

Moderator Robertson thanked Ms. Houston and asked if delegates had questions. David Greenhaw (MOMS) asked if Ms. Houston thought the trend to draw on unrestricted funds was being addressed. Ms. Houston responded that Collegium members have been working to lessen the draw on unrestricted funds.

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Jean Avison, Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Council. Ms. Avison moved the General Synod adopt a national basic support allocation base of \$7.1 million and \$6.8 million for the budget years 2012 and 2013. Ms. Avison spoke to the motion.

11-GS-9 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts a national basic support allocation base of \$7.1 million and \$6.8 million for the budget years 2012 and 2013.

Ms. Alicia Nebot moved the Twenty-eighth General Synod delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church's Wider Mission national basic support for the 2012-2013 biennium to the Executive Council.

11-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church's Wider Mission national basic support for the 2012-2013 biennium to the Executive Council.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assistant Moderator Aurand explained the reporting process for committees. She then thanked the Committee Process Facilitators: Ms. Susan Henderson (CAC), Ms. Susan Townley (CONN.) and Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK). The team was staffed by Mr. David Anderson (PNW). All were asked to stand and be recognized. Ms. Aurand then asked all Committee Chairs to rise and be recognized.

6. FORMAL MOTION: COMMON AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM

Ms. Aurand called upon Mr. Mike Castle, Chairperson of Committee Eleven. Mr. Castle moved affirmation of the formal motion "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism." He then spoke to the resolution. Discussion was held.

The question was called and seconded.

11-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to end debate on the formal motion "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism."

11-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to affirm the formal motion "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism."

COMMON AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM

Roman Catholic-Reformed Church Dialogue

The Twenty-eighth General Synod affirms the *Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism* with the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church – U.S.A., Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed Church, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

1. Together we affirm that, by the sacrament of Baptism, a person is truly incorporated into the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13 and 27; Ephesians 1:22-23), the Church. Baptism establishes the bond of unity existing among all who are part of Christ's body and is, therefore, the sacramental basis for our efforts to move towards visible unity.
2. Together we affirm that Baptism is the sacramental gateway into the Christian life, directed toward the fullness of faith and discipleship in Christ.
3. Together we affirm that incorporation into the universal Church by baptism is brought about by celebrating the sacrament within a particular Christian community.
4. Together we affirm that Baptism is to be conferred only once, because those who are baptized are decisively incorporated into the Body of Christ.
5. Together we affirm that baptism is a sacrament of the Church, enacted in obedience to the mission confided to it by Christ's own word. For our baptisms to be mutually recognized, water and the scriptural Trinitarian formula "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28: 19-20) must be used in the baptismal rite.
6. Together we affirm that the validity of Baptism depends on its celebration according to the apostolic witness by the Church and its authorized ministers.
7. Together we affirm, as a sign of our unity and as a witness to ecumenical commitment, the practice of inviting the presence and, where appropriate, the participation of members of our respective communions in the celebration of Baptism. At the same time, we affirm our responsibility to respect the integrity of the distinct baptismal practices of the communions in which the rite of Baptism is administered.
8. Given our mutual recognition of Baptism, we encourage using baptismal registers in the local church community and, when requested by another church for a pastoral need in the life of an individual, providing written attestations of Baptism, including the liturgical formula used. Such cooperation and mutual accountability honors the dignity of the sacrament of Baptism.

We rejoice at the common faith we share and affirm in this document. We understand that the journey toward full, visible unity depends on openness to the grace of God and humility before the initiatives of God's Spirit among us. Because of these convictions, we encourage Roman Catholic and Reformed pastoral leaders to continue their commitment to regular dialogue about theology and pastoral practice from local to international settings. Pastoral leaders engaged in

such dialogue embody our hopes for unity, collaborative effort, and common witness. We believe that respectful dialogue can provide a strong witness to the wider church about our commitment to a relationship in Christ and can stand as a safeguard against the unreflective judgments that have, at certain times in our history, diminished and distorted our relations.

From "These Living Waters: Baptism Document of the 7th Round Reformed-Roman Catholic Dialogue," page 5-6. Denominations in the dialogue: The United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church-USA; Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed Church, and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

7. INSTANT RECESS

A flashmob instant recess was held because of the national "Let's Move" campaign to end childhood obesity and our faith commitment to assist individuals, families and our local churches in this effort. It was done in collaboration with Justice and Witness Ministries and the Youth Ministry of Local Church Ministries. Dr. Antoinette Yancy, author of the book "Building a Fit Nation 10 Minutes at a Time" was introduced. She urged everyone to get moving whenever we gather together – during Sunday worship services, in our Bible study groups, choir rehearsals and Sunday Schools. Physical activity is one of the most potent, yet under-utilized tools in our arsenal to prevent diabetes, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's and cancer. She thanked everyone for joining the Instant Recess movement to make prolonged sitting socially unacceptable.

Doug Fourt and Debbie Manley (WIS) urged the moderator to have delegates raise their hands during votes due to the problems with the electronic voting devices.

Assistant Moderator Aurand indicated a voice vote or show of hands will be requested until all problems are resolved with the electronic voting devices.

8. COLLEGIUM REPORT

Ms. Aurand called upon Collegium members for their presentations.

Ms. Linda Jaramillo introduced our core values, continuing testament, extravagant welcome and mission to change lives. Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte detailed our continuing testament. Ms. Edith Guffey detailed our extravagant welcome. Mr. Steve Sterner detailed our mission to change lives. General Minister and President Geoffrey Black indicated we are distinctive. He then took a moment to underscore the importance of a major initiative that will take place this coming November 1 – 11 called "Mission 1." The initiative is intended to celebrate local mission, but it also pushes us to stretch a bit to connect the dots between compassion and justice, to being in service close to home but also around the world. It enables us to see the greater impact we can have as a church when we take seriously our "oneness" together. Collegium members then explained that between 11/1/11 and 11/11/11 we will collect more than one million items of healthy food items for people in our communities and we will write letters to Congress in collaboration with Bread for the World. We will raise funds for Neighbors in Need with a goal of collecting more than \$111,111. We will be creative in shedding light on food-related injustice through preaching, public forums, public witness and educational events. The "oneness" of our church will determine our success. "Mission 1" is an invitation to come and see what God is