

THE PROCLAIMER

JUL/AUG 2022

A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CALVARY CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH IS
CHRIST-CENTERED
BIBLE-BELIEVING
GOSPEL-MOTIVATED
COMMUNITY-BUILDING

OUR MISSION IS TO
PROCLAIM THE GOOD
NEWS OF JESUS
IN WORD AND DEED
HERE, NEAR, AND FAR.

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THE HUMAN SEXUALITY REPORT—Part 2

This past October, I wrote an article about the Council's journey in reading and discussing our denomination's *Study Report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-Laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality*; more simply known as *The Human Sexuality Report*. The Council completed its study of the report earlier this spring. If you would like to read this article, you can find it on our website, www.calvarytwincities.org/whatwedo

Each summer, our denomination (the Christian Reformed Church of North America, or CRCNA) gathers delegates from all over the United States and Canada to deliberate and vote on denominational issues. This June, *The Human Sexuality Report* (among many other things) was voted on and discussed as well as a couple of related issues.

Two very important decisions were made. First, Synod voted to uphold the Christian Reformed Church's traditional stance on marriage (marriage being

between one man and one woman) and homosexual sex (the CRC does not condemn same-sex attraction as sinful, only same-sex practice), among many other traditional positions outlined in *The Human Sexuality Report*. The vote went one step further and declared that these positions "already have confessional status." This means as a denomination we declare that these teachings are supported and upheld by our confessions.

This also means that office bearers (pastors, elders, and deacons) who are ordained in the CRC should only become office bearers if they assent to this position. People who disagree with this position are still welcome to be part of the Calvary community but should not serve in an office-bearing capacity.

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Editorial by
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Second, Synod voted to order a local church in the CRC to “rescind its decision” to ordain a deacon who is in a same-sex marriage. Both decisions passed by a large majority (69 percent and 68 percent).

For many in our denomination, these decisions were a strong declaration of the CRCNA’s commitment to biblical truth and our confessions (see Pastor’ Eli’s article on “What does the Bible say about Homosexuality”). For others, there is concern that these decisions will make it very difficult to minister to LGBTQ+ individuals.

Pastor Eli and I are thankful for these decisions and are hopeful that by making these strong declarations the CRC will become stronger and more committed to gospel-centered ministry. However, we also believe that we can learn and grow in our ability to minister to LGBTQ+ individuals.

The Human Sexuality Report speaks much about our failures in ministering well to the LGBTQ+ community. It speaks much about our idolatry of family that makes it difficult for single and celibate people to find community in the church. It acknowledges our fear of relationships with people who are different. It exposes our convenient ignorance of our own ongoing sins that are easier to hide (greed, lust, pride, envy, etc.), and our confusion on how to welcome and love people with which we do not agree.

Along with other CRCs and like-minded churches, Calvary Church must grow and learn in our ability to minister to the LGBTQ+ community. We must learn how to enfold and celebrate single, celibate people. We must learn how to love people who are different.



We must learn how to treat people with dignity and respect even if we disagree with their lifestyle because we are sinners too. We must learn how to humbly recognize our own sin instead of being self-righteous about the sin of others. For centuries, the church of Jesus has celebrated and provided community for single and celibate individuals committed to following Jesus. The church today must rediscover this spirit.

In summary, our *position* on these issues has not changed. But our posture must *change*.

People must know that the call to follow Jesus is a call to repentance, but they must also experience the unconditional grace of the gospel through us.

There are all kinds of ways we can learn and grow in these areas. Read the Human Sexuality Report (www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/human_sexuality_report_2021.pdf). Read books by same-sex attracted individuals in the church: *Same Sex Attraction in the Church* by Ed Shaw, *Washed and Waiting* by Wesley Hill. Seek to be “full of grace and truth” like Jesus (Jn 1:14).

May God bless us as we seek to be a church “full of grace and truth”!

By Pastor Nick Van Beek

What does the Bible say about homosexuality? Love like Jesus

What if we meet a gay or lesbian at work, in school, or in church? What should we do?

Love them like Jesus would love them.

What does it mean to love like Jesus? Balance grace and truth. Recognize that he or she is made in the image of God and deserves dignity and respect. Realize that EVERYONE is guilty of sexual sin, including yourself. Jesus said if you look at someone lustfully, you commit adultery in your heart. That takes out 99% of the world’s population. And the 1% who

have never lusted are guilty of something else. Listen like Jesus. Ask questions like Jesus. Eat with them like Jesus. Hang out with them like Jesus. Be a friend like Jesus. If they are never interested in following Jesus, that's their decision. It's their life.

If they want to follow Jesus, speak God's truth to them like Jesus. Tell them that following Jesus is hard. Tell them that Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) Jesus didn't love people by letting them do whatever they wanted, he loved them by calling them to kingdom living. Explain how everyone needs to deny their own sinful desires, repent from them, and make Jesus the Lord of their life. Encourage them by saying the church is here to follow Jesus together, through all the challenges that culture and experience throw our way.

So what would Jesus say about homosexual practice to someone who wants to follow him? He would say what the Bible says. Since he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it, he would lovingly teach what the Old Testament and New Testament say about sexuality. He would teach them about God's design for marriage and singleness.

The Bible begins with marriage. The Lord created a man and woman and put them in the Garden of Eden to care for it together. Genesis 2:24 says, "For this reason, a man will leave his mother and his mother, and be united to his wife. And they become one flesh." This design for marriage is quoted and affirmed by Jesus (Matthew 19:4-6) and Apostle Paul (Ephesians 5:31). Marriage is a gift intended for strong emotion, passion, and joy (Song of Songs 8:6-7). Some are not called by God to marriage, and instead are called to the holy calling of singleness. A celibate, single lifestyle for the kingdom of God is honored in the New Testament by Jesus (Matthew 19:12) and Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 7:32).

Marriage and singleness for the kingdom of

God are holy lifestyles. Sadly, these lifestyles can be destroyed by pornography, lust, adultery, divorce, and abuse. There are few Christians that would argue with that statement. But what about homosexuality?

The first mention of homosexuality appears in Leviticus. The primary theme of the book is holiness. God is holy and has set his people apart to be righteous. Holy living encompasses all areas of life, including sexuality. The Scriptures use strong language prohibiting homosexual relations describing it as "detestable" (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13).

The New Testament reaffirms the prohibition of homosexual practice. Paul writes a list of lifestyles that prevent people from inheriting the kingdom of God, and homosexual practice is one of them. After this list, Paul describes the transforming power of the gospel, "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:11)

Paul writes to his mentee Timothy that homosexual practice is "contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God." (1 Timothy 1:10-11)

Another important prohibition of homosexual practice is in Romans 1. Paul describes the brokenness of the world and utilizes sexual sin as an example of the guilty world. He condemns gay and lesbian lifestyles as "shameful lusts" that are "unnatural." The Scriptures say those who live this way "received in themselves the due penalty for their error." (Romans 1:26-27)

All five usages of homosexuality in the Bible are consistent. Homosexual practice is contrary to God's design for marriage and singleness. It is an example of sexual sin.

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If the Bible is so clear about this, then why have so many churches said it is not a sin? Why are there so many rainbow flags proudly posted outside church buildings in the Twin Cities? It is because many put culture and experience above God's Word. They experience something or know someone, and this leads them to alter the message of the Bible to fit their own desire. Many have attempted round-about ways to interpret these passages differently, but even non-Christian scholars see these interpretations are flawed and not convincing. If you would like to learn more about these arguments, please view the *Human Sexuality Report* on the website of the Christian Reformed Church.

In our Reformed tradition, we proclaim "sola scriptura" meaning that Scripture is our highest authority, above cultural trends and personal experience. I am grateful for what Synod decided (see Pastor Nick's article) and I pray we love everyone like Jesus would, balancing grace and truth.

By Pastor Eli

HONDURAS PARTNERSHIP

FAR

It has been some time since we were last able to visit our brothers and sisters in El Guanacaste, Honduras as all travel was put on hold during the pandemic. Now restrictions on travel are slowly lifting, more people have had an opportunity to receive the Covid vaccine and cases of Covid are declining, allowing us to begin planning a trip to Honduras, hopefully in 2023.

If you are interested in joining a group from Calvary on the next trip to Honduras, or are just curious about what a trip is all about please speak with Mateo DeKam, Steve Abbring or Linda Marcus.



SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

Interview with
Jonathan
Posthuma



NEAR

Where do you work?

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. I started at the SPCO when I moved to the Twin Cities in 2015 and was first in their ticket office part-time, then their fundraising team full-time as a database coordinator, and now as the Artistic Planning Manager. This is a dream job that combines my passion for music with my skills as an arts administrator! I am so thankful that God has led me to work at the SPCO!

What are your roles and responsibilities?

As Artistic Planning Manager, I directly support the work of our Artistic Director, Kyu-Young Kim, who also plays principal violin in the orchestra. The SPCO is a unique orchestra because we are musician-led rather than having a full-time conductor. That means that the musicians are involved in every aspect of the organization from rehearsals and concerts without a conductor, to auditioning and hiring new musicians, to choosing music and planning projects for the next season. My role supports several of these musician committees in making these decisions and also works with the rest of the administrative team to coordinate all of the details that go into a successful concert. I also work directly with any guest artists and their managers by writing contracts, handling travel itineraries, managing the

artistic budget and expenses, and developing special projects such as commissions and artist residencies.

What are you currently working on that you are excited about?

We recently announced our 2022-23 season which I had a large part in shaping from the early stages of planning last fall. This involved a lot of research and conversation with musicians and guest artists to develop a season that is both exciting for the audience, engages musician and guest artist feedback, and is within our annual budget parameters. We have several exciting artists that represent the large diversity within our industry and have a lot of music by living or underrepresented composers. I am most excited about our Sandbox Residency project which invites composers to develop a new work over the course of several weeks with the orchestra. It is really exciting for the composer, the orchestra, and the audience because they can watch something develop from early sketches into the final piece of music. As a composer myself, it is fascinating to be an aide in that process.

What in your job reveals God's sphere sovereignty, and how do you see God at work in your job?

Like the psalmist, I take God's command to "sing a new song unto the LORD" very seriously! God created humans to express themselves through the arts and to worship Him through their creativity. I believe that the SPCO's mission to both be a world-class orchestra sharing engaging performances and also a community asset that is inclusive and accessible to everyone is a worthy calling that is aligned with a Christian worldview. Not only do we strive to hone our craft as musicians through diligent practice, but also share that talent with the community in the broadest possible way through digital concerts, free tickets for children and students, and the lowest ticket prices of any professional orchestra in the U.S. My role as Artistic Planning Manager is to create the best conditions possible for the SPCO musicians and guest artists to play their best and share their music with an audience. This involves not only a deep

understanding of music-making itself, but also developing the organizational and interpersonal skills to make good decisions in dialogue with everyone involved. Since we are a musician-led organization, it is very important to maintain a positive work culture with healthy communication especially when there are many moving pieces in planning an orchestra season with tight deadlines and expectations.

Are your co-workers Christians? Have you had opportunities to talk to them about what they believe? Have you been able to share your faith in Christ with them?

Although some of my coworkers are Christians, many are not or have different faiths or beliefs than me. I have shared my faith with coworkers since it overlaps with my career as a freelance composer and church musician. The SPCO is a secular, mission-based non-profit that seeks to be accessible to everyone in our community. I have never been discouraged to share my faith, but I also recognize that I must be willing to work with a wide array of musicians and organizations that have different worldviews. I also believe strongly that my background as a musician trained in the Reformed tradition gives me a clear understanding of the higher purpose and mission of the arts that translates into my work at the SPCO. In his "Lecture on Calvinism and Art," Abraham Kuyper asserts like Calvin that art is a gift of God and "that by it we might glorify God, and ennoble human life, and drink at the fountain of higher pleasures" and that being an artist is a "noble vocation of disclosing to man a higher reality than was offered to us by this sinful and corrupted world." Even though the music we program at the SPCO isn't always explicitly Christian (though we do Handel's Messiah each year and many sacred works too!), I believe that our music offers the solace, inspiration, and creative expression that Calvin and Kuyper see as coming from God the creator through inspired artists. This is what drives my own musical compositions and creativity and encourages me to facilitate the creativity of other musicians to share God's gift of music!

COMMUNITY BUILDING

16 things you didn't know about Dave and Julie Terpstra



1. Dave started life at the old First CRC in Minneapolis. His parents were one of the 17 families to organize Calvary CRC in 1961. Julie started life out in a Catholic parish in St. Paul MN, landed in a Baptist church in Bloomington at eight years old, then came to Calvary CRC in Bloomington at nine years old having been a VBS recruit from the neighborhood where the church was being built.
2. Dave and Julie met in fifth grade Sunday School at the old Bloomington Calvary CRC which was taught by David's Grandma Kamp.
3. Easter 2022 was their 50th anniversary of "sitting together" in worship!
4. Besides marrying and raising three children here at Calvary, they also are blessed to have all five grandchildren growing up here at Calvary. Hence the Soerens/A. Terpstra/Wingblade connection.
5. Dave took over teaching Sunday School from his Grandma when she retired, and has now taught for 41 years.
6. Dave spent his entire career at the same defense company as an engineer in many various roles and programs.
7. Dave was Chairman of the Chapel Hill Academy school board when they started/ incorporated Southwest Christian High School.
8. Dave was out of school 17 years before going back for his Masters in Manufacture Engineering.
9. Last fall Dave bought himself an E-Bike and has taken this up as a new outdoor hobby.
10. Dave is also a green woodworker.
11. Julie was a sharpshooter in high school, and taught Dave how to deer hunt.
12. Julie can't read music, but taught herself how to play the harmonica.
13. Julie has been a BSA scout leader and scout leader trainer of all scout skills, and wood lore for 35 years.
14. Julie was a Calvinette/GEMS counselor for twelve years and a Calvary Cadet leader for 22 years.
15. Julie also has an E-Bike as of last fall, but is much more comfortable on horseback.
16. Dave and Julie currently have their third Golden Retriever, third house cat, and also a temporary guest cat as well.

July Birthdays

July 1 Julie Terpstra	July 7 Connie Vander Top	July 23 Meg Moser, Eric Talsma
July 3 Shirley Attema	July 14 Dalen Asche	July 24 Hailey Miedema
July 4 Grace Soerens, Leon Van Der Pol	July 15 Hayden Veurink	July 27 Julia Kosters, Joseph Veurink
July 5 Deb Attema	July 17 Kari Zylstra	July 30 Willa Feikema
July 7 Jim De Penning	July 21 Shannon Soerens	July 31 Len Attema
	July 22 Pam Schmidt	

August Birthdays

Aug 3 Angela Orcutt	Aug 13 Karen De Kam	Aug 21 Norma Koster
Aug 4 Steve Groen, Sue Zwiers	Aug 14 Carol Rudie	Aug 23 Miles Beckering, Roseanne Van Marion
Aug 6 Abby Vis	Aug 15 Andrew Feikema	Aug 25 Heidi Van Hulzen Glenn Vander Top
Aug 7 William Harkema, Lily Van Beek	Aug 16 Daniel Stewart	Aug 26 Nathan Zwagerman
Aug 8 Kyla O'Donnell	Aug 19 Claire Beckering	Aug 29 Gabi Soerens
Aug 12 Todd Korthuis, Heiko Veldman, Christine Veurink	Aug 20 Darin Beckering, Marv Beekman	
	Aug 21 Jake Kamp	

Worship Service Schedule

Summer Series- Being Reformed:
Our World Belongs to God

July 3

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Redemption

Offering: Honduras Discretionary
Fund

July 10

Worship led by guest pastor:
Pastor Todd Zuidema
Christ

Offering: World Renew

July 17

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Spirit

Offering: TC SERVE

July 24

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Revelation

Offering: Christian Education
Fund

July 31

Worship led by Pastor Nick
God's New People (part 1)

Offering: Ministry Fund

August 7

Worship led by Pastor Nick
God's New People (part 2)

Offering: Urban Homeworks

August 14

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Mission (part 1)

Offering: SALT/Arrive Ministries

August 21

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Mission (part 2)

Offering: Christian Education
Fund

August 28

Worship led by Pastor Nick
The Mission (part 3)

Offering: Ministries Fund

CALVARY EVENTS HERE

THEREFORE MINISTRIES

ThereforeGo Ministries helps churches challenge youth and emerging adults to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and transform this world for him. ThereforeGo Ministries is a non-profit Christian ministry organization that focuses on assisting local congregations in their youth ministry through short-term mission trips and training.

What: Calvary along with Faith (New Brighton) will host Twin Cities SERVE, a mission trip for high school students. They will focus on the theme, Grateful, and the verse is "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. There will be 60 participants from around the country building relationships with each other while working at job sites, time of praise and worship and down time.

When: The week of July 30 - August 6

Who: You can help in various ways including providing food or helping at the local job sites. Contact the church office for more information!



Offering Totals:

4/24/22 to 6/5/22

GEMS- Grand Rapids: \$644.00

Calvary GEMS: \$420.00

Christian Education Fund:

\$2,183.36

VEAP: \$1,199.00

Children of the Promise:

\$986.75

Honduras Discretionary Fund:

\$2,189.35

Sytsma - Resonate Global:

\$2,488.77

Calvary Ministries Fund:


Actual Given: 6/1/21 to

5/31/22: \$634,107.91

Annual Budget: \$660,000



www.calvarytwincities.org

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