

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 111

Be it resolved that the General Synod Council of the Reformed Church in America, meeting March 24-26, 2009, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, offers thanks to God for years of competent and faithful service to the ministries of the Reformed Church in America by Dick Welscott, who served the Reformed Church for over twenty years, including many years as director of congregational services and evangelism. He led the denomination's efforts in new church development and congregational revitalization and was instrumental in organizing the 98 by '98 campaign to plant RCA churches in the 1990s. The current success of the RCA church multiplication movement owes much to the foundation of church planting that Dick helped lay. Beginning in September 2007 and until his retirement in March, Dick served as director of the RCA's development office. His leadership helped communicate the denomination's increasing need for funds from individuals and organizations to support the ministries and mission of the Reformed Church in America; and,

be it further resolved that the General Synod Council invites its delegates and guests to join in expressing to Dick its gratitude, admiration, affection, and prayers for years of health and joy in continuing service to Christ and his church.

**PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF THE STATISTICAL REPORT
OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 12/31/2008**

	2006	2007	2008	2007-2008 Increase or (Decrease)
1 Churches	931	931	933	2
2 Church Households	105,166	105,445	104,774	(593)
3 Confessing Members	166,921	165,953	161,272	(4,771)
4 Inactive Members	39,061	39,387	39,545	158
5 Baptized Members	64,876	65,238	59,303	(5,935)
6 Total Membership	270,858	270,518	260,120	(10,548)
7 Adherents	51,068	50,498	51,448	950
8 Average Worship Attendance	172	171	176	5
9 Received on Confession	6,863	7,040	6,536	(504)
10 Received on Certificate	3,409	2,989	2,977	(12)
11 Transferred	3,068	3,060	2,930	(130)
12 Deceased	2,545	2,580	2,711	131
13 Other Removals from Roll	5,656	5,034	6,503	1,469
14 Infants Baptized	3,468	3,351	3,141	(210)
15 Adults Baptized	1,488	1,404	1,476	72
16 Sunday Church School	0	0	0	0
17 New Membership Classes	0	0	0	0
18 Other Educational Programs	0	0	0	0
19a RCA Assessments	12,517,429	12,682,289	12,535,989	(146,300)
19b RCA Contributions	13,660,425	14,178,366	15,005,604	827,238
19c Other Contributions	18,042,115	19,036,289	20,132,770	1,096,481
20 Congregation Purposes	293,101,846	326,472,199	289,315,922	(37,156,277)
TOTAL	337,321,815	372,369,143	336,990,285	(35,378,858)

Church Plants with a Denominational Plan

Ninety-seven church plants have an average worship attendance of 93.

Organized/Received/Adopted

Wayfarer Community Church, Caledonia, Michigan (1/08) Classis of South Grand Rapids
 North Ridge Community Church, Eldridge, Iowa (2/08) Classis of Illinois
 CenterPoint Church, Lewis Center, Ohio (4/08) Classis of Lake Erie
 Within Reach Ministries, Parchment, Michigan (4/08) Classis of Southwest Michigan
 Grace and Peace Reformed Church, Englewood, New Jersey (5/08) Classis of Greater Palisades
 City Church Denver, Denver, Colorado (6/08) Classis of Center City Network
 North Point Community Church, Plainwell, Michigan (6/08) Classis of Southwest Michigan
 Iglesia El Calvario, Hemet, California (10/08) Classis of California
 St. Paul Reformed Church, Van Wert, Ohio (10/08) Classis of Illiana
 Lighthouse Korean Reformed Church, Kent, Washington (11/08) Classis of Cascades

Disbanded/Released

Church of the Good News, Chicago, Illinois (5/08) Classis of Chicago
 Open Door Fellowship, Corsica, South Dakota (8/08) Classis of Dakota
 Heritage Reformed Church, Hudsonville, Michigan (11/08) Classis of Zeeland
 Church of the Savior, Livonia, Michigan (12/08) Classis of Lake Erie
 Hope Community Reformed Church, Sacramento, California (12/08) Classis of Central California
 Open Door Reformed Church, Dorr, Michigan (12/08) Classis of Zeeland

Merged

Oaks Community Church, Chino, California and The Bridge, Chino, California, became The Bridge, Chino, California (6/07–reported late) Classis of California

Second Reformed Church, Wyckoff, New Jersey, and Union Reformed Church, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, became Abundant Life Reformed Church, Wyckoff, New Jersey (10/08) Classis of Passaic Valley

Report of the General Synod Task Force on General Synod Professors of Theology

Interim Report on R-86

A task force appointed in early 2008 by the president of General Synod has been attempting a thorough review of the way in which the office of General Synod professor functions in the life of the church, and the manner in which the office is addressed in the *Book of Church Order (BCO)*.¹ The full mandate is as follows:

1. to clarify the processes of accountability, appeal, and pastoral care for General Synod professors of theology currently outlined in the *Book of Church Order*, including any needed revisions to the *Book of Church Order*;
2. to coordinate the development of relevant policies and practices within the seminaries and/or commissions or agencies of the church that do not require changes to the *Book of Church Order*, but that relate to the role of General Synod professors within the seminaries and within the life of the church; and further,
3. to review the nature of the office of General Synod professor;
4. to review the criteria for eligibility to that office;
5. to clarify the responsibility of the office of General Synod professor of theology to the General Synod;