

## Report from Synod 2012

Synod was hosted by the PRC of Crete, IL. The pre-synodical service on Monday evening was led by Rev. J. Slopsema, who preached from 1 Corinthians 15:58. Synod began its work Tuesday morning at 8:30 AM. Officers elected for synod were, Rev. Key - Pres., Rev. Koole - VP, Rev. Doug Kuiper - 1<sup>st</sup> clerk and Rev. R. Kleyn - 2<sup>nd</sup> Clerk.

Tuesday morning the examination of Bro. Vernon Ibe from the Philippines, who has completed a special five year program of study in our seminary, began. He first preached a sermon which was approved, and then began his oral exam Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday morning and into the afternoon the oral exam was completed. Bro. Ibe gave a good account of himself, his exam was unanimously approved, and he was recommended to the Berean PRC for a call to the gospel ministry. What a wonderful blessing, for which we can praise the Lord.

Present at synod was one of our foreign missionaries from the Philippines, Rev. Daniel Kleyn. He had opportunity to address Synod and expressed: thanks for the support of the churches, gratitude that we have two missionaries laboring together, anticipation for the return of Bro. Ibe to help with the great volume of work. Synod approved and expressed thanks to Doon, the FMC and the Kleyns and Smits for their work. Synod also approved the reappointment of Rev. Smit to another three years service as missionary.

Also present at synod was Deacon Felix Chan, his wife, and a group of 8 young people from Singapore. Deacon Chan addressed synod with greetings and gratitude from the saints in Singapore. Synod approved the implementation of a sister church relationship with the Covenant ERC of Singapore. Synod also approved sending a Minister on Loan to labor in Singapore to meet their present need of being without a pastor. Grandville PRC was appointed as the calling church.

Philip Hall from the Covenant PRC of Northern Ireland also addressed synod with greetings from the Stewarts and the saints in Northern Ireland. Our churches give continuing support to the CPRCNI, particularly for their labor in Limerick where Rev. McGeown is laboring.

The mission labors of our churches in Pittsburgh continue and the Bruinsmas and Southwest church were thanked for their faithful labors. The Domestic Mission Committee brought advice to synod regarding "terms of service" for domestic missionaries. The synod appointed a study committee made up of men from the DMC and FMC with Prof. Gritters as advisor to study and clarify this issue and bring advice to Synod next year.

Treatment of the material from the Theological School included approval of the student's grades, building construction expenses, and thanks to the faculty and staff of the seminary. Synod approved a partial sabbatical for Prof. Dykstra this fall to give him time to work on material and a course related to Christian education. Synod also approved hiring Chuck Terpstra full time as Librarian, Archivist and registrar-in-training to replace Mr. Don Doezema.

One protest against a decision of 2011 was treated and not upheld. Synod was informed that the Board of Trustees is negotiating sales of its properties in Sioux Falls and Kells, Northern Ireland, to Heritage PRC and the CPRCNI respectively.

The budget adopted for the year 2013 for denominational work is \$1,655,000.00, which is \$840/family. This is down \$31.00 from last year. Subsidies for nine needy churches were approved. 12 emeritus requests were approved.

Synod finished its work about 2:00 PM on Friday. Pray with thanksgiving for the blessings of God evident at Synod; Vernon Ibe, the missionaries and work in the Philippines, the seminary professors and students, the Bruinsmas in Pittsburgh, our sister churches in Northern Ireland and Singapore and the peaceful deliberations of synod, evidence of a blessed peace and unity in our churches.