

Synod 2018 - Friday, June 15

After Rev. R. Kleyn led us in opening devotions, synod returned to two recommitted matters from Committee 2. The first matter was a mandate given to the observers to NAPARC 2018. The mandate was approved. The second matter was Psalter revision. The pre-advice committee recommended “that synod inform the interdenominational Psalter revision committee that we will not continue our official involvement in the work of their committee.” This matter was recommitted because the recommendation and ground did not take into consideration the decisions of past synods.

Synod then treated the recommendations of Committee 5. The following are some of the highlights:

- Synod reappointed Mr. Don Offringa to a three-year term as synodical treasurer and Rev. R. Van Overloop to a three-year term as stated clerk. Synod also thanked these men, and our synodical bookkeeper, Mrs. Pamela Bos, for all of their work.
- Synod noted the following in regard to the finances of the denomination, for which we give thanks to our God, Who faithfully provides:
 1. As of Dec. 31, 2017 the assets of the PRCA totaled \$11,880,853, an increase of 11.7% from a year ago.
 2. Revenues exceeded expenses in 2017 by \$1,228,289 due entirely to investment earnings of \$1,307,979 during an exceptional year of stock market growth.
 3. The Emeritus Fund totaled \$3,893,803 by Dec. 31, 2017. The current balance is ahead of the goal of 4,000,000 in the fund by 2023.
- Synod approved the emeritation request of Rev. Koole effective on July 31, 2018. Synod expressed its thanks to Rev. Koole for his almost 41 years of faithful service and capable leadership in the denomination as a minister of the Word and sacraments
- Synod approve 17 requests for emeritation support for 2019 in the amount, \$486,195. This is for the support of our emeritus ministers and minister’s widows. What a blessing that we can support these men financially as churches. Let us remember these men and their wives in our prayers.
- Synod also approved subsidy requests for eight of our churches, which provides financial support for these smaller churches so that the gospel can be preached by them.
- The stated clerk, Rev. Van Overloop, called our attention to a couple of things in his report: he expressed appreciation for the labors of Don Doezema in helping to prepare the substantial agenda for synod 2018. He also noted that as of January 2018 the PRCA is made up of 33 congregations comprised of 2,144 families and 8,716 souls.
- Finally, Synod 2019 will be held at First PRC (GR) beginning on June 11, 2019.

Synod finished its work today around noon, giving three of the committees of pre-advice time to work. Synod decided to reconvene Monday afternoon at 1:00pm, the Lord willing.