



THE WORLD REFORMED FELLOWSHIP

*A Case
Statement*

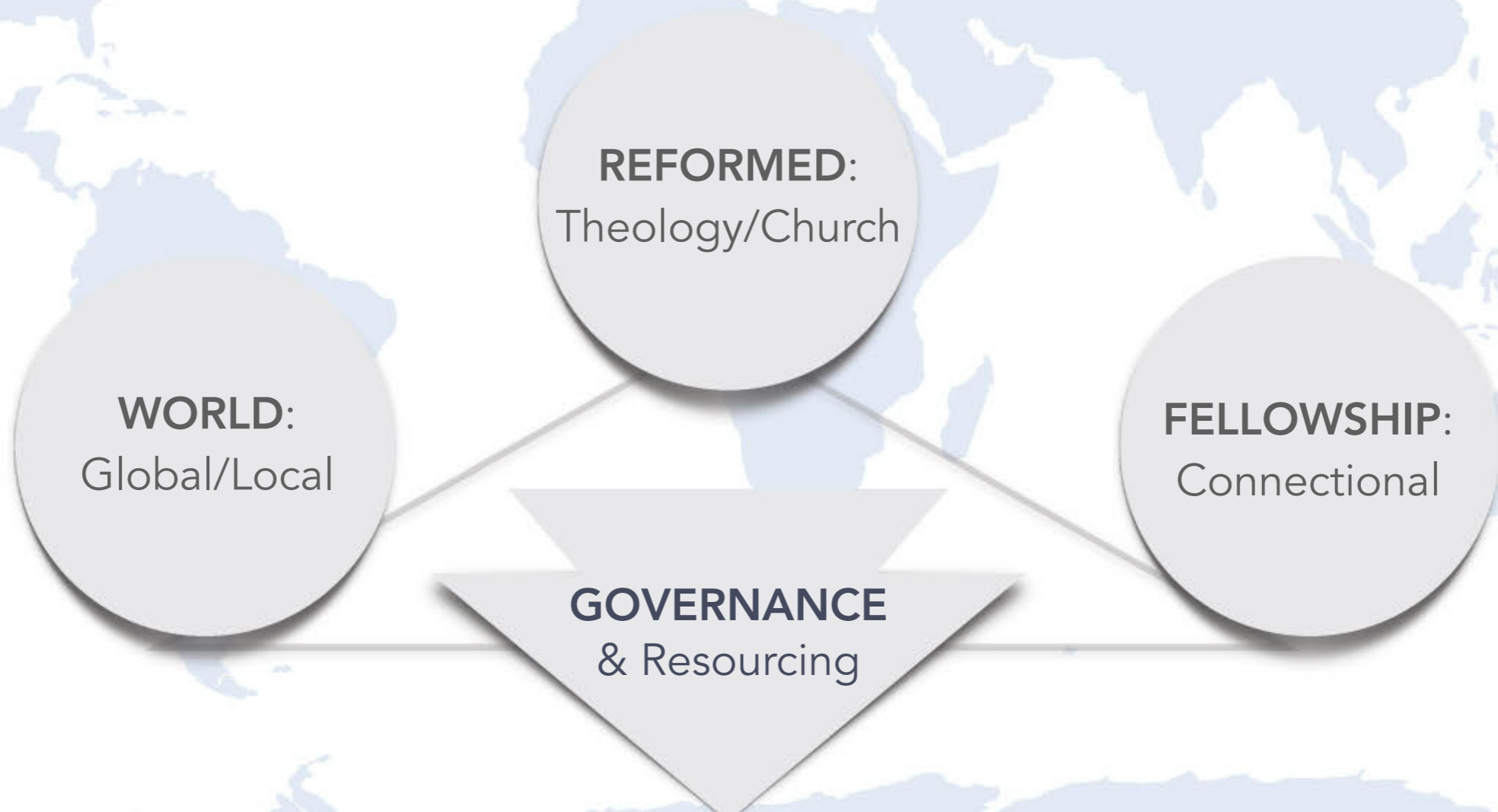
2024



WRF's Identity:

Advancing Reformed Partnerships Worldwide

That the strengths of some might become the strengths of all in the service of Jesus Christ (see Eph 4: 11 - 13)



GLORIFY

PROCLAIM

SERVE

PROMOTE

Objectives

WHY A WORLD REFORMED FELLOWSHIP?

- The **mission** of the World Reformed Fellowship is to promote understanding, cooperation and sharing of resources among our membership of evangelical and reformed Christians in the advancement of the Gospel.
- The **vision** of the WRF is simple: "That the strengths of some might become the strengths of all in the service of Jesus Christ" (see Paul's prayer in Ephesians 4: 11 - 13).

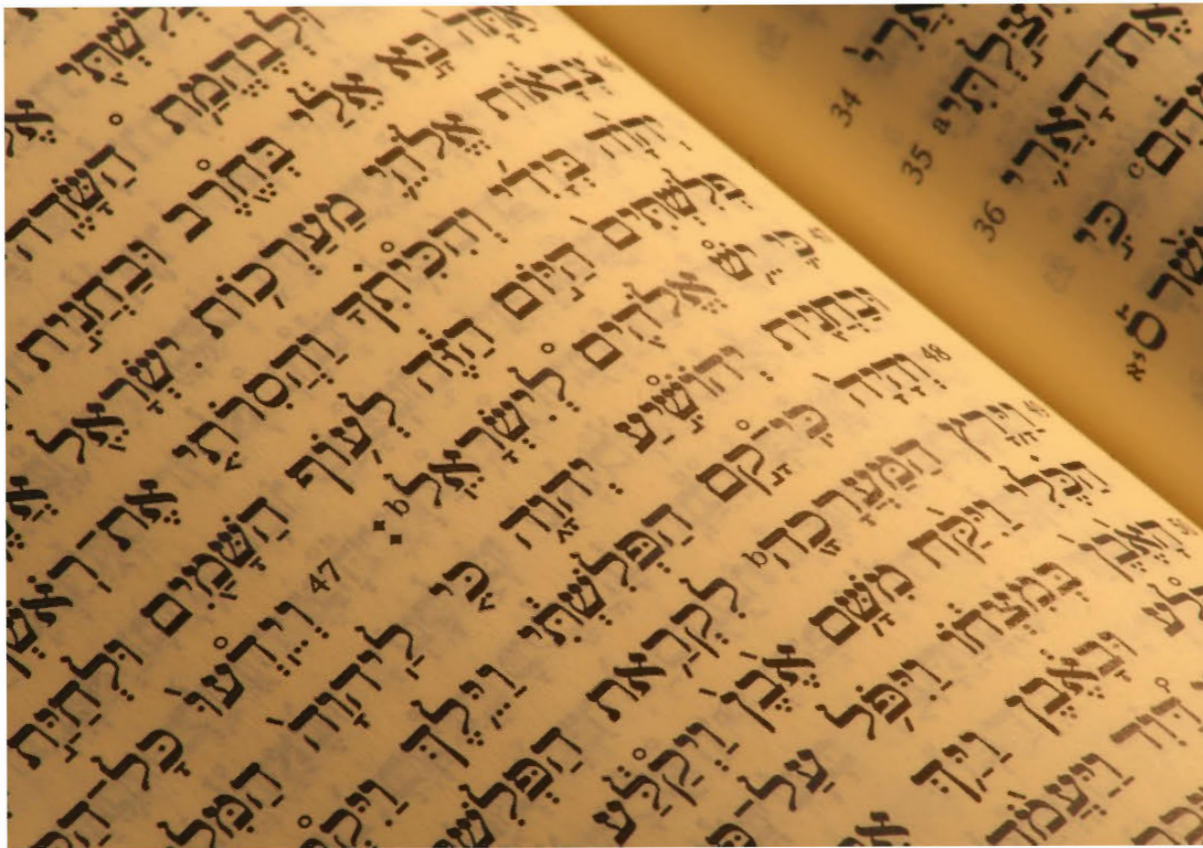
The Biblical and Confessional Foundation of the World Reformed Fellowship

The WRF vision is to live out one of the clearly stated but often neglected themes of the great Reformed confessions of the church. The Westminster Confession of Faith (XXV, 2) affirms that there is a visible universal church which "consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion." The Belgic Confession (Article 27) emphasizes that "the one single catholic or universal church . . . is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain persons. But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world."

While specific regional or national expressions of the universal church do, in many ways, embody characteristics of the Body of Christ, there are other characteristics of that Body which transcend those expressions. It is those other characteristics that the WRF seeks to set forth in its commitments and in its activities.

The Affirmations of the World Reformed Fellowship

- The essence of the true religion (and of Reformed theology) is adoration and worship of the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- This Triune God is worthy of the praise and service of all of creation
- Christians in many places and many denominations who share these first two commitments will find their worship and service of the Lord God enhanced by contact with others of like mind



The Formal Doctrinal Basis of the World Reformed Fellowship

- We *affirm* the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the God-breathed Word of God, without error in all that it affirms.
- We *stand* in the mainstream of the historic Christian Faith in affirming the following catholic creeds of the Early Church: The Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Chalcedonian Definition.
- More specifically, every voting member of the WRF *affirms* at least one of the following historic expressions of the Reformed Faith:

The Gallican Confession

The Belgic Confession

The Heidelberg Catechism

The Thirty-Nine Articles

The Second Helvetic Confession

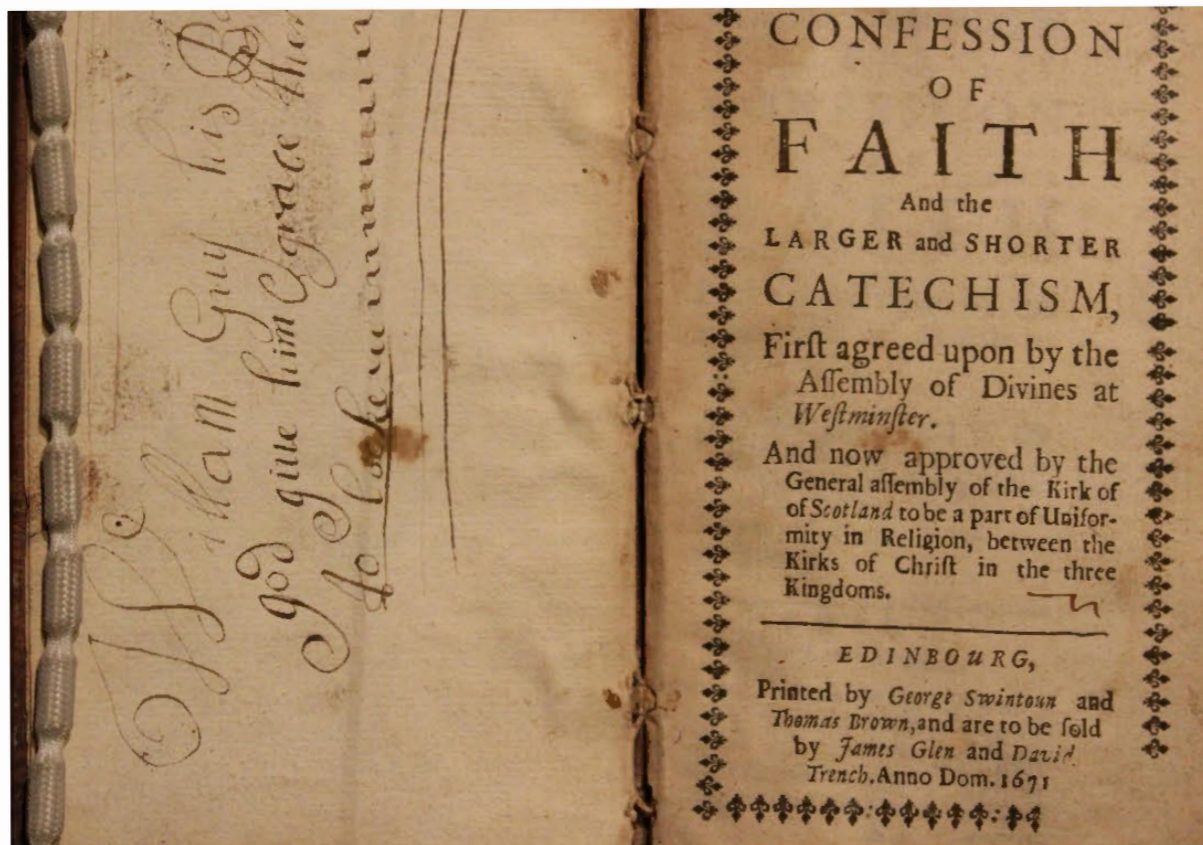
The Canons of Dort

The Westminster Confession of Faith

The London Confession of 1689

The Savoy Declaration

The WRF Statement of Faith.



A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

The *World Fellowship of Reformed Churches* (WFRC) was created in 1994, under the leadership of the *Presbyterian Church in America*, the *Presbyterian Church of Brazil* and the *National Presbyterian Church of Mexico*. They were joined by other churches from Latin America, India, East Africa and the United States of America.

Also in the early nineteen nineties, churches in Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan and other parts of Asia came together to form the *International Reformed Fellowship* (IRF).

On October 24, 2000, leaders from the WFRC and the IRF gathered in Orlando (Florida, USA) to form the first truly reformed, evangelical, worldwide fellowship, naming it the *World Reformed Fellowship* (WRF) and establishing its governing structure and Bylaws.

Nearing its twenty-fifth anniversary, WRF has a growing membership of over 80+ denominational members (in 29 countries), 75+ congregational members (in 24 countries), 150+ organizational members (in 27 countries), and 500+ individual members (in 52 countries). Considering all four categories, WRF has a footprint that covers at least 79 nations and around ten million souls.





LEADERSHIP

Executive Leadership (Past and Present)



Dr. Davi Charles Gomes
International Director (CEO)
2017 to present



Mrs. Karen V. C. Jansson
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
2010 to present



Dr. Paul R. Gilchrist
Executive Secretary
2000 to 2005
Executive Secretary Emeritus
2005



Dr. Samuel Logan
International Director (CEO)
2005 to 2015
Associate International Director
2015 to present



Dr. P. J. (Flip) Buys
Associate International Director
2010 to 2015
International Director (CEO)
2015 to 2017

Chairmen of the Board (Past and Present)



Dr. K. Eric Perrin
2000 to 2016



Dr. Solano Portela
2016 to 2017

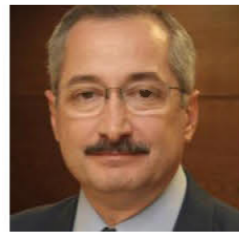


Dr. Robert Norris
2017 to present

Board of Directors 2022-2026



Andrew McGowan
(Scotland)



Antonio Cabrera
(Brazil)



Cameron Shaffer
(USA)



Benyamin Intan
(Indonesia)



Dean Weaver
(USA)



Fergus Macdonald
(Scotland)



Henk Stoker
(South Africa)



Hiralal Solanki
(India)



Jack Whytock
(Canada)



John McClean
(Australia)



John Wilson
(Australia)



Jong Gu Lim
(South Korea)



Karen Jansson
(USA)



Kin Yip Louie
(Hong Kong)



Koos Richards
(South Africa)



Mauro Meister
(Brazil)



Pierre Berthoud
(France)



Ric Cannada
(USA)



Risimati Hobyane
(South Africa)



Robert Norris
(USA)



Ron Scates
(USA)



Sichan Siv
(USA)



Solano Portela Neto
(Brazil)



Sueng Hee Lee
(South Korea)



Todd Smedley
(USA)



Young Gyu Ko
(S. Korea/Brazil)

Services

WHAT DOES WRF DO?

For those who share our affirmations and our doctrinal base, the World Reformed Fellowship seeks to provide:

- A **network** for communication and sharing of ministry resources
- A **forum** for dialogue among such Christians on current issues
- A **catalyst** for sharing the unique spiritual and theological perspectives that different parts of the global church have within the reformed tradition

The World Reformed Fellowship makes the distinction of being a fellowship, not a council (Bylaws, Preamble)

The World Reformed Fellowship recognizes that barriers of distance, culture and language often make it difficult for a church to develop and maintain binding ties with a church or churches of another country, which is essential to the conciliar model. A fellowship provides the context in which churches, ministries and institutions may become acquainted with each other, and where their leaders may develop friendships and trusting relationships leading to closer, mutually beneficial cooperation. Members of a fellowship are not obligated formally to be responsible for one another's positions or actions, but in an atmosphere of free association, may lovingly influence each other toward greater consistency in biblical faith and witness.

The World Reformed Fellowship acts to foster Reformed partnerships worldwide (Bylaws, art. 3):

- Promoting Reformed thinking and a Reformed world and life view
- Informing and encouraging churches and people who embrace the Reformed faith
- Offering direction to the evangelical Reformed community
- Fostering evangelization and missions in the Reformed tradition
- Aid the Church in maintaining, strengthening, promoting and defending the sound doctrines and biblical and theological tenets that distinguish us as Reformed Christians

WORLD REFORMED FELLOWSHIP

WRF's Strategic Goals 2023-26:

GOVERNANCE
& Resourcing

1

To increase WRF's
GLOBAL FOOTPRINT
in church and society

2

To increase WRF's
global reformed
CONNECTEDNESS

4

Strategic
GOALS

3

To foster MISSIONAL
REVITALIZATION

4

To promote actual &
globally RELEVANT
reformed theology