

*For First Reading, CANAAC Business Plenary, Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
For Second Reading & Approval, CANAAC Business Plenary, Thur., Feb. 28, 2008*

**Actions Taken on February 28, 2008:**

- (1) Approved exploring with CANACOM a joint Reformed youth network**
- (2) Approved the establishment of a Reformed youth network**
- (3) Approved that CANAAC encourages its member churches to lend whatever appropriate resources to support this Network.**

**Proposed by: Ms. Salome Twum, WARC Vice President for Youth; Rev. Neal D. Presa, CANAAC Convenor/Chair; Rev. Tara Tyme, Youth Facilitator, CANAAC Steering Cmte.**

**Actions Requested: That CANAAC approve the formation of a CANAAC Reformed Youth Network and provide resources in the 2008-2010 budget for the implementation of this proposal. Further, that CANAAC encourages its member churches to lend whatever appropriate resources to support this Network. And, lastly, that CANAAC invites CANACOM to consider encouraging their youth constituencies and youth members to join this Network.**

**1. NAME OF THE NETWORK**

The name of the Network shall be "The Caribbean and North American Area Council Reformed Youth Network" or "CANAAC Reformed Youth Network"

**2. WHY A REGIONAL NETWORK? WHAT PROMPTS THE CREATION OF SUCH A NETWORK?**

The creation of a Reformed network is necessary to help maintain a good relationship among young people in the Reformed family within the Caribbean and North American. The successful CANAAC Youth Assembly in Trinidad stimulated discussion and thought among the youth and young adult participants at that Assembly for a Network to continue networking, sharing of ideas, and have regular gatherings.

**3. GOALS -- WHAT'S THE PURPOSE/VISION?**

**VISION**

To create a network of young people who are united and committed to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Church and its mission through the expressed priorities and programme of WARC and CANAAC.

**MISSION**

To create an opportunity for young people to interact and share views, ideas and information on spiritual, social, academic and many other issues.

To create a forum that would allow young people to fellowship and feel part of a wider family beyond their local youth group.

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To equip and empower young people to respond to the challenges of their times

To provide a platform that brings them closer to their colleagues within CANAAC, WARC, and other ecumenical bodies in the region and around the World.

To help young people play an active role in the life and mission of the church and also to create opportunity that enables their voices to be heard in the Regional Network and the Alliance as a whole.

To unearth the leadership qualities in young people through various internship and training programmes to be offered to them.

#### **4. HOW WILL IT BE CONNECTED WITH CANAAC, ITS CHURCHES, AND THE WARC YOUTH NETWORK**

This Network will be an entity of CANAAC. It should have a strong link in that, there can be a coordinator (Paid or Volunteer) who would liaise between the Youth Network and CANAAC as an entity. All planned activities of the network should be approved and supported by the Area Council.

Heads of communions and ecumenical officers, as well as related denominational youth ministry staff, will be regularly informed of all youth activities that would be planned in the Region. The Network will liaise with the WARC Youth Network, the WARC Vice President for Youth and related WARC Secretariat staff.

#### **5. WHAT TANGIBLE THINGS CAN HAPPEN IN THE 2008-2010 BIENNIUM?**

A youth gathering possibly in 2009 that would seek to empower young people for mission and work in the church.

Providing opportunity for some young people to be interns in WARC office in Geneva. This would help train them to be responsible leaders in the church and society.

A strong system of communication that connects all young people, through which they share ideas, topics could be created out of the core callings to allow young people to contribute to issues that would be raised.

A youth pre-Council gathering prior to the convening of the Uniting General Council in 2010.

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## **6. HOW DOES THIS FURTHER THE CORE CALLINGS OF THE 24TH GENERAL COUNCIL OF WARC?**

**The Core Callings are:**

1. Covenanting for justice in the economy and the earth
2. Reformed identity - Communion/Unity in Reformed Family
3. Spiritual renewal/worship
4. Inclusivity and Partnership in Church and Society
5. Mission Empowerment
6. Reformed Theology for Contemporary Witness
7. Peace

The Core Callings of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Council provide the theological and missional framework for the programme agenda and goals of this Youth Network. The Youth Network will seek to engage the Core Callings through the experiential, intellectual, spiritual, cultural, social, and generational contexts of its members.

## **7. MEANS OF COMMUNICATION**

To maximize communication capacity while minimizing costs, Web-based resources will be used to initiate and sustain communication, such as email, electronic bulletin boards, Web sites, blog sites, social utility networks (e.g. Facebook, MySpace), Webcams, Skype, and tele- and video-conferencing technologies. Written newsletter updates will also be used.

## **8. START-UP FUNDS, IF NEEDED?**

The network would need a coordinator who would coordinate all activities and disseminate necessary information to member churches and also to keep a cordial relationship with the WARC YOUTH NETWORK. The Coordinator can be a volunteer who may only need some small fund that would help coordinate activities.

There can also be a fundraising activity to sponsor activities that would be planned.

CANAAC commits to support this initiative through financial, people, and prayer resources for the 2008-2010 biennium, and encourages its member churches to explore areas within their programmatic and financial resources to support the formation of this Network.