

CANAAC BUSINESS MEETING  
OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, GUYANA  
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

The meeting was constituted at 1:20 p.m. by the Convenor, Rev. Neal D. Presa, who opened up with prayer and welcome extended to all. A quorum was noted to be present to transact business (see Appendix 1 below for listing of delegates). The Delegates introduced themselves. Apologies were noted for Omega Bula – United Church of Canada, Collin Cowan – United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and Robina Winbush – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The agenda was amended as follows: The Convenor's Appointment and financial report would be given before a new matter regarding a CANAAC Youth Network. The Convenor then shared his appointments:

- The Business Committee: Neal Presa, Tara Tyme, Oliver Patterson & Patricia Sheerattan-Bisnauth.
- Nomination Committee: Clifton Kirkpatrick, Valeska Austin and Marion Davis
- Recording Secretary: Tara Tyme

These amendments were adopted. Moved by Patrick O'Connor and seconded by Janette McIntosh.

The Convenor, Neal Presa shared with the gathering a proposal for a CANAAC YOUTH NETWORK proposed by Salome Twum, Tara Tyme and Neal Presa. The hope is to invite and collaborate with The Caribbean and North America Council of Missions (CANACOM). This sparked a spirited discussion as there were concerns about the process, financial implications and the purpose for having a Youth Network. Clifton Kirkpatrick recommended that the proposal be shared with member Churches, Youth workers/ ministers, youth facilitators and CANACOM for solidarity, the meeting concurred. Patrick O'Connor moved the discussion at a different place by suggesting we think about a joint name since we are working towards collaboration. Discussion took place as it relates to how the network would play out in the present and future. It was suggested that the Youth Proposal be discussed with CANACOM in order to arrive at a consensus that would facilitate the genesis of the proposal

The Convenor proceeded to give the financial report. A shorter version of the report was given in a written form, however the Convenor indicated that he had a full report as it related to income, expenditure, balance sheet and apologised for not having copies, but invited the delegates to feel free to view what he had in hand. A concern was raised that while the delegates would have been able to see what was spent and what is in hand, it would have been more appropriate to give delegates the full financial details. This would help to avoid unnecessary questions asked, because the information would have been there. However, it was pointed out that the concern raised had nothing to do with trust, but for information.

The Convenor invited Tara Tyme to give a report on the Youth Assembly held at Victory Heights in Trinidad, held under the theme - **Be seen, be heard: Reformed Youths as Agents of Change**. We were pleased to welcome in our midst: WARC Executive Youth Representatives from Ghana and Ethiopia and two Youth Representatives from CANACOM member Churches (Dominica Republic and Curacao). Other participants came from: Jamaica, Canada, United States, Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad. For all intents and purposes the Assembly had accomplished the set objectives it had named. The highlight of the Assembly was the passion among the Youths for wanting to be and remain Reformed Youths. The camaraderie among the Youths was exceptional. They engaged the theme with

maturity and sensitivity as the issues came to light, each baring in mind the cultural/ religious/ social nuances, differences and similarities (irrespective of how great or small). The participants spoke from their hearts and were objective in how they related their story so everyone was able to journey with each other. Out of the Assembly a recommendation was made for a CANAAC Youth Network.

The Convenor proceeded to share his report with the delegates. He was delighted to share with the delegates that the mandate given to the Steering Committee for 2006 – 2008 has been accomplished. He thanked the delegates for their confidence and trust in the Steering Committee and highlighted the fact that CANAAC has indeed and continues to experience a ‘new day.’ He reminded the delegates that CANNAC is one of the regional expressions of WARC and that we continue to live out the mandate that WARC charges its member Churches with.

Patricia Bisnauth, WARC’s Executive Secretary for Church Renewal, Justice and Partnership shared a report of the on-going work in expressing the Accra Confession in both word and deed. Since Accra 2004 there have been various consultations with: Regions (European and Africa) and with the women from across the regions (Women Consultation in Jamaica, August 2005). As it relates to CANAAC she highlighted that there has been a consultation with the North American member Churches re Accra Confession and there is the need to get the Caribbean Churches together for dialogue re Accra Confession. As it relates to the other regions she informed the delegates that the Latin America region is working full force with Accra Confession. There is need to get the Asian region together for dialogue regarding the Accra Confession. A workbook is being created to work with the Accra Confession. There is work going on with other ecumenical bodies (WCC, CWM). Gender Justice is a critical piece of the work and it is yet to get going in the Caribbean. Work is done in the area of race analysis as it relates to the female economic issues. An ecumenical Conference (CWM, WARC and WCC) was held in Jamaica Dec. 2007 reflecting on the 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the African Slave Trade.

As it pertains to CANAAC’s future relationship with CANACOM, Patrick O’Connor shared with the delegates highlights from a Meeting with CANAAC and CANACOM in October 2006. The delegates were given the background behind this meeting, which was one of the mandates of the CANAAC Techney meeting in Chicago March 2006. This mandate was to explore the possibility of CANAAC and CANACOM collaborating. It was reported that out of the October meeting joint events could be the starting point for such, thus dialogue surrounding a joint Assembly/ Council meeting in Guyana 2008 and CANACOM youths participating in CANAAC’s Youth Assembly. An invitation was also extended for a CANAAC Youth to participate in CANACOM’s YAM Camp in Jamaica 2009 and CANAAC personnel to serve on their International Planning Committee.

The discussion surrounded the peculiar of both groups: CANACOM being more practical oriented and CANAAC being more theoretical (theological reflection) in their approach, but arrived at a meeting ground for both groups identified with mandate of covenanting for justice.

It was suggested that a small group (Jeanne, Patrick and Neal) to meet over dinner with the core leaders of CANACOM to further explore the relationship, and particularly to reflect upon the joint Assembly/ Council meeting, so far.

WARC's President, Clifton Kirkpatrick was invited to address the delegates. He focused his address around: the call to justice and communion and expressed joy in the fact that a major breakthrough has taken place of the coming together of WARC and REC, to be named WCRC (World Communion of Reformed Churches). The Assembly to mark the event will take place June 18-28, 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, under the theme **Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace**. He expressed hope for Churches in the vicinity of the Assembly to host members of WARC and REC for the Assembly. A proposal was moved by Clifton Kirkpatrick for CANAAC to officially invite WARC to host the next Assembly in our Region and seconded by Patrick.

Other Highlights:

- To work for Peace and Human Rights, particularly in Kenya, UCC in the Philippines, Pakistan and North East India, Presbyterian Church In Columbia, Evangelical in Syria and Lebanon.
- Educational Initiatives: Calvin 500<sup>th</sup> birthday; Calvin's commitment transformation of the world as it pertains to justice, Holy Spirit and Creation, building unity of the Church, and a Global Theological Institute in Indonesia.
- Historic Gathering of Principals and Presidents of Theological Institutions related to WARC at Princeton Theological Seminary.
- New interim Theology Secretary, Adolf Ham from Cuba.
- Response to/ dialogue with Islamic community re the core commandment.
- Area Council continues to meet. The Latin America Area Council the model for us all.
- Financial Support waning. Member Churches encouraged to support.

At 5:00 p.m. we broke into small groups to talk about goals/ objectives for CANAAC for 2008-2010.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

Before receiving our reports the Convenor shared with the meeting some concerns shared by our friends from CANACOM over their dinner meeting.

It was felt that they are missing out on a major part of their programme, since they are used to conducting their Council meeting in a particular way. Some of the concerns shared were:

- Not enough for singing/ praying, which is a major part of their meetings.
- There was no intentional group reflecting done on the mission site visits, also another critical element in their meeting.
- And there was a sense as if CANAAC invaded their space, which affected their overall programme.

Therefore, even though the Convenor had shared with the group at a joint meeting to start at approximately 8:30 p.m. the relationship between CANAAC and CANACOM would be explored more and further sentiments shared.

At this time we moved into receiving reports from the small groups.

## GROUP 1

- Expose injustice in our region, and advocate for justice. Ie. NAFTA, ECONOMIC DISPARITY, DISCRIMINATION...
- Deepen relationships between CANAAC Churches and Church members. When established, empower people to advocate for one another (think Cuba)
- Lead worship at Uniting Assembly and demonstrate our diverse unity.

## GROUP 2

- Youth Assembly:  
Economic Justice – environment, incarceration, health care, education, family, racism, immigration and crime

## GROUP 3

- Promote the work of Canaac in a way that it reaches and resonates with the local Congregation and General Councils/ Assemblies/ Synods.
- To encourage participation/ support the Calvin Conference in 2009 Môn treat, North Carolina.
- Web post some of our work from this event in Guyana to share with anyone who wants it (congregations, denominations, etc.)
- Invite 30+ seminaries in the region to offer an event/occasion for local congregations to celebrate and reflect upon the legacy of Calvin and concerns for ecological global justice. Then share their learnings and experiences with area council.
- Establish youth network and Plan a quality event (Youth Assembly?) for youth in connection or cosponsoring the 2010 WARC youth event.

## GROUP 4

### VISION

Living into the way of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

### GOALS 2008-2010

- CANACOM – Joint Conference (maybe 2010)
- Youth – support Network/ Pre-Council gathering (CANACOM & CANAAC)
- Ownership of Accra Confession – regionally and locally
- Power Dynamics (gender/ different forms)
- Calvin – Mon treat July 2009 – scholarships
- Build Communication
- Support Guyana Missions (website, money/ prayer)
- General Council Theme – where can there be unity?

After receiving the reports from the groups the meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

CANAAC BUSINESS MEETING  
OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, GUYANA  
Thursday, February 28, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. and the Convenor, Neal Presa, prayed. He then welcomed everyone to another day of business meeting and a special welcome was given to the students from Quamina House who participated in the Theological Institute who joined us for the day.

**GOALS and OBJECTIVES**

Neal and Tara made a presentation of the goals and objective for 2008-2010 from the results of the small groups, which led to healthy and robust discussions, as clarity was sought to ensure that the objectives laid out were the mind of the CANAAC Gathering. A motion was moved for the acceptance of the goals and objectives for 2008-2010 (see appendix 2) moved by Patrick O'Connor and seconded by Louisa Bruinsma.

**YOUTH NETWORK (see Appendix 3 for rationale)**

It was suggested that before leaving Guyana exploration be done with CANACOM regarding the Youth Network.

Moved by Janette, seconded by Marion, and approved to explore with CANACOM the formation of a Reformed Youth Network, and to encourage member churches to lend whatever appropriate resources to support this Network.

At this point in the meeting Patrick O'Connor raised a point about CANAAC being active in dialogue re Covenanting for Justice, to examine NAFTA and other trading bodies as it relates to Gender and Power. A motion was then passed by Patrick that CANAAC's Steering Committee informs the working groups in both North America and the Caribbean to examine NAFTA and other trading bodies as it relates to Gender and Power. This motion was seconded by Oliver Patterson, which was accepted by all.

Joel Ortega Dopico raised a concern about CANAAC journeying with the Cubans re the embargo that the United States Government has imposed on Cuba for many years. This embargo is says continues to be one of the major players in robbing the Cuban people of life that the Accra Confession so lifts up. In light of this a recommendation then moved by Bruce Adema, and Linda Jaramillo and Joel Ortega Dopico seconded the recommendation. This recommendation is to be sent by CANAAC to the United States President, Senate and Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. This recommendation was accepted by all, except for Julie Anderson – Schuett who voted against.

**Recommendation:**

Whereas: the Gospel of Jesus Christ holds faith the vision of society marked by justice, peace, compassion and reconciliation and calls people of good will to work and pray for such attributes.

Whereas: the Caribbean and North American Council of the World AALLIANCE OF Reformed Churches stands in solidarity with our Sisters and Brothers in Cuba.

Whereas: At its February 28, 2008 meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, considered the situation of the Church and Community.

Whereas: The effects of the United States blockade of the nation of Cuba continues to cause considerable hardship for the Cuban people.

Therefore be it resolved that  
CANAAC calls on the US Government to lift the embargo and normalize relations between the two countries.

Therefore be it resolved that  
CANAAC Convenor sends a letter with the resolutions to the President of the United States and Secretary of State, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Therefore be it resolved that  
CANAAC encourage member Churches in the United States to utilize their internal structures to press for a policy change regarding the United States embargo on Cuba.

Therefore be it resolved that  
All CANAAC member Churches continue to hold Cuban Churches and Communities in prayer.

The Convenor appointed Bruce Adema, Linda Jaramillo and Joel Ortega Dopico as a special delegation to share this action with CANACOM.

#### CANAAC NEXT MEETING (see Appendix 4)

Bruce Adema raised a concern of the suggested date, since at that time the Christian Reformed Church in North America cenet would be meeting and its implication for both CANAAC and the Uniting General Council. He made a recommendation that CANAAC meets after rather than before the Uniting General Council, but then a concern was raised about the energy level in order for meaningful engagement after leaving the Assembly prior to and also the fact that the CANAAC's meeting would be for preparing delegates for the United General Council. Bruce amended his suggestion on the basis that there are many unknowns and refer the matter to the Steering Committee to work through. The motion to refer the matter to the Steering Committee was moved by Bruce Adema, seconded by John Haas and accepted by all.

#### CANACOM LETTER

CANACOM had written a letter to the local newspaper expressing their sentiments in light of the new spate of crime and violence in Guyana. The letter was shared with the delegates of CANAAC and a motion was moved to accept/ endorse the letter by Janette McIntosh and seconded by Althea Pluck, which was accepted by all.

At this point Oliver Patterson reiterated that a framework should go beyond Guyana to address the issue of ethnic violence and racial violence.

## BUDGET 2008-2010

An amendment to Budget 2008-2010 proposed by Earl James to include \$10,000 line item for a youth network, totalling the budget to: \$110,600. This was approved by consensus. An acceptance for the budget was moved by Neal Presa and Tara Tyme and accepted by all. (see Appendix 2)

## CANACOM INVITATION

The Convenor made a recommendation for Steering Committee to make an appointment of someone to be a part of the International Planning Committee of CANACOM to participate in the planning of Young Adults in Mission (YAM) Camp in the next month and also to name a participant to the next YAM Camp in Jamaica 2009.

Bruce moved a motion for the Steering Committee to attend to this matter and Earl seconded the motion, which was accepted by all.

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Convenor turned the chair over to Clifton Kirkpatrick, Chair of the nominations committee, to share their report with the meeting. Kirkpatrick spoke of the quality work done by the present Steering Committee and encouraged that the new Steering Committee should follow suit. He spoke to the need for a Deputy Convenor to assist the Convenor in carrying out some keys objectives, since the work is a lot for anyone person to do.

He proceeded by sharing the nominations as follows:

### Officers/ nominated and elected

Neal Presa – Convenor - PCUSA

Tara Tyme – Deputy Convenor - UCJCI

Ralph Kendall – Treasurer – PCC

### Re-nominating and elected

Omega - UCC

Dale - PCG

Oliver - RCA

Robina - PCUSA

### New People/ nominated and elected

Joel – Cuba

Bruce – CRC

Elvis – PCTT

This was moved by Linda Jaramillo and seconded by Janette McIntosh, and approved to elect the presented slated by unanimous acclamation.

Clifton Kirkpatrick then turned the chair back to Neal Presa, as he continued with report.

The CANAAC special delegation returned with good word from CANACOM as CANACOM endorsed the action related to the economic embargo on Cuba and expressed support in principle for the proposed Reformed Youth Network.

The Convenor, then thanked the delegates for the engagement in the Assembly, which made the time spent together a fulfilling one and he encouraged to continue to the advocacy work for Justice in our various context.

It was moved by John Haas, seconded by Janette McIntosh, and approved to adjourn sine die at 12:00 p.m.

JOINT MEETING OF CANAAC AND CANACOM  
Ocean View International Hotel and Convention Centre  
Georgetown, Guyana  
Thursday, February 28, 2008  
1:00-2:00 pm

The joint meeting was called to order by CANACOM's vice chair, Rev. Osbert James (Presbyterian Church in Grenada), CANACOM's chair-elect, Rev. Patricia Lloyd-Sidle (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.), and CANAAC's Convenor, Rev. Neal D. Presa (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.). Rev. James opened with prayer.

Both sides shared the business that their respective bodies approved.

Both sides affirmed the value of meeting jointly while noting some growing edges as well as a result of meeting jointly. Both bodies affirmed the joint communiqué going to the Guyana media and government regarding the recent massacres, and both affirmed the resolution related to the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba. Both committed to working to explore the formation of a Reformed Youth Network in the region. CANAAC has accepted the invitation of CANACOM to appoint a CANAAC representative to the International Planning Committee for the Young Adult Mission work camp next year, as well as a CANAAC youth delegate to attend the work camp. The leadership of both bodies will appoint representatives to a joint Continuation Committee to have on-going dialogue and conversations over the next two years about next steps.

The joint meeting was adjourned sine die with a prayer by Rev. Presa.

Minutes respectfully prepared by:

Rev. Tara Tyme

Attested by:

Rev. Neal D. Presa

Submitted to CANAAC Steering Committee for Approval

## Appendix 1 – Delegates Present

1. Neal D. Presa, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), CANAAC Convenor
2. Tara T. Tyme, United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, CANAAC Steering Committee
3. Oliver Patterson, Reformed Church in America, CANAAC Steering Committee
4. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), WARC President
5. Patricia Sheeratan-Bisnauth, WARC Secretariat
6. Jeanne Choy Tate, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
7. Louisa Bruinsma, Christian Reformed Church in North America
8. Bruce Adema, Christian Reformed Church in North America
9. Janette McIntosh, Presbyterian Church in Canada
10. In Kee Kim, Presbyterian Church in Canada
11. Cornelia Swain, Cumberland Presbyterian Church
12. Marion Davis, United Church of Canada
13. Patrick O'Connor, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
14. John Haas, United Church of Canada
15. Althea Pluck, Presbyterian Church in Grenada
16. Linda Jaramillo, United Church of Christ (U.S.A.)
17. Keith Haynes, Presbyterian Church of Guyana
18. Julie Anderson-Schuett, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
19. Earl James, Reformed Church in America
20. Joel Ortega Dopico, Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Cuba
21. Dale Bisnauth, Guyana Presbyterian Church

## **Approved Vision, Goals and Objectives**

### **VISION**

**For the 2008-2010 biennium, CANAAC commits to living into the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace as we look to the Uniting General Council**

### **GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

- Maintain and enhance current website with relevant info. that promotes activities of CANAAC and enables interactive feedback
- Encourage broad participation in the theological consultation on John Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July 2009, Montreat, NC, and provide scholarships for Caribbean attendees
- Establish and support a Reformed Youth Network for this region
- Participate in the pre-Uniting General Council Youth Forum
- Invite and welcome churches of the Reformed Ecumenical Council in the Caribbean and North America region in CANAAC
- Support the Covenanting for Justice project in this region by:
  - Encourage the exchange of ideas and resources
  - Caribbean-based consultant to facilitate a Covenanting for Justice process in the Caribbean to assist in the articulation and dissemination of Caribbean Reformed theologies related to Covenanting for Justice and the Accra Confession
  - Encourage communication between North American Working Group and Caribbean Working Group
  - Youth multi-media contest to express the contextual meaning of Covenanting for Justice in an era of empire
- Work with the North American Planning Committee for the 2010 Uniting General Council to plan/lead a worship service at the Uniting General Council that expresses the creative diversity of this region
  - urge Caribbean representation at the NA Planning Committee
- CANAAC meet both prior to and after the Uniting General Council (to be determined by Steering Committee), insuring contextual engagement through

Bible study, theological reflection, hands-on mission, that expresses the diversity of the Caribbean and North America region

- Strengthen our relationship and collaboration with CANACOM by:
  1. Explore with CANACOM a joint Reformed youth network;
  2. Invite CANACOM to send two representatives to the CANAAC meeting and Uniting General Council in 2010
- Deepen relationships among the member churches for the purpose of prayer, support, and encouragement.

## Approved 2008-2010 Budget

### Expenses

Website	\$600 (\$300/yr)
Conference Calls, Phone	\$1000
Scholarships:	
-CANACOM YAM (July/Aug. 2009)	\$1000 (1 youth delegate)
-Calvin Consultation (July 2009)	\$10,000 (10 x \$1000)
-Pre-UGC Youth Forum	\$8,000 (8 X \$1000)
-Global Theological Institute @ UGC (seminarians)	\$10,000 (10 x \$1000)
-Caribbean delegates to UGC	\$19000 (16 X \$1200)
Steering Cmte. Mtg (Grand Rapids, 2009)	\$15000 (12-member Steering Cmte.)
Gift to Guyana Mission Sites (3)	\$1500 (3x \$500)
CANAAC Meeting prior/after UGC	\$25,000
Administrative Support	\$5000
Miscellaneous (audit, legal)	\$4,500
Youth Network	\$10,000
Total Expenses:	\$110,600

### Income

Member Church Core Contribution	\$80,600
Church Grants	\$30,000
Total Income:	\$110,600

## Appendix 3 – Reformed Youth Network

**Approved Action: CANAAC resolves to explore with CANACOM the formation of a joint Reformed Youth Network, and encourages CANAAC member churches to lend whatever appropriate resources to support 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.

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.

## **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.

## Appendix 4 – Next CANAAC Meeting

**Approved Action:** CANAAC referred this item to the Steering Committee.

**Action Requested:** That CANAAC next meet on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 in Grand Rapids, MI just prior to the convening of the Uniting General Council of the union of the WARC and REC to become the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC).

Background: At the CANAAC reorganization meeting in March 2006 in Techny, IL, the CANAAC was intention about insuring that the Area Council be a regional expression of WARC and aligning its plans and work with that of the Alliance and its General Council. Part of this intentionality was having CANAAC meet three times between meetings of the septennial (about every 7 yrs.) General Council, where the first meeting would be to review the priorities of the General Council and set goals, the second meeting spending more time engaged in contextual work related to the core priorities, and the third meeting devoted to preparing the Area Council for the next General Council.

In February 2006, representatives from WARC and the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) discerned the leading of God's Spirit in moving towards uniting the two organizations to form a new body.

At the October 2007 meeting of the WARC Executive Committee in Trinidad, the proposal to unite the two organizations and form the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) was approved. Plans are already underway to hold a Uniting General Council in Grand Rapids, MI from Thursday, June 17-Friday, June 26, 2010.

Several options that could be considered are: (1) Do not meet until after the Uniting General Council, presumably later in 2010 or in 2011; (2) Meet during the Uniting General Council; (3) Meet immediately after the Uniting General Council; or (4) Meet just prior to the Uniting General Council. This proposal would have the Area Council meet for one day just prior to the convening of the Uniting General Council as a way to prepare delegates for the work of the General Council. This would avoid a large gap of time between our Guyana meeting and the Grand Rapids meeting. It would also cut costs as many delegates who would be at the Uniting General Council could attend the Area Council meeting.