A CALVINIST REVOLUTION
FOR THE 21st CENTURY?

For Ecumenical Renewal in the Reformed Family
A Defining Moment for Reformed Christians

Can it be a moment that enhances both our Reformed gifts and our Ecumenical Calling?
THE CALVIN JUBILEE 2009

- 500 Years since the Birth of our Founder

- What has Calvin’s Legacy to offer Reformed Christians for the Ecumenical Journey in our Time?
JOHN CALVIN
AN ENCOUNTER ABOUT CALVIN IN MEXICO

- No Desire to Praise Calvin or to Recreate 16th Century Geneva

ELEMENTS OF CALVIN’S LEGACY

- The Gift of Communion and Unity
- The Word of God as the Authoritative Witness to Jesus Christ
- The Sovereignty of God
ELEMENTS OF CALVIN’S LEGACY

- The Concern for the Well Being of the Human Community as our Vocation
- Respect for God’s Created Order
- The “Third Use of the Law”
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

Not Just an Appreciation for the Theological Vision – still fresh in our times

Also a deep learning from the practices, priorities, and ethos of the Reformation for how we conduct our ministry as a contribution to the Church Ecumenical.
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

1. Preaching the Gospel and interpreting the Word of God regularly and with power.
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

2. Pastorally caring about the Church and the Community
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

3. Engaging in a Public Ministry to Ensure a “Social Safety Net’ for the Dispossessed and to Welcome Immigrants.
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

4. Creating the Academy of Geneva (and through it training the leaders of the Global Reformed Movement)
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

5. Building Up the Church as a Community of Shared Leadership in Discernment and Witness to the World.
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

6. Upholding the Gift of Communion
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

7. Doing Serious Theology and Shaping the Contours of Reformed Theology for Centuries to Come
COMPONENTS OF A CALVINIST REVOLUTION

8. Exhibiting that Ministry is Always Local …. And Global
CALVIN AS A TRANSFORMING LEADER

1. A Powerful Preacher
2. A Caring Pastor
3. A Committed Ecumenist
4. A Prophetic Leader
5. An Educator and a Theologian
6. A Good Communicator

With a Global Vision and a Deep Centering in the Reformed Tradition
A CALVINIST REVOLUTION IN THE 21st CENTURY

- Our Mexican Colleagues were Right
- Gifts we need in the 21st Century
- Can’t easily replicate Calvin, but can live out our own Calvinist Revolution
- In our Local Congregations and Communities
- In the World Reformed Movement
- In the Church Ecumenical
WORLD ALLIANCE (COMMUNION) OF REFORMED CHURCHES

- This is Why We Have a World Alliance (soon to be World Communion)

- To be a Global Expression of our Commitment Together as Reformed Christians to a Calvinist Revolution in our Time
WORLD ALLIANCE (COMMUNION) OF REFORMED CHURCHES

- Always to be understood as one step on our journey toward the unity of Christ’s Church

- “To be Reformed is to be Ecumenical”
WORLD ALLIANCE (COMMUNION) OF REFORMED CHURCHES

To Powerfully Preach the Gospel and to Articulate the Great Truths of Scripture and the Reformed Faith to our Churches, to the Church Ecumenical and to the World

(The Reason for the Calvin Jubilee)
WORLD ALLIANCE (COMMUNION)
OF REFORMED CHURCHES

To Pastorally Care for the “Least of our Brothers and Sisters” throughout the World

(Victims of Gender Violence and Discrimination, Those with HIV/AIDS, Those Suffering Human Rights Abuses)
WORLD ALLIANCE (COMMUNION) OF REFORMED CHURCHES

To Promote the Unity of Christ’s Church

(with Catholics, Orthodox, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Independent Churches, and within the Reformed Family and to Build Bridges with Other Faith Communities)
A Global Coming Together of the Reformed Family in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 18–27, 2010

In a Time of Fragmentation and Division in Church and World, an Important Witness to the Unity that Christ Intends for Us All.
WORLD ALLIANCE (COMMUNION) OF REFORMED CHURCHES

To be a Prophetic Voice for Reformed Churches for Justice and Peace

(Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth as our Core Calling)
A CALVINIST REVOLUTION IN THE 21st CENTURY

- The Calvin Jubilee 2009 as an Opportunity to Renew the Reformed Faith

- To enable us to “cross 10 Seas” for the Unity of Christ’s Church.