

**A Summary of the Primary Official Actions
taken by
The Board of Directors of the World Reformed Fellowship
at the
Meeting of the Board
in
Potchefstroom, South Africa
October 21 – 14, 2013**

The Next General Assembly of the World Reformed Fellowship

The date for the next WRF General Assembly is set for March 23-27, 2015, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It is anticipated that the Program for this Assembly will be focused on several of the official initiatives of the WRF and that Program details will be available at least one year prior to the Assembly.

New Members of the Board

Rev. Nam-Joon Kim (Seoul, South Korea) and Dr. Andrew McGowan (Inverness, Scotland) were approved for membership on the Board of Directors. Rev. Kim was nominated by Dr. In Whan Kim and Dr. McGowan was nominated by Professor Pierre Berthoud.

Characteristics and Responsibilities of members of the WRF Board of Directors

The following statement was approved by the Board and will be entered into the WRF Policies and Procedures Manual:

All WRF Board members should demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in their ecclesiastical, professional and personal lives. Some members should hold, or have held, a position of seniority in the Reformed community; others will have demonstrated their leadership in commerce, finance, industry and the like and especially in supporting and enabling Christian service. All Board members should regularly attend and participate in Board meetings and meetings of the General Assembly. All Board members should be responsive to requests from the International Director for assistance or involvement in specific projects or activities. All Board members should support the WRF financial themselves as well as through gifts in kind, and through encouraging other individuals, congregations or institutions to join and contribute financially to the WRF; through paying for their own travel costs where possible to Board and General Assembly meetings; and through providing venues or other resources for use at WRF events. Though financial criteria are not determinative in the qualification of Board members (as we do need a variety of gifts represented on the Board), as a guideline, each developed

world member of the WRF Board is encouraged to contribute at least \$7,500 annually to the ministry of the WRF as able, through direct financial gifts, or if not, through gifts in kind and through encouraging others to contribute. Each Board member should propose at the end of each year the ways in which they will contribute to the WRF in the coming year and report to the Chairman of the Board at the end of each year regarding the fulfillment of these goals.

Policy Regarding Assisting WRF Members Facing Difficult Circumstances

The following statement was approved by the Board and will be entered into the WRF Policies and Procedures Manual:

1. The World Reformed Fellowship may seek to assist WRF members who are facing difficult circumstances when possible and advisable. Such assistance by the WRF as an organization shall not include financial or material assistance, but shall be limited to calls for prayer and/or expressions of support or intercession directed to national governments, Christian organizations, or member bodies where such involvement is determined to be necessary or helpful.
2. Requests for such assistance may be received only from WRF members or member organizations or international organizations with whom WRF is in some form of mutually cooperative arrangement, who generate those requests based on personal knowledge or involvement.
3. Requests must be addressed through the International Director (ID) who will act as an initial filter.
4. Official requests from WRF member denominations or member organizations involving their own members will be given priority. WRF will assume the denomination or organization has done due diligence in investigating the circumstances surrounding the need. If the thinks it wise, the ID may conduct further investigation to authenticate the validity of the claims or the request. He may seek advice or consult with organizations which have international connections, such as the International Institute for Religious Freedom and the World Evangelical Alliance.
5. Requests for assistance from individual WRF members will be investigated at least by the following procedures:
 - a) The ID will solicit any clarification he thinks is needed;
 - b) He will seek clarification or validation from other sources familiar with the situation;

- c) He will circulate to the WRF Board or others for input;
- d) He will publish a proposed letter addressed to the person or persons to whom intercession may be directed;
- e) He will request the WRF membership to pray for the situation and persons involved.

6. The WRF will not intervene in criminal cases or in disputes between WRF members or organizations (that is for the Church to do) unless the matter is of sufficient importance that 1) the reputation of the church of Christ may be at stake or 2) it is a situation of clear religious persecution. In such cases WRF involvement will be limited to mediation requested by the party(ies) involved. The ID may appoint a commission to act as independent, impartial mediators.

7. Following the procedure outlined above, the ID may issue a public statement(s) on behalf of the WRF in lieu of or in addition to direct involvement as may seem wise. In all cases, the Executive Committee of the Board must approve any involvement or assistance or, when the entire Board is meeting, by the whole Board.

8. Assistance beyond intercession as stated above, such as material assistance, may only be done by individuals or organizations acting on their own. In some cases, at his discretion, the ID may notify the WRF membership of a particular need and encourage contribution be made to those directly in need, to be administered through approved WRF members or organizations, or those with whom WRF is in cooperation. Such appeals must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Policy Regarding Issuing Public Statements on Theological Issues

The following statement was approved by the Board and will be entered into the WRF Policies and Procedures Manual:

1. Ordinarily the WRF will not issue public statements on theological issues since the WRF is a fellowship and not a council. Councils routinely issue statements. A fellowship exists to allow members to interact with each other in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and trust. It is proper in a fellowship to discuss various topics and to offer help as members sort through what is a Biblical and sound, consistent theological position within our Reformed perspective.
2. Accordingly, matters that are not addressed by the Statement of Faith or contained in the other approved confessions accepted by the WRF, will not be subjects about which the WRF will take a public position. Rather our aim is to provide a forum

for issues to be debated and arguments to be presented and tested, with the goal of bringing the church at large to a sound consensus.

3. In those cases when an issue arises that deals with matters that strike at the essentials of the Christian Faith and the Gospel, the Board of Directors may elect to issue a statement of clarifying what is already contained in the WRF Statement of Faith, or in rare cases, an issue that requires a defense of the Gospel to the world.

4. The need for such a public statement or clarification must be agreed to by a two-thirds voting majority of the Board of the WRF. The Board may refer such a desired statement to the Theology Commission to speak on its behalf or it may appoint a special committee to write such a statement, which must then be approved by the Board. If a special committee is created, input from the Theology Commission is desirable both in the appointment of members and charge to the special committee and in the crafting of that committee's statement. Care must be taken in any case not to unnecessarily disturb the unity and peace of the Church or of WRF.

5. If it is deemed prudent, such statements may be adopted by the General Assembly at the time of a General Assembly meeting if they have first passed through a Board review and approval.

6. In the even that an issue arises which is determined to be of world concern and which strikes at the heart and essence of Christian faith and doctrine, which is not addressed by either the WRF's Statement of Faith or by any of the officially approved historic confessions, the WRF Board may by two-thirds voting majority, agree to study and assign the Theology Commission to write a "prophetic statement" for the edification and guidance of the Church at large. Such statement must be adopted by a two-thirds voting majority of the Board or by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly when it is in session.

7. We realize that the process of forming a Biblical consensus may take extended time and ultimately must be accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit who corrects and guides Christ's Church.

The Creation of a Board of Reference

The statement was approved by the Board and will be added to the WRF By-Laws:

A WRF Council of Reference shall be formed to support the work of the WRF. The WRF Board shall determine from time to time who and how many persons should be included on the Council of Reference.

The following statement was approved by the Board and will be entered into the WRF Policies and Procedures Manual:

All members of the Council of Reference should demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in their professional and personal lives and generally should hold, or have held, a position of seniority in the Reformed community. All members of the Council of Reference will lend their names and reputations to encourage support of the WRF. All members of the Council of Reference should attend and participate in meetings of the WRF General Assembly when possible. All members of the Council of Reference should be responsive to requests from the International Director for counsel and assistance on specific projects or activities. All member of the Council of Reference should support the WRF financially through encouraging other individuals, congregations or institutions to join and contribute financially to the WRF.