



VOL. 23, No. 1 "The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ Her Lord" Winter – 2009/2010



SO, YOU ARE THE CHURCH!

(Are you part of the stimulus package?)

Remember when we used to sing "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together"? ...OR when we used hand motions as children and sang "Here is the church here is the steeple; open it up and see all the people"? Our



seminaries have written reams of dialogue about the church and most of us have heard many such lectures. Times have changed, and we're now even talking about high-tech church with 'on line worship' and internet 'virtual church'! It continues to be an engaging question: **Who Is the Church?**

We know from Scripture that the church is the body of Christ, fitly framed together. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts. We read in the *Contemporary Testimony**1 that "the church is the fellowship of those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. She is the bride of Christ, his chosen partner, loved by Jesus and loving him: delighting in his presence, seeking him in prayer, silent before the mystery of his love." (Rev. 21:9, I Peter 2:4-10, Eph. 2, Col. 1:1-23; 3:1-17).

Two recent religious journals highlight avenues for how the church should figure out a way to regain our spot back in the heart of the community. An innovative architect says it is time for churches to serve their communities by restoring sacred spaces to the public square*2. In church planting, some pastors are bivocational, pastoring the community – not just the church. Tent-making ministry is essential to fulfilling the Great Commission *3. Are you stimulating folks to think 'outside the box'? **So, Who is the Church?**

Glenn DeMots, retired CEO of Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, MI and member of CORC, wrote in a fund-raising letter about Bethany as "The Church" for their Open Arms Project. We sat over breakfast on a cool Michigan morning in October to discuss the concept. Our CORC agencies have a combined operation budget of more than \$350 million dollars, with much of it coming from our CRC, RCA and other evangelical churches. In a very real sense, our CORC organizations are also the church. In his book, Loving God, Charles Colson states, "The church is meant to care for others out of obedience to Christ, to heal those who hurt, to take away fear, and to proclaim the good news." **We are the Church!!**

Source: *1 *Our World Belongs To God # 38 – Psalter Hymnal*; *2 *Leadership Journal, Fall, 2009*; *3 *Outreach, July – August, 2009*

ELECTRONIC MAILING

As was indicated in our last *Charities* newsletter, we have decided to send our newsletters by way of today's electronic technology. Emerging technology, stewardship and efficiency are driving factors for us to communicate via this method. You can find past and future issues at our web site: www.corc.org. With this present issue, we are not mailing a printed copy but we are sending it electronically to each of the denomination churches, as a one-time courtesy of the denomination offices. You are invited to subscribe, free of charge, of course! *Should you ignore the subscription request, you will not receive future email from CORC!* **WE REQUEST THAT YOU GO TO OUR HOME PAGE** to learn more about the different organizations that are in the Directory on the back page (4). You will also find a copy of our CORC book, which was published in 2007. **Christian Compassion: How We Respond** can be ordered at the web site, if you have not yet received your copy. Authored by Meindert Bosch, this is a valuable resource for the churches in ministering to those who need additional assistance in our commitment to provide dignity and worth at every level and to give the 'cup of water' in Jesus' name. If you have questions, contact anyone of the member agencies or the executive director of the Council of Reformed Charities at corcgroen@aol.com. ***We are the church with you!***



CORC ANNUAL MEETING SLATED FOR TRINITY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE SITE – April 25 – 27

The **Council of Reformed Charities** is scheduled to hold its Annual Meeting the last weekend of April at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL. The program agenda will focus on developing a strategic plan for our purpose statement that was refined and finalized at our last year's annual meeting in CA. Member agencies send representatives to these conferences that are purposed to be informational, inspirational, and supportive in their venue. A business meeting is also part of the Conference agenda.

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There is a subscribe page created on our website for your convenience to view information about the Council of Reformed Charities and other articles that will be of interest to you. *Charities* is our **FREE Semi-Annual Newsletter** to which pastors and other Christian leaders are now able to subscribe. ***Please leave us your contact information to subscribe.*** Please enter your name, address and email address into the form. Click subscribe and you will be added as a subscriber.

(Past issues can also be reviewed by going to www.corc.org)

Name	
Address/City/St/Zip	
Email	<input type="button" value="Send"/>

Please Link Up Today and learn more about CORC that is an organization that recently celebrated its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary with the publishing of a book. Besides celebrating CORC history, the book provides information about the member agencies and the variety of services provided. The different ministries are supported CRC and RCA churches throughout the country. Folks are often amazed to learn about the volume of services provided through council agencies. Your church can benefit in assistance from these agencies who are rooted in the Scriptural foundations of Reformed .

You will want to learn more about CORC!

TWENTY-THIRD PSALM FOR TODAY'S LEADERS

The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want. He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining.
He reminds me that he is my source and not my job.
He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that I might honor him in all that I do.
Even though I face absurd amounts of email, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks,
gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every
morning, I still will not stop -- for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power will see me
through. He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.
He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.
His Faithfulness and Love is better than any bonus check
His Retirement Plan Beats Any 401K There Is!
When it's all said and done, "I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer
and for that, I BLESS HIS NAME!!!! - Author Unknown

QUOTE BY JOHN ORTBERG

*"What do people learn from you about the Christian life?
Sometimes it's what you never intended to teach."*

INFORMATION ABOUT CORC? GO TO OUR WEB SITE: WWW.CORC.ORG

Not only can you link to member agency websites, but you also will be able to review much information from bylaws to organization and governance of the Council of Reformed Charities and past *Charities* newsletters. In 2007, CORC published a book *Christian Compassion: How We Respond*. You are able to order this book on line as well.

Member organizations can obtain more detailed information regarding committee meeting minutes, bi-monthly bulletins, financial information, etc. with the use of a member password that can be obtained by contacting the executive director.

CHURCHES: NEED HELP?? PLEASE CONTACT AN APPROPRAITE AGENCY

So often, issues come to the church office or to its leaders and there is serious discussion and search for compassionate ways to respond. ***Where do we look? Who do we contact? How to we proceed? What is the next step?***

In many instances, we have a CORC member organization near your location or at least within reach of your telephone. Have you checked out our website lately? Seriously! We encourage you to examine the site and all the different services that are available to your church and the leadership. ***Even if you are not sure which agency that you should contact, ask the executive director of any agency and he/she can refer you to an appropriate one for your needs.***

The late Reverend Jacob D. Eppinga, former pastor in the Christian Reformed Church was a keynote speaker at our CORC Annual Meeting in 1988. His address dealt with the whole concept of what it means to be a Reformed organization. He emphasized that the watch-words of Kuyperian Calvinism are "Kingdom", "Covenant" and "Antithesis". Having just spent a year in celebration of the life of John Calvin, those words ring true for most of us. CORC member agencies still operate out of a conscious Reformed World and Life View.



CORC Organization and Governance

Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010

The Council of Reformed Charities (CORC) is a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization that is comprised of organizations and individuals who are in agreement with the Five Affirmations of the Reformation, namely: Scripture Alone, Christ Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and to God Alone. This organization was officially organized in 1988, but informal meetings were held as early as the 1950's. Membership is governed with a set of Bylaws and Annual meetings are scheduled in different regions of the United States of America where member organizations are located. CORC is licensed in the state of Michigan. Services delivered by CORC agencies can be viewed on its web page. The web page has both a public and a password protected category. Officers are elected by the full member agency CEO's who are the Board of Directors. Standing Committees are appointed by the Executive Officers and approved by the BOD. Questions regarding specific required services may be addressed by contacting the individual agency directors listed in the directory. Executive Director is exofficio.

Executive Officers:

Bill Lodewyk, *President*
Jonathan Bradford, *Vice-President*
Marisa Geitner, *Secretary*
Dan Copeland, *Treasurer*
George Groen, *Executive Director*

Membership Committee:

Jonathan Bradford, *Chairman*
Doug Struyk
Dan De Groot
Jim VanderKamp
David VanNingen

Communication Committee:

Jim Schlottman, *Chairman*
Sam Beals
Don Distelberg
Gary Stedman
Marlowe Van Ginkle

Nomination Committee:

David Stienstra, *Chairman*
Andrew Lee
Rich Schutt
Marlowe Van Ginkle

Publications and Symbol:

Charities can be found on line. While this newsletter had been traditionally printed four times per year, a decision was made in 2009 to provide only a *Spring/Summer* and a *Fall/Winter* issue that will be on the web page. Newsletters from previous years can also be found at the web site.

Particles is a bulletin for members only and can be accessed via the internet with the use of a password given to those members and other selected recipients. This is a bi-monthly bulletin that gives opportunity for CORC members to keep in touch with each other. Password is required!

Book that was published in 2008 is entitled Christian Compassion: How We Respond. The book brings into focus the work of the Council of Reformed Charities and can be ordered on line as referenced on our web site.

Logo – The dove in flight, emanating from the cross and its message of Christian mercy, symbolizes the spirit of Christ at work through council agencies in their "Caring Thru Service." The three olive branches reflect the concept of peace (*love*) with God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Life has no greater purpose.

Contact Information

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MAY THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS AND THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE YOURS IN THIS YEAR!!

