

Council Notes (March 2018)

- The pastor search committee has met several times to continue considering ministers who have been recommended to our congregation or who have shown interest on their own. The committee's work is ongoing and there will be more of an update at the Spring congregational meeting.
- Council accepted a recommendation of an ad-hoc committee (with the leg work done by Pastor Joe) to endorse requesting the denomination to place *The New City Catechism* into the category of *Contemporary Testimony*. Synod 2017 adopted the new category of Contemporary Testimony and gave it the following definition: A contemporary testimony is a dynamic statement of faith that serves the CRCNA—its congregations and members—as an important statement that speaks to essential matters in a given time period. It is useful for study, faith formation, teaching, and worship. *The New City Catechism* consists of 52 questions and answers that are clear, concise, and include similar content to the Heidelberg Catechism. Its format consists of the familiar Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration sequence and its content includes specific topics such as the 10 Commandments, Prayer, and the Sacraments. *The New City Catechism* is particularly appealing because its format and style communicates these teachings in a way that is especially helpful to children and youth. Though council's request of classis to endorse this recommendation was turned down at the Spring classis meetings, Council is exercising its right to submit this request directly to the next possible Synod. More information on *The New City Catechism* can be found at www.newcitycatechism.com or by speaking to Pastor Joe.
- Council was informed that we did not get matched with a Calvin Seminary Student to intern with us over the summer. We will be using pulpit supply over the next couple of months while council considers how best to fill the pulpit going forward.