Morning session 1
10:15 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10:45-11:45 a.m.	Morning session 2
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00-3:15 p.m.	Afternoon session 1
3:15 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
3:45-4:45 p.m.	Afternoon session 2
5:30 p.m.	Evening meal
7:30-9:00 p.m.	Evening session

6.2 Programme

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Wed 28 Aug		Registration (Conference Centre)	Prayer Service (Immanuel)
Thu 29 Aug	Session 1 Opening devotions Roll call (credentials) Appointment of Executive Agree daily timetable; programme Appoint advisory committees Corresponding Secretary's report	Session 2 Plenary session After break: Refo500 presentation Recess for committees	Session 3 Opening devotions Paper 1: The Necessity of Preaching , Rev. Dr Robert Letham Church introduction 1 Closing devotions
Fri 30 Aug	Session 4 Opening devotions Plenary discussion Church introduction 2 Advisory Committee Reports Workshops for Paper 1	Session 5 Plenary session Recess for committees	Session 6 Opening devotions Paper 2: The Nature of Preaching , Rev. Dr James Visscher. Church introduction 3 Closing devotions.
Mon 2 Sep	Session 7 Opening devotions Plenary discussion Church introduction 4 Advisory Committee Reports Workshops for Paper 2	Session 8 Plenary session Recess for committees	Session 9 Opening devotions Paper 3: Preaching in a non-literary society , Rev. Dr Jun Ho Jin. Church introduction 5 Closing devotions.
Tue 3 Sep	Session 10 Opening devotions Plenary discussion Church introduction 6 Advisory Committee Reports Workshops for Paper 3	Session 11 Plenary session Recess for committees	Session 12 Opening devotions Panel Discussion Church introduction 7 Closing devotions.
Wed 4 Sep	Session 13 Opening devotions Plenary discussion Advisory Committee Reports Workshops for Panel	Session 14 Plenary session Final Reports	Welsh meal & music, harp Session 15 Plenary session Closing devotions

Rev. Gareth Burke: requested the programme include time for open prayer.

Agreed. The daily timetable and programme adopted.

7. Advisory Committees

Rev. Richard Holst presented a list of the advisory committees required and recommendations concerning members to be appointed to each committee.

Advisory Committee 1 Finance

George Ball, Heon Soo Kim.

Advisory Committee 2 Press Release

Jack Sawyer, Bruce Hoyt.

Advisory Committee 3 ICRC 2017

Dick Moes, Paul Bae, Piet Meijer, David McKay.

Advisory Committee 4 Missions

Dirk van Garderen, Tony Curto, Ros Infimate, Malcolm Ball.

Advisory Committee 5 Review

Melle Oosterhuis, Ray Sikkema, Dirk Boersma, Rowland Ward.

Advisory Committee 6 Application: AEPC

David Fraser, Douw Breed, James Beeke.

Advisory Committee 7 Application: South Sudan

Cornelis Roose, Byoung Kil Chung, David Watson.

Advisory Committee 8 Application: CRC Australia

Jack Sawyer, Anthon Souman, Wim Wullschleger.

Advisory Committee 9 Application: Incomplete – EPC Malawi and NKST

James Sawtelle, Matthew Jolley, David Miller.

Approved.

8. Workshop discussion leaders

The Chairman presented recommendations for three workshops and leaders. The recommendation was not accepted: three groups result in groups too large.

M/S/C: revise to four groups.

Notice: Books available to delegates

A new Psalter from the RPCNA was presented by its delegation and a copy was given to each delegate.

A new book edited by Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell and Rev. W. Schweitzer, *Engaging with Keller*: 40 copies had been sent to the conference by an unnamed donor.

9. Assistance to the conference

The Chairman introduced Mrs Pat Stowell and Miss Gaynor Davies, who were present throughout the conference to assist it with its administrative needs. The Chairman asked the conference to confirm that this arrangement met with their approval.

Applause.

10. Report of the Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Cornelius Van Spronsen gave his report.

The Chairman thanked Rev. C. Van Spronsen for his report.

The conference accepted the report with thanks.

11. Closing

The Chairman closed the morning session at 11:57 a.m.

Session 2

Afternoon, Thursday
28 August 2013

12. Opening

At 2:05 p.m. the chairman called the meeting to order.

Rev. Holst opened the session with prayer.

13. Presentation of Review Report

Rev. Dr James Visscher introduced the report, which proposes a fairly broad revamp. Mr Mark Bube took the conference through the details of the changes, section by section.

A preliminary discussion took place. Several points of wording were raised and noted. Rev. Dr Oosterhuis noted the ‘invisibility’ of the ICRC at the level of the congregations and asked for a consideration how the people could benefit from it and get value for money. Rev. Meijer welcomed the focus on regional conferences and suggested that the committees be set up to operate on that regional level.

14. Procedural Question

The chairman informed the conference that there had been an inadvertent error with respect to the next session. Article 7 of the Regulations requires that agenda items be received not less than one year ahead of the conference. The inclusion of an introduction by the organization *Refo500* was recent. He suggested a way forward. The CRCN delegates move that the conference hears the introduction, waiving Article 7 on this occasion, without establishing a precedent for the future. M/S/C.

Recess 3:11 p.m.

Reconvene 3:50 p.m.

15. Presentation: Refo500

Prof. Herman Selderhuis and Mrs Karla Apperloo-Boersma presented information about a project to bring the Reformation to the attention of the wider public, called 'Refo500'.

The Chairman thanked the brother and sister for their presentation. He offered guidance that the conference did not have power to enter into a partnership agreement with Refo500, binding the member churches but the member churches themselves were free to consider their own responses.

Questions were invited and answers given.

Prof. Selderhuis presented the Chairman with a book.

16. Closing

The chairman closed the session at 4: 40 p.m.

Session 3

Evening, Thursday
29 August 2013

17. Opening

The Chairman opened the session at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr Melle Herman Oosterhuis led the opening devotions.

Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-7.

Address: the theme of 'Pure Lips'

1. The manifestation of God's holiness. Uzziah had died. This reminds us of his sin, when he entered the temple to try to burn incense and was punished for his disobedience with leprosy, which was severe impurity. God's holiness requires purity in his service.

2. The confession of God's servant. Isaiah feels guilty about the use of his lips: awareness of hidden sins. His use of his lips is affected by hidden sins, especially in worship, in preaching and in prayer. 'Holy, holy, holy,' is contradictory of his life. Have you experienced this? When you are reminded of your sins, your prayers sound like a lie.

3. Purification by God's grace. Comfort is given to Isaiah in the touch of the coals from the altar. This points to Calvary where Christ atoned for his sins. The touch of the coal is meant to assure him of forgiveness.

Earnestly confess your sins before God. From that moment God rejoices in the fruit of your lips. Remind yourself of the message of the coal.

Singing: 'I bring my sins to thee' (*Christian Hymns*, 574)

Prayer.

18. Paper 1. The Necessity of Preaching, Rev. Dr Robert Letham

Dr Letham presented his paper to the conference. (The paper had been made available on the website six months previously.)

19. Introduction of the Africa Evangelical Presbyterian Church (AEPC), Rev Daniel Kithongo

Praise and honour be to our God. Dear beloved saints in the Lord, on behalf of the AEPC, I bring you warm greetings. I am grateful for the opportunity and privilege of participating in this conference, a special moment when saints of similar faith and practice converge in unity, encourage one another, and share their diversities of culture.

AEPC was founded by missionaries from the World Presbyterian Mission in 1962. (WPM afterwards merged with PCA.)

Doctrine. AEPC is grounded on a biblical foundation, expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) and Catechisms. We strive to maintain the Reformed faith, with the Bible as the sole infallible rule of faith and practice, as from God, and we are committed to teach the Scriptures of the OT and NT from a Reformed and covenantal position. The Reformed faith finds its authority in the teaching of the whole counsel of God.

Constitution. WCF, a book of church government, and a book of discipline
Vision. It is to reach the lost ones with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to establish churches that uphold the Reformed and covenantal faith, and to engage in holistic ministries for the expansion of God's kingdom in Africa and beyond.

Uzima Bible College. Uzima is Swahili for life, eternal life. The college was set up in 2010 to train men for making disciples (Matthew 28: 19). It is fully staffed by indigenous workers, the first such college in Kenya. If there is any hope for Reformation in Kenya and elsewhere in East Africa, the church of Jesus Christ must once again produce pastors who boldly proclaim the whole counsel of God with the anointing of his Holy Spirit, to the end of seeing the people of the region receive the life that is in Christ Jesus. The Reformers taught us that the work of Reformation is never finished: *ecclesia reformata semper reformanda est.* (1 Tim. 4: 3 quoted).

Suffering. The churches have suffered from terrorist attacks.

ICRC Membership. We recognize the support of the RCN and OPC. We are glad to join the ICRC and have fellowship with one another. Blessings of the Lord upon the conference.

Rev. Dr Peter Naylor prayed for the AEPC.

20. Closing

Singing: Psalm 121 (*Christian Hymns 784*; tune Sandon)

Closed at 8:50 p.m.

Session 4

Morning, Friday
30 August 2013

21. Opening

The Chairman opened the session at 9:05 a.m.

Singing: Psalm 92 verses 1-9 (*Sing Psalms*; tune Kilmarnock)

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10.

Remarks on Paul's relationship with the church: his thankfulness. Pastors knowing the character of the flock can find it a challenge to be thankful for them. (Compare 1 Corinthians 1: 4.) Without thankfulness, the people will feel devalued and not listen to us (according to Calvin). Thankfulness comes out of knowing that we have been called to a holy calling by grace. 1. He thanked God for their faith. 2. He thanked God for their response to the Word of God. 3. He thanked God for them and rejoiced in them: 'you are my joy'.

Prayer.

The Chairman gave notices. 1. The ICRC Mission Newsletter is available today. 2. A book published: Rev John Goris, *Grappling with a Grief Engraved*. 3. Conference photograph will be taken by Mr Piet de Vries (present on behalf of *Lux Mundi*).

22. Workshop Groups

A new arrangement was presented to the conference.

Group A: James Maciver (convenor), Henk Berends, Brian Norton, Rowland Ward, Scott Henry, Bruce Martin, Tony Curto, William Middelkoop, Andrew Lucas, David Miller, Cornelis Roose, Mark Bube, Samit Kumar Mishra, Melle Herman Oosterhuis, David McKay, Ros Infimate, Geoff van Schie, Hiroshi Ogawa, David Min, Zimram Roger.

Group B: Piet Meijer (convenor), John Vanderstoep, Richard Holst, Bruce Hoyt, Cornelius VanSpronsen, Dick Moes, Yonson Dethan, Matthew Jolley, David Watson, Robert Akroyd, James Beeke, Jack Sawyer, Paul Geong Ho Bae, Douw Breed, Robert Robb, Hiralal Solanki, Paulraj, Takashi Yoshida, Pila Njuka, Philip Haines.

Group C: Bruce Parnell (convenor), Harold Leyenhorst, Chris Kavanagh, Pieter VanderMeyden, David Fraser, Huibert den Boer, Anthon Souman, Robert Letham, John Grier, John MacLeod, Heon Soo Kim, George Ball, Dr Ho Jin Jun, Malan van Rhyn, Malcolm Ball, Raymond Sikkema, Paul Zakir, Dongsup Song, Peter Azuana, Richard Matthews.

Group D: Laurence Bilkes (convenor), James Visscher, Chris Wisdom, George Knight III, Larence Bilkes, Dirk van Garderen, Wim Wullschleger, Gareth Burke, Iain D. Campbell, Dirk Boersma, Byoung Kil Chung, Shyam Babu, Luiz Fernando Silva, James Sawtelle, Lalkiemlo Pulamte, Daniel Kithongo, Rajesh Kumar, Valerian Ten, Patrick Wic.

Approved.

23. Reflection on Refo500

Rev. Burke requested that a few moments be given to reflect upon the Refo500 item. Rev. VanderMeyden argued that to do this would ‘continue the error’. Rev. Ward and Rev. Breed expressed the view that the chairman’s remarks at the time were sufficient. Rev. Burke wished to be sure that the conference distanced itself from Refo500’s ecumenism and support of the Council of Trent.

24. Church Introduction: Sudanese Reformed Churches (SRC)

Rev. Patrick Jok Ding Wic brought the greetings of the Sudanese Reformed Churches and introduced them.

The SRC has congregations in South Sudan and Sudan.

Thanks be to God for the ICRC leaders and the EPCEW which sponsored my coming to Wales. Before 2007, we felt alone, which was a challenge and I felt like quitting the ministry. But then we began to be connected to the Reformed family of churches, and were visited by men of the RCSA and Heritage Reformed Churches. They invited SRC to join the World Reformed Fellowship (2009). We also attended the RCSA synod in 2012.

South Sudan has suffered war for 55 years but now at last we are free to the glory to God. The war was a religious war; the aim of the Muslims was to eradicate Christianity. As a result of the war, we have no infrastructure or industry and we depend on Kenya and Uganda for everything. The literacy rate in a population of 10 million is 10%.

The church started in house fellowships in a time of great persecution when to be seen with a Bible led to arrest. The church was organized and instituted on 31 October 2005 on the basis of the Word of God, the three Ecumenical Creeds, and the Three Forms of Unity (Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, and Canons of Dort). It held its first synod in 2009, and then in May 2011, and May 2013. There are 16 churches across Sudan with about 3,500 members.

We have a vision for mission, preaching the gospel, a holistic gospel (Abraham Kuyper, 'Not an inch of this world is not subject to Christ'). Once consolidated, we hope to send missionaries out. We have a strategy for church planting, schools, projects for sustainability (fund raising projects - tithes are very small), a gospel radio station. We are engaged in peace initiatives.

Prayer requests were presented. We need help to impact the world.

Prof. David McKay prayed for the SRC.

Conference delegates requested a copy of the entire report. The Chairman indicated that there were concerns about security and so asked for just the list of prayer requests to be circulated.

Recess 10:12

25. Workshops

The conference went into their workshops after the coffee break at 10:45 a.m.

Group A in the conference hall

Group B in room 12

Group C in the coffee lounge

Group D in room 11.

Reconvened 11:47 a.m.

26. Plenary Discussion of Paper 1

Reports from the workshops were presented.

Group A: Rev. Bruce Martin

Dr Lloyd-Jones reacted to imbalances in views of the place of the Holy Spirit in preaching. He was influenced by the Welsh revivals. How do we tap into the ministry of the Spirit in preaching? What is our expectation to be as we preach the Gospel? ‘Preach as if all depends on us, knowing it is all dependent on God’s Spirit.’ How do we give proper credit to the sovereignty of God in preaching?

Dr Letham responded. We do not ‘tap into the ministry of the Spirit in preaching.’ He has promised to make his word efficacious. We seek to propound and apply the Spirit’s mind in the passage and trust him - believe him - to do with it as he pleases.

Group B: Rev. Douw Breed

This group has four questions. 1. What is your opinion about spontaneous thoughts arising during the act of preaching, and the work of the Spirit? 2. What is really the big work of the Holy Spirit? Working in the hearers’ hearts? 3. What is the difference between the work of the Holy Spirit when a ruling elder reads the sermon and when a teaching elder preaches? 4. More about detailed working of Holy Spirit?

Dr Letham responded: 1. On spontaneous thoughts arising, it depends on mental discipline. There is a danger of wandering. 2. We cannot know what the Holy Spirit is doing in the hearts of hearers. We may have an idea. 3. The Holy Spirit speaks the Word in Scripture and he can use it in whomever he chooses. Mr Beeke asked: If a surgeon knows all about cancer but then discovers he has cancer, it is not an abstract truth but becomes a personal reality. Dr Letham responded to this: The Spirit works through faith. The preacher’s faith is crucial. But the condition of the minister is not a barrier to the Holy Spirit. Normally the preacher must be submissive to the work of the Spirit.

Group C: Rev. Pieter VanderMeyden.

This group covered two questions. 1. Lack of confidence in ministry of the Word as an indication of decline of faith? Tended to oscillate between together and distinct Word and Spirit. How to get a balance? Letham. They are balanced: as the one and the many; they are distinct but inseparable. We need to hold the two together. 2. If Word and Spirit are ‘distinct but inseparable’, can we still pray for revival?

Dr Letham: We pray as we pray for the parousia – Come Lord Jesus! We can pray for the Spirit. But what do you mean by revival? The growth of the church; not hundreds of people falling down on the floor? We are mandated to pray for growth of kingdom of God and leave it with the Spirit who knows best how to do that.

Group D: Rev Dr Iain D. Campbell

On the power of the Word and inseparability of Spirit, and on preaching being the Word of God, clarification is desired. If preaching is face to face encounter, the appeal element, what do we say about using the social media? How to use the preaching available on the media? How to get the appeal beyond the congregation?

Dr Letham: Spread the Word as far and wide as possible. The modern tendency to set up satellite groups with a remote internet connection is contrary to the true nature of preaching, but it could sometimes be a possibility as one step toward establishing a congregation. Preaching is personal communication.

27. Closing

The Chairman closed the session at 12:20 p.m.

Session 5

Afternoon, Friday
30 August 2013

28. Opening

The Chairman opened the session at 2:05 p.m.

The Vice-chairman, Rev. Dick Moes, prayed.

29. Recognition of delegates and visitors

The following men were now recognized and seated.

Rev. Douw Breed (GKSA) – credentials already accepted
Rev. Malan van Rhyn (GKSA) – credentials already accepted
Rev. Gyeong Yang Kim (PCKK) – advisory delegate
Rev. Jung Whan Lee (PCKK) – advisory delegate
Rev. Peter G. Azuana (URCC–Tiv)
Rev. Chris Wisdom (OPC, US Army Chaplain)
Rev. Philip Haines (Ely PC, Cardiff)
Rev. Richard Matthews (Ely PC, Cardiff)
Mr Piet de Vries (*Lux Mundi*)

(Mr Zimran Roger, ARPC in Pakistan, still not seen.)

M/S/C.

Chairman thanked Rev. Dr Robert Letham for his paper.

30. Closing devotions

Session was closed at 4:45 p.m.

Session 6

Evening, Friday
30 August 2013

31. Opening

The Vice Chairman, Rev. Dick Moes, opened the session at 7:35 p.m.

The conference recognized a visitor, Rev. Dongsup Song, a minister of the Reformed Churches of Korea.

The vice-chairman informed the conference that Rev Dr George Knight III had become unwell and was being taken to hospital. He asked for prayer for him.

Opening devotions.

Rev. Hiralal Solanki

Prayer.

Reading: Hebrews 11: 1-3.

‘By faith’ we know, understand, are assured and convinced that this universe has been created by the Word of God. Has our faith been qualified by reason? For example, the walls of Jericho fell down. Do we believe it because it is declared in God’s Word or because archaeologists tell us? When Stephen Hawkins wrote *A Brief History of Time*, he gave the impression that he believed that God existed, because he reasoned that the universe could not exist otherwise. But when he wrote *Grand Design*, he was not so sure any more. That is what happens when we base faith on reason. Let us base our faith on God’s Word.

Singing: ‘Be thou my vision’ (*Christian Hymns* 638; tune Slane).

Prayer, including supplication for Dr Knight.

The Vice-chairman thanked Rev. Solanki.

The Vice-chairman introduced Rev. Dr James Visscher, the speaker.

32. Paper 2. The Nature of Preaching, Rev. Dr James Visscher

Dr Visscher presented his paper. (The paper had been made available on the website about six months previously.)

The vice-chairman thanked Dr Visscher for his paper.

33. Closing

The Vice-chairman asked the conference to sing a selection of hymns in praise to the Lord:

‘Come, Thou almighty King!’ (*Christian Hymns* 41; tune Olivet)

‘O worship the King’ (*Christian Hymns* 97; tune Hanover)

‘O come, all ye faithful’ (*Christian Hymns* 209; tune Adeste Fideles)

‘Gracious Spirit, love divine’ (*Christian Hymns* 335; tune Aberafon)

The Report of Advisory Committee 7 had been circulated.

The Report of Advisory Committee 5 was circulated.

The conference had a time of open prayer.

The Vice-chairman closed the session at 9:05 p.m.

Session 7

Morning, Monday
2 September 2013

34. Opening

The Chairman opened the morning session at 9:04 a.m.

Singing: Psalm 19 verses 1-9 and 14 (*Sing Psalms*; tune: Love Unknown)

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12.

Remarks: Paul's speech at Thessalonica, what he said and how he said it, focusing on verse 12.

In three weeks, what did Paul say to them? The gospel – as elsewhere, e.g., Acts 20: 19, and as he charged Timothy to preach the Word. It was not about creativity, inventiveness, or even 'being interesting'. Handle the teaching that had been given to him. The indicatives; and then the imperatives. He exhorted and we notice elements of repetition in this.

How? Boldly, seeking to please God and not men. He spoke gently, as a nursing mother. This challenges our impatience. Finally, he spoke urgently.

Prayer.

35. Information about participants in the conference

Recognition of brothers not previously identified: Rev. Valerian Ten, Rev. Takashi Yoshida, Rev. Hiroshi Ogawa, Rev. Rajesh Kumar (GKSA, working in India), Mr J Y Paulraj.

James Beeke departs this afternoon.

Rev. Chris Wisdom replacing Rev. Dr George Knight III as advisory delegate of the OPC.

Further information was received from the OPC delegates, with a request for prayer. Rev. Eric Tuininga reached hospital and will have surgery this morning. (Rev. Tuininga is a missionary of the OPC in Africa who suffered an appendicitis yesterday and had to drive himself from Mbale to Kampala, a five-hour, difficult drive. Prayer had been offered in the churches for him and his family.)

36. Introduction to the Christian Reformed Church of Australia (CRCA), Rev. Geoff van Schie

The CRCA was established in 1951 by Dutch migration. Now 52 congregations and 8 church plants, 8,715 members (6,000 communicant and 2,715 baptized). 72 min and 17 retired. Reformed Theological College was established just a few years after we began. A new element is education by extension. We hold two annual conferences, one for ministers on preaching (last year about Application; the coming one is about Preaching from Wisdom Literature); Fan the Flame – for potential ministers and leader in the future). We hold to the *Four Forms of Unity* held closely. If anyone wishes to depart he must issue a gravamen. We encourage our members to establish schools and run them with independent boards. A decade ago, we were handling topics such as women in office, ‘Word and Spirit’, but nine years ago we left these issues behind and now concentrate on mission. Church planting goals were set but never realized. So we worked out a fourfold task, and – to reach the lost – ‘Reforming the Church to Reach the Lost for Christ’. 1. Call on God for an outpouring of his Spirit. 2. Grow healthy churches and equip our members. 3. Equip Church members for leadership. 4. Reform continually the life of the denomination. Mission in Indonesia; several diaconal ministries in India. Ecumenical relations: system is not the sister-church model a looser approach – CRCNZ, RCSA, the Hervomd in South Africa, and the Netherlands Reformed Churches in South Africa – because many South African migrants, CRCN. We used to belong to the Reformed Ecumenical Council but we cannot belong there now. We are looking for a home and hope it will be the ICRC.

Chairman thanked Rev. Geoff van Schie.

Rev. Middelkoop prayed for the CRCA and also for Rev. Eric Tuininga.

Recess at 10:15 a.m.

The conference photographs were taken during the recess.

Reconvene 10:55 a.m.

37. Advisory Committee 5: first discussion of the report

The Report and the Review Documents had been circulated on Friday evening by Dr Ward.

Rev. Dr Rowland Ward introduced the report, announced corrections and explained a few substantive changes. The Advisory Committee's recommendation is that the conference adopt the new Regulations at this present ICRC. The committee notes the importance of making the ICRC's existence better known in the churches. It also believes that churches of the 'two-thirds world' should be encouraged periodically to change their delegates.

Initial questions were invited from the floor. 1. Rev. MacLeod: a technical point. 2. Rev. Sawyer: is the Review Committee content with the Advisory Committee changes? Informally yes. 3. Dr Iain D. Campbell: What will be done with the church reports? Placed on the website. 4. Mr Roose: Small federations practising term eldership could experience difficulty in finding delegates if restricted to ministers and elders. A way can be found to overcome this. Agreed. 5. Rev. Wullschleger: Is it proper to name other organizations in a document of this kind (Constitution and Regulations)? Better to omit naming specific organizations. Noted. 6. Rev. Wullschleger: When we refer to the ordination of persons contrary to 1 Timothy 3 and also specifically refer to 'woman in office', is it not redundant, and also is it not proper in this kind of document to leave out specifics? Noted. 7. Rev. Middelkoop: The co-ordinating committee is said to include the chairmen of other committees that are not provided for in the document. Noted. 8. Rev. VanderMeyden: Should the document include the term 'Council' for the conference? No: to be changed. 9. The procedure for changing the Constitution is different from that for changing the Regulations. Noted.

38. Closing

The Chairman closed the session at 11:35 a.m.

Session 8

Afternoon, Monday
2 September 2013

39. Opening

The Chairman opened the session at 2:05 p.m.

Rev. Anthon Souman opened in prayer.

It was noted that Rev. Dr Jos Colijn (RCN) had arrived.

Minutes of sessions 1-4 had been distributed.

40. Plenary discussion of Paper 2

40.1 Workshop reports

Group A: Rev. Bruce Martin

The Nature of Appeal. A herald makes an appeal. How should we do this and how do we view the congregation (covenant people or unbelievers)? Do we apply it to them or leave them to apply it to themselves?

Group B: Rev Douw Breed

Is it not necessary to get rid of the division between explication and application? Reformed sermons are poor in rhetoric and in conveying emotions?

Group C: Rev. Pieter VanderMeyden

We talked about the definition of preaching. Authority. Topical preaching hobby-horse preaching, and catechism preaching (because it has a host of topics). Is catechism preaching relevant in the third world? Passion and the subjective element? What characteristics mark ‘emotionalism’ and ‘subjectivistic’ preaching?

Group D: Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell

We appreciated the emphases on the Word of God shaping our preaching, the Word as a triune revelation. Perhaps it would be better not to compartmentalize the Father as the author, the Spirit as the agent, and the Son as the fulfilment, and rather speak of all three as one in those works. We appreciated the emphasis on preaching as covenantal. Could you

develop the material in footnote 10 on Christocentric preaching and whether we should find Christ in every place in OT? What place does the appeal have in our gatherings, being mixed of believers and unbelievers. Should every sermon have an appeal?

Rev. Dr Visscher responded to these points. 1. On the nature of the appeal, learn from Scripture – the appeals found in the NT epistles. We must use elders to obtain feedback from the congregation. In every congregation we do not assume all are regenerate. At times it is necessary to challenge the congregation. ‘Do you bear the marks of grace?’ (Article 29 is about the marks of true church and the marks of the true Christian.) Preach the promises and the curses and judgments: Deuteronomy is a model for us. 2. The old practice of dividing explication and application is artificial; they go together. 3. Are we poor at rhetoric? Personalities vary, calm, excited, in the pulpit. What is fundamental is to show that he is a herald of great tidings. How a person can do that in a matter-of-fact manner, I don’t understand. 4. Catechism preaching is topical but the Catechisms are based on the Apostles’ Creed, Ten Commandments and Lord’s Prayer, broad in scope. The challenge is to be fresh and new each year it comes around, to find a new angle every time. Passion? Yes. Every sermon must first be preached to yourself. 5. Should we address the people as ‘us’ or ‘you’? Sometimes it is good to say “we”. 6. What is emotionalism in preaching? Too much attention on the preacher and not enough on Christ. Illustrations must not dominate. Good illustrations take hard work to find. It is easier to talk about self and one’s own family and take illustrations from there. 7. On the paper’s connection with the Trinity, perhaps it is too neat. We need to preach the Trinity. 8. Christo-centricity. This is a challenge. E.g., a sermon about when David went to visit his brothers in the army: he was a good boy. Application? Be good sons! This misses the unique role of David as the Lord’s anointed. If we preach Christ, that must come out of the text and not be tacked on the end. 9. We must preach to comfort but do not make the pew too comfortable. We must require self-examination.

40.2 Questions from the floor

1. Dr Oosterhuis: an insight given to the students was to avoid the Christocentric and use the Theocentric, but be Christological. 2. Rev. Wullschleger: people wrestle with a lack of assurance. They ask, ‘Is it for me?’ They feel too much a sinner. How can we appeal and not undermine assurance? Dr Visscher: this is familiar in parts of the Netherlands and Scotland. The only antidote is to preach Christ and draw away from too much introspection. 3. Rev. Moes: on not separating explication and application, 90 out of 100 sermons on the web have no applicatory content.

The preachers go into explication. Is there a way to get a combination? Dr Visscher: The preacher needs to be able to state his theme in one sentence. What is the heart of the text? If you cannot summarise the text in that way, you are not ready to preach and you must read the passage over and over again. Ps 77: 19.

The Chairman thanked Dr Visscher.

41. Introduction of the Reformed Churches of Korea (RCK), Rev. Dongsup Song

Greetings. The RCK was founded in 2005. It holds to the Three Forms of Unity. It has 4 congregations and 200 members. Some others desire to join, and they seek unity with all who are willing to put themselves under the authority of God's Word. In October, the World Council of Churches is meeting in Korea and it is creating confusion in the churches.

Rev. Yonson Dethan prayed.

42. Report of Advisory Committee 6: Application of AEPC

Rev. David Fraser presented the work of the committee. It had met with Rev. Daniel Kithongo and the sponsoring churches' delegates. The church was founded in 1946 and is well established. It needs our support: it lives with the Islamic threat.

The Advisory Committee's Recommendation was accepted by the member churches.

Rev. Daniel Kithongo was seated as a member

The Chairman welcomed him and prayed.

43. Report of Advisory Committee 7: Application of SRC

Mr Cornelis Roose presented the report. He commented that the church's form of government was simply consistories and a general assembly, not with classes and regional assemblies.

The recommendation was accepted by the churches.

Rev Patrick Jok Ding Wic was seated as a member.

The Chairman welcomed him and prayed.

44. Closing

The Chairman closed the session at 3:19 p.m.



Rev. Daniel Kithongo



Rev. Patrick Wic

Session 9

Evening, Monday
2 September, 2013

45. Opening devotions

The Vice-chairman opened the session at 7:31 p.m. and welcomed visitors.

Rev. Dr Mohan Chacko, principal of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehra Dun, has retired. The seminary is looking for a new principal. They require a man who has a doctoral degree and who has a connection with Asia and understands the culture.

Devotions: Rev. Pila Njuka

Reading: Colossians 4: 2-6.

Remarks. The pre-eminence of Christ is the driving force for Paul's preaching. He is in chains. He prays for an open door to preach it again. Usually Paul prays for them; now he asks for prayer. They also had a mission. They are in the minority; he tells them to live wisely and speak wisely to commend their faith to outsiders. You in the UK have an opportunity: the Muslims are coming to you. Sooner or later you will be strangers in your own country. We don't want to see the UK a Muslim country. Then this is our work: doing the work and praying.

Singing: Psalm 121 (*Sing Psalms*; tune Trewen).

Prayer.

Vice-chairman thanked Rev. Njuka.

46. Paper 3: Preaching in a Non-literary Context, Rev. Dr Jin Ho Jun

The Vice-chairman introduced the speaker, Rev. Dr Jin Ho Jun.

Rev. Dr Jin Ho Jun presented his paper.

The Vice-chairman thanked the speaker for his paper:

One thing that stands out is your love for people and your desire to take the Reformed faith to people. You told me that you are 74 and you have been working for five years in Cambodia. Many people would have retired. My thoughts go to Psalm 92: 12-15:

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall still bear fruit in old age;
They shall be fresh and flourishing,
To declare that the LORD is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

May the Lord bless you work for him.

47. Introduction (update) of Reformed Churches of Brazil (RCB), Luiz Fernando

Dear chairman and brothers in Christ, first of all I want to thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to be here with you all. I am representing the Brazilian Reformed Churches. This is the first time that the RCB sent a delegate to this conference.

A brief history:

The first Protestants arrived in the 16th century, with the support of John Calvin, in Rio de Janeiro. In 1558, they were killed by Roman Catholics. The second group of Protestants arrived in the 17th century, when the Dutch arrived in our country. They spent more or less 30 years preaching the gospel in our city. They were expelled by the Portuguese. Their work was very important. At that time there were 22 churches in Brazil. In the 19th century, we received members of the Presbyterians churches from the USA and United Kingdom. In the 20th century, the churches in Canada and Netherlands sent missionaries to Brazil. Their missionary work began in the seventies of last century. In 2000, all the churches of Brazil founded their confederation, adopting the Three Forms of Unity of the Reformed Churches. We have two representatives of these missionaries at this conference: Pastor Cornelius Van Spronsen and Pastor Pieter Meijer. I am one of the fruits, planted for you in our land. God bless you so much.

We have fraternal relationship with the Canadian reformed churches and the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands. We are looking for fraternal relationship with the Presbyterians (in Brazil), but our contact had to stop for internal problems in those Presbyterians churches. In 2014 our contacts will restart. At the moment we have only local contacts between individual congregations. The government has been trying to gag the church since

2002, using the law, trying to pass laws that prevent the church from commenting on homosexual conduct. Liberalism is inside of many of the Presbyterian Churches in Brazil today.

Challenges to the Reformed in Brazil: geography – it is a big country; Government; Pentecostalism; Liberalism.

Activities: mission works; studies with teachers such as Professor C. Van Dam and Prof. Carl Trueman. We have many reformed books, such as Calvin and Bavinck. The gospel is increasing in Brazil and many are coming to our churches to find the real knowledge of God.

The Vice-chairman thanked Luiz Fernando for his report.

Rev VanSpronsen prayed.

The Vice-chairman informed the conference that the second report of Advisory Committee 5 was available. It was distributed.

48 Approval of Minutes

The minutes (Proceedings) of Sessions 1-4 (pages 7-25) were approved by the conference.

49. Closing

Singing: Psalm 145 verses 13b-21 (*Sing Psalms*, tune Trewen)

The Vice-chairman closed the session at 9:09 p.m.

Session 10

Morning, Tuesday
3 September, 2013

50. Opening devotions

The Chairman opened the session at 9:12 a.m. and led the devotions.

Singing: Psalm 1 (*Sing Psalms*)

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12.

Remarks: The self-sacrificing character of Paul's ministry.

1. He loved them; so he served them. Our love for our people will affect our service of them. We sometimes don't lay ourselves out for the people. Some enter the ministry with their own agenda – to keep office hours; and their own convenience forms the parameters for their ministry. When things are not going well for us, the service of God can be our comfort. If God is at work, we are comforted and rejoice. The Thessalonians were 'our joy'. Ministry is self-giving. 2. It is a self-denying ministry. They were destined to experience afflictions. Paul accepted that as part of his calling. He spoke to the Ephesians elders about this (Acts 20).

Prayer.

Circulation of documents: minutes, the last part of Sessions 4 and Sessions 5-9, pages 26-40.

51. Introduction to Universal Reformed Christian Church, (URCC-Tiv) (Nongo u Kristu u i Ser u sha Tar), Rev. Peter G. Azuana

It is a joy to be here. I express appreciation to Immanuel Presbyterian Church for taking care of my stay.

The URCC-Tiv (NKST) church was planted 1911 by a mission of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. Between 1911 and 1961 the DRCM worked fully with the NKST. By 1961 they invited SUM/CRCN to nurture this young Church because the DRCM were sent away from Nigeria because of the Apartheid policy in South Africa. The SUM/CRCN was in full control between 1961 and 1985. Between 1957 to June 2012, the NKST stood for Nongo u Kristu u ken Sudan hen Tiv-the Church of

Christ in the Sudan among the Tiv. The inclusion of Sudan and Tiv was causing confusion and in July 2012, the NKST changed the name to ‘Nongo u Kristu u i Ser u sha Tar’, translated Universal Reformed Christian Church. The Mission of the NKST is to glorify God in Word, sacraments, and discipline. We aim to offer ‘holistic service’ to all nationalities.

We hold the Three Forms of Unity. In 1957 we ordained the first four indigenous pastors. Until now, 675 pastors have been ordained, 118 have died and 557 are serving today. We have 353 congregations in 53 classes, 1 university, 1 seminary, 1 Bible College, 53 Secondary schools, 500 primary schools, nine hospitals, with clinics, schools for nursing, midwifery, medicine, and technology. We have orphanages.

One distinctive ministry is the women’s fellowship. They operate just as an independent Church, organizing Bible studies, doing visitations and evangelizing. They have built a beautiful guest house at Mkar, the headquarters of the NKST. This is a vibrant ministry of the church. We also have a Bible project and an agricultural company, which is now transferred to the university.

In every village, the URCC-Tiv provides schooling and health care, rendering service to the community.

The Christian University is 8 eight years old. It is totally different from secular universities. But the government sees us as rivals. They do not support the church. So we have financial struggles. The government also pays higher wages than the church and so many workers have left for state employment.

Prayer requests.

Please pray for us: 1. Pray for the survival of the university, which is an agent of change – for money and for staff. 2. Pray concerning the Muslim organization, Boko Harum Fulani which kill many innocent farmers while grazing with their cattle. 3. We have discovered in Cameroon four language groups met which are similar to the Tiv and have not heard the Gospel. 4. For the training of pastors.

Rev. Bruce Martin prayed for the URCC-Tiv

Chairman thanked Rev. Peter G. Azuana for his presentation.

This conference hopes for a successful contact. It encourages the sponsoring churches to help complete the application process before the 2017 conference.

52. Report of the Missions Committee

Rev. Raymond J. Sikkema presented the Missions Committee report.

Mandate 1 was the production of a booklet.

Document circulation: *2013 Mission Field Survey* earlier in the conference.

Mr Mark Bube emphasized that the booklet is to be treated with confidentiality and not to be scanned and put on a website. He explained the sections of the booklet and how useful it could be to churches that are engaging in mission, especially the ability to relate to one another and help one another. He urged members to send in information in future.

Clarification. The information given to the Missions Committee for this booklet should come through official channels.

Rev. Sikkema continued his report.

Mandate 2 we could not fulfil. In response to countless requests, only 10 out of 30 churches gave us information. Please make information available, so that we can prepare a complete report. We are serving the churches and you will find this information useful.

Mandate 3 proved the most interesting, informative, and fruitful. We had a wonderful meeting in Pennsylvania, but only seven agencies were represent on behalf of 11 churches. Such a meeting once every four years is simply not enough. To be fruitful, this committee should be encouraged to meet twice in between the conferences.

Recess at 10:24 a.m.

Reconvene at 10:55 a.m.

Mandate 4. We requested that Dr Jin Ho Jun be asked to speak; he did so last evening.

Mandate 5. You should have received the *Newsletter* twice a year. One year was difficult on account of the sadness of Rev. John Goris over the death of his wife.

The Missions Committee met with representatives of the World Reformed Fellowship. They were hoping to schedule their meeting in Cardiff alongside the ICRC and hold a joint service of worship. This was outside the scope of our Missions Committee's mandate and so it was not agreed. The Missions Committee wishes to have a mandate to send three official observers to the WRF Missions meeting and to receive similar observers to our committee meeting.

Mandate 9, our budget. This was not discussed by the committee. The question has been asked why the committee meetings are held always in the USA or the Netherlands. It is simply a question of cost. But we know that if we want to get men from Asia more involved we must hold some meetings there.

Questions.

1. Rev. Burke asked for more information about the WRF and why we could not hold a combined worship service with them here at this conference. Answer: the WRF seeks to connect individuals and churches. They wanted us to join them as individuals, as individual churches, and as a conference as a whole. We said no since such is in conflict with the *modus operandi* of the ICRC. 2. Suggestion: to meet more often cost more. Could we reduce costs by holding meetings regionally? It was noted that the Missions Committee will now be reduced to five people.

Procedural point, raised by Rev. Dirk van Garderen: The right time to discuss this is when Advisory Committee 5's report is discussed.

The Chairman thanked Rev. Sikkema for his report.

53. Advisory Committee 1: Finance

Rev. George Ball presented the report.

Recommendation 1 was received with applause.

Recommendation 2 was deferred until Mr Berends had presented his report.

Recommendation 3 was explained. It is an attempt to be fair.

Accepted.

Recommendation 4 overlaps with Advisory Committee 5. Deferred.

Mr Henk Berends was asked to leave for a moment. Suggestions were offered as to a way to express our thanks. Dr James Visscher is attending to this for us.

The Chairman thanked Rev. Ball.

54. Advisory Committee 9: Incomplete Applications

Rev. James Sawtelle presented the report.

The committee is confident that the URCC-Tiv's application can be progressed before the next conference. It was helpful to have Rev. Peter G. Azuana present.

Mr den Boer asked that the RCN sponsorship be renewed – because eight years has passed since it was give.

The committee's recommendations were accepted.

The Chairman thanked Rev. Sawtelle.

55. Advisory Committee 5: Review Committee

Rev. Rowland Ward introduced the second Report, which takes account of comments made previously on the floor. He noted also that changes in the Constitution will not come into effect until agreed by the member churches.

Questions and Comments from the floor.

1. Clarification: the Co-ordinating Committee does have the authority to look into the situation where there has been a split or a merger in order to gain information and save the conference time.

2. The phrase '*ex officio* with vote' (Regulations 4.f.7) means that the Treasurer has a place on the committee because of his office and that he has a vote.

Procedural question from the EPCI delegation: Section 6 of the Constitution requires that amendments to the Constitution be submitted to

the Corresponding Secretary not less than two years before the conference if they are to be *discussed* at the conference. Was this done? If not, from where do we get the authority to override the Constitution?

Responses offered: 1. Rev. Ward, that proposals to change the Constitution may come from member churches or a committee. Approval here would not bring it into force. It would have to be sent to the churches for approval, requiring two thirds in favour. Rev. Lucas indicated that this did not answer the question, which was about the authority to *discuss* changes if the requirements of Section 6 have not been met. 2. Rev. Hoyt believed that this discussion was implicit, or even explicit, from the previous conference in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The discussion was stopped at this juncture and the question was left unanswered for consideration by the Executive Committee.

56. Closing

The Chairman closed the session at 11:50 a.m.



Rev. Peter G. Azuana

Session 11

Afternoon, Tuesday
3 September 2013

57. Opening

The Chairman opened the session at 2:05 p.m. and presented the programme for the afternoon.

58. Approval of Minutes

The last two pages of Session 4 and Sessions 5 to 9 (pages 26-40) were approved.

59. Reports from workshop discussions of Paper 3

Dr Jin Ho Jun was not present for the workshops reports.

Group A. Bruce Martin

Any of us involved in non-literary ministries? We discovered that many of us were in such situations. When the slaves were freed, they went towards the Pentecostal churches, not the Presbyterians. How can we preach dramatically without going into drama?

Group B. Douw Breed

Films such as the Jesus Film, using the exact words of the Gospel of Mathew. But what about the Second Commandment? People felt uneasy. What specific ways can you use to proclaim to people who cannot read? The new generation uses mobile phones and technology. They cannot spell and do not read but are not illiterate.

Group C. Pieter VanderMeyden

Weighing the use of illustration – Jesus preached with illustrations and parables – but the Bible teaches that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word. It is the power of preaching that brings about faith. We come to know God not by dumb images but the lively preaching of the Word of God. What use would the speaker have us make of visual aids? Preaching does not appeal to the eye, but the ear. Does not preaching transcend illiteracy? How can verbal illustration be properly used in preaching?

Group D. Iain D. Campbell.

We were all agreed that the presentation was impressive. We hope we shall be as lively when we reach an older age. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God. When the Gospel came with power to the British Isles, few people could read and write by many were converted. In illiterate cultures, singing is important. What is sung is important. If other media are to be used, what and how? Reminder: our preaching must be simple.

Dr Jun returned to the conference and each group put one question.

Group A. Should we preach the Word (and read) *dramatically* without going over into *drama*?

Dr Jun. In some places, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, drama is important. It is too abstract and cannot convey the message. Bible story telling is very important. But they do not interpret the true meaning of the Bible story.

Group B. we want suggestions how to communicate with the cell phone youth, who can read but do not.

Dr Jun. Even in Cambodia, so poor, yet children have the smart phone. Average school leaving is in the eighth grade.

Group C. Do you believe and teach that preaching is the main means for coming to faith? How can we make use of illustrations in preaching?

Dr Jun. Yes, there are many Bible Stories. But they must be interpreted by reference to salvation history. In Cambodia, the level of knowledge is so low and they have the Bible only. This is urgent in Asia. For most seminaries, teaching Hebrew and Greek is very difficult. I urge every student in seminary to learn them. Preaching is a problem in Asia.

Group D. Thank you for your presentation. Songs sung in services. Comment? Peaching should be simple. How to be simple?

Dr Jun. I always urge to preach and teach in simple ways. The people do not know much. I brought the world map and asked a student to point to Japan and he pointed to Spain.

The Chairman thanked Dr Jun.

60. Advisory Committee 5 continued

There was difficulty determining the right procedure to keep to the Constitution Article VI and still avoid a protracted process.

Rev. Robb proposed that conference go through the recommendations.
Seconded Rev. Ward.

Recommendation 2. Carried.

Recommendation 3 (page 13 of the Review's Constitution document).
Carried.

Recommendation 6: to establish a Missions Committee with 5 members and 2 alternates.

Discussion. Concern about cost and the need for face to face meetings, for encouragement and to pray for one another. A suggestion to put more into regional meetings; but the need to meet from the whole world for cooperation in several regions.

Recess: 3:27 p.m.

Reconvened at 3:45 p.m.

Discussion (Mr Bube and Dr Visscher fielded questions).

Recommendation 6 carried.

Recommendation 7 (p. 14): Theological Education Committee. Carried

Recommendation 8 (pp.14-15): Diaconal Committee

Concerns raised (RCN, Rev. Meijer). 1. What is meant by ministries of mercy? Do we have a common understanding of these? Is the diaconal work not very diversified? Is this better dealt with on a restricted, regional level? Mr Bube: it aims to develop a network.

Recommendation 8 carried.

Recommendation 9: Regional Conferences Committee carried.

Noted that Europe is running its regional conferences well but it is the exception: the other regions need encouragement to do the same.

Recommendation 10: Website committee.

Amendment: three members, not five. Carried.

Main motion as amended carried.

61. A presentation on behalf of the Theological University of Kampen, Rev. Jos Colijn

Rev. Jos Colijn presented information about a new project of the Theological University in Kampen, which the Synod of the RCN had commissioned.

They propose to offer a research Master of Reformed Theology, with the aim of developing students in their Reformed identity, to standards of academic excellence. They aim to promote Reformed theology and a Reformed worldview. They seek the best way to apply it in different cultures. They hope to identify future church leaders and invite them to work together as a learning community. The task is to train trainers. They want to form an international family of Reformed theologians. The time when Reformed Theology was found in the West is over! They are clear. The students will return home, take what they have learned in Kampen, and apply it to their home situation.

It is a two year programme, full time, giving a Th.M. or an M.A. accredited by the Dutch Government. In year 1, they will offer three intensive study visits of 4-6 weeks in Kampen, with guided home study in between. In this year, they will look in depth at Reformed Theology and Research tools. During the first year it will also be discovered if the student is on the right course for him. Year 2 will be a residential year in Kampen. They will work on a specific topic which is important for their home churches.

Teachers. There will be the regular faculty but they will also use professors from other institutions and visiting professors.

Students? We are looking for men who have a heart for Christ and for his church. They should have academic interest in Reformed theology and have a zeal to be a future teacher and leader. We expect them to have a first degree and a good knowledge of the English language. We can also offer the possibility of going further for a Ph.D.

We look for co-operation from the ICRC churches: send students, teachers, and share experience. It all cost money and they look to the home churches to sponsor students and teachers.

They aim to start in September 2015, so they are recruiting next year.

Questions

Rev. Sikkema: Will you welcome students who are not sent by a church?

Rev. Colijn: Yes and no. We require recommendation but contacts can be diverse – e.g., from another seminary. We want them to have a partnering group at home.

Mr Grier: What will it cost? Rev. Colijn: around 25,000 Euros per annum in the Netherlands. The approach of arranging short visits in the first year will help overcome the difficulties of obtaining a visa.

The Chairman thanked Rev. Colijn for his presentation.

62. Closing

The Chairman closed the session at 4:45 p.m.

Session 12

Evening, Tuesday
3 September 2013

63. Opening devotions

The Vice-chairman opened the session at 7:31 p.m. and welcomed visitors.

We have appointed five committees: I need nominations please.

Rev. Dr Paul Geong Ho Bae led devotions.

Reading Acts 1: 8 and Matthew 28: 19, 20.

Where is the ends of the earth? It is where it is not evangelized. There are many tribes in Asia, America, Africa and even Europe. Korea was the ends of the earth until missionaries came.

He told of Robert Thomas, a missionary from Wales, first sent to China, but then going to Korea after the death of his young wife. He introduced Jesus Christ to Korea. He was killed by soldiers. But the one who killed him read the Bible and became a Christian, as did others. At the age of 26, Robert Thomas was the first martyr. It was not the end: the gospel spread. In 1907, Korea experienced a great awakening.

Now North Korea is ‘the ends of the earth’. There is no religion there.

Those who defect we see as important helpers to take the gospel there/

We must be filled with the Spirit. We can do nothing without him.

Singing: Psalm 87 (*Sing Psalms*; tune Sussex).

Prayer.

The Vice-chairman thanked Dr Bae.

64. Report of Advisory Committee 8: application for membership of the CRCA

Rev. Jack Sawyer presented the report. Unexpectedly it turned out to be a sensitive matter.

The Vice-chairman expressed thanks for the report.

The conference considered the grounds or considerations that were advanced in support of the committee’s recommendation. There was

widespread concern that the grounds did not lead to the conclusion expressed in the recommendation.

Dr Ward: I do not want to vote against, nor, at this time, in favour. Why? The PCEA is the only one objector, but it is *the* member church in Australia. He recounted a neighbourly history, but there are concerns and we have never sat down and talked the issues through. Their next synod is in 2015. We would talk things through before then.

The conference's consideration of the considerations (grounds) in the report involved the following assessment.

Consideration 1. This states that the CRCA is a faithful church. They are supported by the RCNZ and the RCSA.

Consideration 2. If this were to be sustained, would apply also to some existing member churches which, for example, have deaconesses though without authority.

Consideration 3. This raises the issue of charismatic influences but states that these are being handled acceptably and so it does not rule out the church's membership.

Consideration 4. The validity of this consideration was challenged. 1. It was stated (but later corrected) that the CRCA was represented in Pretoria (2005) and Christchurch (2009) and made their intentions clear (*Proceedings* 2009, page 55). 2. The PCEA has had ample opportunity to address concerns long before this time. 3. There are other cases where churches have been hurt by a split and yet they meet under this roof. The ICRC is a forum for unity, a place for healing relationships. The hurt of a member church is not grounds for excluding a church from membership. 3. The ICRC's Regulations allow the conference flexibility to admit late material.

Consideration 5. Whilst there are concerns about the Christian Reformed Churches of North America with whom the CRCA has relations, if this were grounds to refuse the application, then by extension it would also catch some other members. This consideration should be removed.

Rev. G. van Schie expressed his disappointment that their application was being proposed to be deferred. They were looking to the ICRC as a spiritual home.

In the light of the arguments advanced, Consideration 5 was withdrawn by the Advisory Committee.

A series of motions were made:

1. Motion to admit the material (taking advantage of the flexibility permitted by the ICRC Constitution). Carried.

The material was now legitimately on the agenda.

2. Vote: the Advisory Committee recommendation (one vote for each church) failed: in favour 8 churches; against 14 churches.

3. Motion by Rev. Dirk van Garderen that the application be accepted. M/S not voted on; procedural motion 5 below took precedence.

4. Motion by Rev. VanderMeyden: to amend the motion by Rev. Dirk van Garderen (because as it stands it does not have grounds) to include the Report as amended (i.e., with Consideration 5 deleted)..

5. Procedural Motion by Rev. Kim: to give time, overnight, for reflection. M/S/C
Procedural Motion takes precedence.

6. Proposal to refer the Report back to the Advisory Committee 8. Carried

65. Closing

Singing: Praise, my soul, the king of heaven (*Christian Hymns* 29).

Prayer: Rev. James Maciver.

The Vice-chairman closed the Session at 9:23 p.m,

Session 13

Morning, Wednesday
4 September 2013

66. Opening devotions

The Chairman opened the session at 9:10 a.m. and led the devotions.

Singing: Psalm 139a 1-11 23-24

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 17 - 3: 5

Remarks: Paul's feelings. What are our feelings about the church, particularly the one to which we are connected as pastor? Paul was a minister who cared for the churches, who could lose sleep at night – not like one who closed the office door and left. His sense of longing for them when separated from them (v.17). So he sent Timothy there to strengthen them while he was away from them. He had an anxiety and concern for them; and what extraordinary affection. Learn from the apostle who mirrors the love of Christ.

Prayer.

Circulation of documents: minutes of Sessions 10-12 (Tuesday's business).

67. Advisory Committee 5: Review - continued

Rev. Dr James Visscher and Mr Mark Bube led the conference through the matters remaining (Report of the Committee of Review, Page 13, Recommendations 4 and 5).

In response to recommendation 1 in the Third Report of Advisory Committee 5, the Rev. John MacLeod withdrew his earlier proposal. He wanted it to be recorded that the Co-ordinating Committee have the powers referred to in his prepared addendum.

Rev. MacLeod's wording: Where the Co-ordinating Committee becomes aware of a situation involving a split or disruption or merger in a member but other than described in 1 or m above, the Co-ordinating Committee shall make due consultations with those involved and with others having detailed knowledge of the situation and shall give advice to the conference according for consideration at the next plenary meeting'

Vote: to substitute Advisory Committee Recommendation 4 for Review Committee Recommendations 4 and 5. Carried.

Vote: to amend the (proposed) Regulations to add the Recording Secretary to the Coordinating Committee by inserting “(4) Recording Secretary” into Regulations V.1.b (and renumbering the succeeding points), and to include such in the list of his responsibilities in Regulations IV.2.c (“(6) serve *ex officio* (with vote) as a member of the Coordinating Committee”). Carried.

Vote: to adopt the Advisory Committee’s Recommendation 4 (both parts).
Voting by church: Carried with no opposition.

(In accord with the second part of the Advisory Committee’s Recommendation 4, both parts of which were just adopted, the Chairman declared that the new form of the Regulations would take effect at the close of this Conference.)

Dr Visscher presented nominations from the committee but invited other nominations from the conference. Committee nominations were as follows.

Co-ordinating committee

Co-ordinator:	Rev. Bruce Hoyt. <i>ex officio</i>
Moderator:	Rev. Richard Holst <i>ex officio</i>
Vice-moderator:	Rev. Dick Moes <i>ex officio</i>
Recording Secretary:	Rev. Dr Peter J. Naylor <i>ex officio</i>
Corresponding Secretary:	Rev. Dr James Visscher <i>ex officio</i>
Treasurer:	Mr Kyle Lodder <i>ex officio</i>
Committee convenors:	Rev. Dr Rowland Ward, Rev. Karlo Janssen Mr Mark Bube Rev, Dr Douw Breed Rev. Dirk van Garderen

Missions Committee

Convenor named first:

Mark Bube, Arjan de Visser, Dirk Boersma, Patrick Wic, Paul Bae.
Alternates: David Miller, Pieter Meijer.

Theological Education Committee

Douw Breed, Hiralal Solanki, Pieter VanderMeyden, Hae Moo Yoo, Melle Oosterhuis. Alternates: Robert Letham, Michael LeFebvre.

Diaconal Committee

Dirk van Garderen, Pieter Boon, Klaas Karink, Rick Postma, David Nakhla.

Regional Conferences Committee

For Indo-Asia

Rowland Ward

For Africa:

Daniel Kithongo

For Europe

Han Schenau

For Latin America

Julius VanSpronsen

For North America

James Sawtelle

Corresponding Secretary *ex officio*

Website Committee

Karlo Janssen, Martin Van Woudenberg, Frank Ezinga, Corresponding Secretary *ex officio*

Further nominations requested (above)

Circulation of documents: Contact List. Thanks.

68. Advisory Committee 3: ICRC 2017

Piet Meijer presented the report: it had been circulated.

Questions and comments.

1. It would be good to invite a converted Imam to speak on Islam.

2. Other suggestions about speakers were made: Dr Gerry Bilkes Dr Sid Dyer, Dr Frank Walker, Dr Fergus Macdonald.

3. More 'preaching' was requested.

4. Time for prayer was requested.

5. Timing was questioned: synods meet in June. Wait until 2015 to check for no clashes

6. The theme of the sacraments (baptism and Lord's Supper) following the Preaching of the Word. This would be important for Asian churches. Reformed Mission

Moved to adopt report. Carried.

Recess 10:12 a.m.

Reconvene 10:51 p.m.

69. Advisory Committee 8: CRCA – new report

Rev. Jack Sawyer presented the new report, which had been circulated.

The Chairman had received advice and indicated that an abstention is not a vote cast, and so will not be counted in calculating whether the vote has passed 2/3rds.

The Chairman thanked the committee for the time and effort put into the work.

Two motions still on the table (section 64, page 54); both withdrawn.

Ward: offered clarification of the PCEA's position. They were not 'hurt'. It was not clear at Christchurch (see the *Proceedings*) that they would apply. Neighbouring church should be consulted. One issue stands out strongly as an objection. When the ICRC was founded in 1985, we withdrew from the RES on principle, but the CRCA stayed in for 30 years. We need to know why. Their synod in 2012 was positive about the ICRC but also said that it would not satisfy their total requirements for ecumenical relations. We need to understand this.

The Chairman allowed Rev. Van Schie to speak once more.

Van Schie: Our letter to World Communion of Reformed Churches explained the reasons. The Corresponding Secretary has a copy of the letter. We stayed in the REC because we were having an impact and small African churches pleaded with us to stay.

Rev. Robb gave notice of motion of a counter-proposal: That the CRCA be received as observers of the ICRC and be encouraged to re-apply for membership of the ICRC at the conference in 2017. (*Proceedings* 2009, p.228: there is a possibility to reconsider.)

Voting on Recommendation 1 (to receive the CRCA): 15 in churches favour, 8 against. Rejected.

Counter motion. Since the status of observer already exists, this motion was found to be superfluous.

New Counter motion: That the CRCA be encouraged to continue as observers and be encouraged to re-apply for membership of the ICRC at the conference in 2017.

What is required of the CRCA in addition to what they have already done? We are looking for discussion with the PCEA. (The new regulations do require discussion with members in the same country.) This new Counter motion takes up Recommendation 2.

Shall we reconsider? Carried

Counter-motion. Carried with no audible dissent.

Recommendation 2 was adopted.

The Chairman: prayed.

70. Treasurer's report

Mr Henk Berends presented the Treasurer's report.

Questions for information and clarification were fielded.

Conference accepted the report, subject to adjustments subsequently to be made by the conference to the budget. Carried.

Chairman thanked the Treasurer.

71. Closing

The Chairman closed the Session at 12:28 p.m.

Session 14

Afternoon, Wednesday
4 September 2013

72. Opening devotions

The Chairman opened the session at 2:02 p.m.

Rev. Andrew Lucas opened in prayer.

73. Presentation

The Chairman presented Bibles to the men who served the ICRC and were now retiring:

Mr Henk Berends

Rev. Cornelius Van Spronsen

Applause.

The Vice-chairman prayed.

74. Minutes

Sessions 10-12 pages 41-54.

Adopted

75. Advisory Committee 1 Finance: recommendations 2 and 4 deferred (minute 53)

Recommendation 2: carried.

Recommendation 4: already acted on, No vote taken.

76. Advisory Committee 4: on Missions

Rev. Dr Tony Curto presented the report of Advisory Committee 4.

The appointments recommendation is null and void, because covered by Committee 5.

The proposed budget is covered by the Treasurers' Report.

No vote required.

Contact with the WRF. Does this body confirm this? The Committee of Review did not include it in the mandate for the Missions Committee. Objection: WRF is para-church. Involvement diffuses our energies.

Mandate the committee to continue contacts with the WRF's Mission and Evangelism Committee. M/S/C

77. ICRC Committee Appointments

Revised Nominations circulated.

Accepted.

78. Press Release

Rev. Sawyer presented the Press Release and received comments and corrections.

Chairman asked the conference to move to accept the Press Release with corrections and pass to the Corresponding Secretary to be completed and released and put on the web.

Final Minutes to be settled by Executive following the closing of the conference.

79. Member churches not represented at this conference

The conference regretted that four member churches were not represented:

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)

Free Church in Southern Africa (FCSA)

Reformed Churches of Spain (RCS)

United Reformed Church in Congo (URCC) (This church intended to come but could not.)

Motion: a letter sent to the churches to express our regret and to encourage them with the hope that they can attend the next conferences.

The tone of the letter must be of warm encouragement.

80. Closing

The Chairman closed the session at 3:40 p.m.

Session 15

Evening, Wednesday
4 September 2013

81. Opening devotions

At 8:31 p.m., the Vice-chairman warmly welcomed everyone to the final session.

The Chairman led the devotions.

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3: 6-13.

Remarks on Paul's prayer for the Thessalonian Church in verses 9-13.

1. He prayed to be able to see them. We cannot live without one another. It is a blessing to be part of the body of Christ. 2. He prayed for them to have an increase of love. Being part of the church can test our love and challenge us to live together in the bonds of peace, to serve one another. 3. He prayed for the completion of God's work in them. This is the prayer of a pastor, and a pastor's heart is a mirror of Christ's heart. We are not our own but are bought with a price, and by our calling we are servants of you, the people.

Prayer.

The Vice-chairman thanked Rev. Holst for leading the devotions.

82. Report on Mission Work in France, Rev. Malcolm Ball

1. Pray for Europe. Once it was the centre of the gospel; now it is the most needy place in the world, especially Western Europe. Pray. Encourage young people to learn a language. They may one day be able to use it for the gospel. 2. Pray for France. France still has much influence in countries which were once its colonies. There is a Reformed influence, particularly in Aix en Provence, but they are not able to form pastors. Paul Wells has retired. A replacement is being sought. 3. Pray for Nantes, which is twinned with Cardiff. On 8 September, 2013, it will be the 25th anniversary of the first service, (when Rev. Ball commenced his work there). There were five adults and five children. Now there are 35 people, some from Haiti, Ivory Coast, etc. The problem is getting past the critical number of 30. The people do not know their own history: Calvin is unknown. His

closest neighbours in the ministry are Alan Davey and Emanuel Durand. We pray for Nantes every Friday evening.

Rev. Robert Robb prayed.

83 China

83.1 The work of the RPCNA in China, Rev. Bruce Martin

This work began in 1895 and continued in South China for about 50 years. The the work was taken into Machuria (by J.G.Vos) for seven years. Rev. Martin's parents went there but in 1940 were driven out. In 1949, the South China mission work closed due to the advance of communism. But they formed the Reformed Translation Fellowship (RTF) and produced biblical books in Chinese. The slogan was 'The Word of God is not bound.' The printing press had to be concealed. Our men were being followed and so were unable to be effective and they could not get into China. Our Synod formed a committee, which became a commission, to continue training pastors. Now we have two presbyteries in China with numbers much greater than the RPC in North America. They are hungry for the Word and to be trained. They come to the USA to be trained and to have children (because of the one child policy in China). These are highly qualified people.

83.2 The work of the CanRC, Rev. Dr James Visscher

For information on this section please contact the Corresponding Secretary.

84. Closing of the eighth conference

The Vice-chairman thanked the Chairman for the way in which he fulfilled his task. 'It was a joy to sit beside you. It was a joy to sit under your ministry. You were a congenial, friendly, kind Chairman.'

The Vice-chairman thanked the Recording Secretary for his diligent and accurate work.

The Vice-chairman thanked Mrs Pat Stowell and Miss Gaynor Davies for their service to the conference. 'It was a delight to have you with us. You were indispensable.'

The Vice-chairman thanked Mrs Janet Young and Mr Lois Hoyt for accompanying the singing on the piano.

The Vice-chairman thanked the hosting churches, Bethel and Immanuel, for their labour of love.

Singing: 'I know not where tomorrow's road' (*Christian Hymns*, 776; tune Rachel).

The Chairman prayed. He closed the eighth International Conference of Reformed Churches at 9:48 p.m.