

Main decisions of Synod CGKN 2013

I. Theological training

The Synod approved the effort to establish a broader theological institution. This institution should have a broad basis of orthodox-protestant grass roots. Its reformed identity needs to be secured. If this becomes a reality, our own theological seminary will be relegated to this institute.

II. Foreign Missions

The Synod gave instruction to the Foreign Missions Committee to reflect on the specific approach of mission work in Europe, and to translate this into a concrete course of action.

III. Homosexuality

The Synod adopted a study report containing a vision document and a pastoral guide with regard to homosexuality and homosexual relations. On the basis of this report the Synod issued the following statement:

1. The General synod acknowledges that in the past the Christian Reformed Churches failed in providing a specific pastoral approach in dealing with homosexuality and homosexual relations;
2. Within the church of Christ, members with a homosexual orientation have the same position as other members; their orientation has no bearing on this. They are full-fledged and equal members of the congregation, share in the mutual care and are engaged with their own gifts for the upbuilding of the whole;
3. Sexual intercourse between persons of the same gender and relations in which that intercourse takes shape, are not in harmony with the Word of God and thus they must be identified as sin. In doing this, the church has to follow the path of ecclesiastical admonition in conformity with Scripture, confession and church order;
4. The application of this Biblical speaking with regard to homosexuality and homosexual relations in preaching, catechizing and pastoral care needs to take place with the mind of Christ.

The report is now available on our website www.cgk.nl (English button).

IV. Unity at home

The Synod gave a new stimulus to the local congregations to seek ecclesiastical unity with other churches of reformed persuasion. The opportunity to invite Reformed ministers from other churches to our pulpits has been enlarged. A number of concerns and points of attention were formulated with regard to the denomination-wide discussions with the Dutch Reformed Churches (a split-off in 1969 from the Liberated Churches) and the Reformed Churches Liberated.

V. Foreign Relations

The Synod decided to offer a relationship of limited correspondence to the Heritage Reformed Churches (HRC) in North America and full correspondence to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales (EPCEW).