



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES

## 2026 Mandates for Committees

### OPERATING COMMITTEES

Committees which serve the operations of the ICRC itself.

#### ***Publications Committee***

- A. The ICRC shall be served by an operating committee to be known as the Publications Committee. The Publications Committee in turn will be served by a Website Subcommittee and a Magazine Subcommittee.
- B. **The composition of these committees** shall be as follows:
1. **Publications Committee:** a convenor, the Corresponding Secretary (ex officio) and the members of the two subcommittees
  2. **Website Subcommittee:** the convenor of the Publications Committee, the Corresponding Secretary (ex officio) and one or two further members. The webmaster serves as advisor to the Website Subcommittee.
  3. **Magazine Subcommittee:** the convenor of the Publications Committee and four further members representing, as much as possible, the different regions in the world and/or liaisons appointed by the facilitating committees and operating committees of the ICRC. The Corresponding Secretary serves as advisor to the Magazine Subcommittee. The Magazine Subcommittee shall function as the editorial board for the magazine and elect from its midst an editor-in-chief.
  4. All three committees may be expanded with advisors by the ICRC or by the Publications Committee as deemed necessary.
- C. **The purpose of the Publications Committee** is to facilitate the publication of materials from ICRC committees and member churches in keeping with the purposes of the ICRC (Constitution, III)
- D. **The mandates for the Publications Committee** are as follows:
1. Via the Website Subcommittee:
    - a. Arrange for the construction and maintenance of a website for the Conference, which shall include a list of the ICRC Member Churches (with links to the Members' websites, where possible); copies of the Constitution, Regulations, and Informational Documents; copies of the Proceedings of previous meetings of the Conference (in a form suitable and appropriate for posting on the Internet); a list of the upcoming meeting dates and venues for the major assemblies of the Member Churches; materials for upcoming meetings of the Conference; information and materials regarding Regional Conferences, including the hosting Member Church, date, and venue of upcoming Regional Conferences; and other materials which the Website Subcommittee deems appropriate (bearing in mind the nature and extent of the Conference's authority, Constitution V).
    - b. Develop and implement policies for the operation of the Conference's website, including a job description for the position of Webmaster, and report such to the Publishing Committee.
    - c. Appoint a Webmaster to labor under its oversight.
  2. Via the Magazine Subcommittee:
    - a. Publish a semi-annual magazine and distribute this as efficiently and broadly as possible

- b. To publish in this magazine:
  - 1. Articles from members in good standing of ICRC member churches; such articles shall be in line with the foundation and purposes of the ICRC
  - 2. Communications from ICRC committees
  - 3. Press releases of ICRC Regional Conferences
  - 4. Announcements and articles regarding broadest assemblies of ICRC member churches
  - 5. Announcements from institutions (Missional, Diaconal, Theological) that are in line with the foundation and purposes of the ICRC
- c. Develop and implement policies for the operation of the Conference's magazine and report such to the Publications Committee.
- d. Appoint a layout-editor to labor under its oversight.
- 4. To facilitate further means of communication as need is felt and opportunity arises.
- 5. To submit annual reports to the Coordinating Committee and a quadrennial report to the Corresponding Secretary at least six months before the next ICRC.
- 6. To work within its allotted budget, keeping to the following:
  - a. The Publications Committee will submit to each ICRC a financial statement (via the ICRC treasurer) for the previous four-year period and a budget (via its report) for the upcoming four-year period.
  - b. The Publications Committee will submit, via the ICRC treasurer, an annual financial statement to the Coordinating Committee.
  - c. For costs that exceed those budgeted by more than 20%, the Publications Committee will seek the approval of the Executive Committee.

### ***Regional Conferences Committee***

The Regional Conferences Committee shall consist of seven members (including the Corresponding Secretary, ex officio, and one from each of the six regions: Africa, Europe, Asia, Oceania, Latin [including South] America, and North America), to encourage the formation and development of Regional Conferences (but not to organize or run such itself), the purposes of which shall be consistent with that of the Conference (Constitution, III), with a mandate to:

- 1. Arrange (unless an organizing committee of the Regional Conference has already done so) for a Member Church in each region to convene a Regional Conference of the Member Churches in its region on (at least) a quadrennial basis at a mutually agreeable date and venue and, in consultation with the other Member Churches in its region, to propose an agenda and topics (with speakers) for the Regional Conference.
- 2. Encourage the Regional Conferences to appoint an organizing committee to make arrangements for the organization of Regional Conferences in the region, and to appoint other committees, as the Regional Conference deems appropriate.
- 3. Encourage the Regional Conferences to invite churches in the region that are not yet members of the Conference—but that might be eligible for membership in the Conference (Constitution, IV.2.a)—to attend the Regional Conference.
- 4. Encourage the Regional Conferences to keep a record of its proceedings and to send copies of such to the Regional Conferences Committee.
- 5. Encourage the Regional Conferences to draft a press release suitable for publishing by the ICRC and to send copies to the Regional Conferences Committee and the Corresponding Secretary.

6. Upon being informed by the Member Churches in a region that they do not have the financial resources to be able to convene a Regional Conference during the quadrennial period, the Regional Conferences Committee may work with the Member Churches to develop a budget for the Regional Conference and shall transmit that budget, together with its advice regarding such, to the Coordinating Committee.
7. Send one of its members (preferably the member from that region) to each Regional Conference to bring greetings to the Regional Conference on behalf of the Conference as a whole, to prepare a report on the Regional Conference for the Regional Conferences Committee, and to render assistance to the Regional Conference as needed.
8. Meet at least once a year to stay informed about the progress of Regional Conferences and maintain contact with Regional Committees.
9. Monitor the Regions to see in which way the Regional Committees can work most efficiently.
10. Send a report to the Corresponding Secretary at least six months before the next ICRC.
11. Propose a budget for the following four years to the next ICRC.

### **Guidelines for Funding Regional Conferences**

Basic Understanding is that each regional conference is self funded if at all possible– i.e.

- Conference Facility / Accommodation / Catering
- Speakers
- Travel
- Delegates

The Organising Denomination / Federation is encouraged to seek assistance from other Regional Churches if possible.

The assistance fund is there when funding options are not available: in the following order

- To assist member churches in sending a delegate;
- To assist invited churches in sending a delegate;
- To assist covering costs for an invited speaker;
- To assist with deposits as required for conference facilities; (to be recovered if possible through conference fees)
- To assist with unforeseen cost increases in holding a conference.

Ordinarily, funding assistance would be limited to no more than 50% of the funds available for any one conference.

Ordinarily assistance will only be given for 1 (one) delegate per member church or invited church unless extreme need is shown.

Applications for assistance should include

- Overall budget for the conference
- Specific detail and area of the assistance sought: (as above) i.e.
  - Flights – cost
  - Accommodation – cost
  - Reason for inability to self-fund

All Applications must be made through the Regional Organising Committee, which will assess eligibility and seek Funding from the ICRC Regional Conferences Committee.

### ***Applications Committee***

The Applications Committee will assist the Conference with processing applications for membership

in the Conference, with a dual mandate to make recommendations to the Conference regarding the eligibility of churches applying for membership in the Conference (cf. Constitution IV.2) and to promote compliance with the requirements of Regulations X, such Committee to be composed of three members from different Member Churches elected by the quadrennial meeting of the Conference together with the Corresponding Secretary and the Coordinator.

## **FACILITATING COMMITTEES**

Committees which serve the member churches by facilitating an aspect of ecclesiastical life.

### ***Diaconal Committee***

#### **Purpose of the Diaconal Committee:**

To encourage and facilitate access to Biblical resources and networking among ICRC member churches, so that they can each develop their own fully orbed diaconal ministry as well as to seek opportunities to cooperate in carrying it out.

#### **Vision of the Diaconal Committee:**

ICRC Member Churches each fulfilling their fully orbed diaconal ministry as prescribed in God's Word and cooperating where possible.

#### **Mandate of the Diaconal Committee:**

1. Work towards a **common understanding** of what a fully orbed Reformed diaconal ministry ought to look like, confer with ICRC member churches on such an understanding, and challenge them to pursue establishing such ministry in their churches.
2. Encourage and facilitate **networking** among representatives of the diaconal agencies/ministries of the ICRC member churches for the purposes of exchanging information on the work of deacons locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, discussing issues of mutual concern, and exploring ways for possible cooperation in ministries of mercy among the member churches.
3. **Bring focus to the diaconal ministry at ICRC conferences** by employing various formats (presentation of papers, round-table discussions, information table, video presentation, etc.) to encourage networking and present material that has been collected and/or developed.
4. In response to the request of a member church in case of a **major disaster**, identify entities connected with member churches, working in the area and/or responding to the disaster and provide contact information. This committee serves to facilitate networking and does not serve as a source or channel of funding for member churches.
5. To consider the substance of Mandate VI of the Missions Committee and to request the Diaconal Committee to present a proposal for an additional mandate of the Diaconal Committee, regarding the **concern of persecuted Christians**, to the 12th (2030) Meeting of the ICRC, and in the interim request the Diaconal Committee to alert Member Churches of opportunities to pray and advocate for persecuted Christians as the Lord provides them an opportunity to do so.

### ***Missions Committee***

- a. Arrange for consultations among representatives of the world missions agencies of the ICRC Member Churches for the purposes of exchanging information on current and planned work, discussing issues of mutual concern, and exploring ways for possible bi- or multi-lateral cooperation in mission among the Member Churches.
- b. Gather information regarding the mission works of the ICRC Member Churches for summarizing and distribution to the world missions agencies of the ICRC Member Churches and presentation to the next

meeting of the Conference.

- c. Arrange for the periodic submission of articles on Reformed missions suitable for inclusion in *Lux Mundi*, which might include descriptions of opportunities for missionary service and/or mission project participation pending in the Member Churches, and articles intended to promote interest in Reformed missions. When appropriate, such articles may also be posted on the ICRC website.
- d. Develop and maintain a list of mission contact representatives for each Member Church. Each representative will be responsible for disseminating ICRC missions information and materials to their respective churches and for gathering and transmitting to the Missions Committee the relevant information from their respective churches necessary for the accomplishment of (a)–(c) above.
- e. Continue contact with the Mission and Evangelism Commission of the World Reformed Fellowship.
- f. Send a report to the Corresponding Secretary at least six months before the next ICRC.
- g. Propose a budget for the following four years to the next ICRC.

### ***Theological Education Committee***

#### **Mandate A:**

Arrange for a consultation among representatives of the ICRC Member Churches for the purposes of exchanging information on current and planned programs of theological education for their ministers, discussing issues of mutual concern, and exploring ways for possible bi- or multi-lateral cooperation in theological education among the Member Churches, and that the TEC plan a Theological Conference for the ICRC churches and recommended seminaries once every four years; and that this conference take place two years after the general ICRC Conference.

#### **Mandate B:**

Re the ICRC Seminary Directory continue to have the attention of TEC: Gather information regarding and distribute a booklet summarizing (by both Member Church and nation) the institutions of theological education that are operated (or approved) by the ICRC Member Churches for distribution to the ICRC Member Churches through the ICRC website and presentation to the next meeting of the Conference.

#### **Mandate C:**

That the ICRC TEC maintain a WhatsApp group that ICRC churches and recommended seminaries can use for direct communication purposes, e.g., to share or request information regarding new initiatives, administrative issues, faculty subject specialists, librarians, helpful resources, course and professor needs, accreditation, etc.