

Early Modern Reformed Theology

Research Programme

2012—2017

Theological University Apeldoorn
&
Theological University Kampen

Programme leader:

prof.dr. F. van der Pol

Secretary:

drs. C.T. Boerke

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1. Introduction of the Programme

Both Apeldoorn and Kampen have built up a long tradition of Reformation research and the experts of these institutions are internationally respected as high-quality scholars in this field. Reason for this is that they connect theology and history which has become a quite unique phenomenon among developments in Early Modern Studies, in which social history on the Reformation era often lack the theological dimension.

For this reason it is desirable that this line of research on the theology as well as on the history of the Reformation be continued and strengthened. The relevance for churches wishing to stand in this tradition of the Reformation is evident, but this also counts for politics and culture in a society that in its present state is still strongly defined by the reformation movements of the sixteenth century.

In our subprogram 'Reformation' we concentrate mainly on the theology of Philipp Melanchthon, the universal scholar and most prominent companion of Martin Luther. In the field of ethics, education and ecumenical activities, there is renewed interest in this influential humanist and Reformer. In cooperation with various international institutes and scholars we take part in the historical-critical edition of his Opera Theologica to explore the outstanding contribution of this systematic religious and church political thinker, who constantly strove to reunite Christianity.

As a consequence of the Reformation, in many European countries new confessions were established. This constellation was influenced by Melanchthon and his scholars. In the subprogramme 'Reformation' we explore how the making of confessions was influenced by Melanchthon's disciple Ursinus, esp. the Heidelberg Catechism. Connected dissertation projects and scientific conferences also take up the theme of Melanchthon's significance and relevance.

The developments of modern technology, digital access to sources, and knowledge of the classical languages provide a challenge to international research of high profile. Within the subprogramme 'Reformation' we started another important project, the Calvin Edition in the Digital Era. In several subprojects we have taken up the exploration of publications of John Calvin, leading Reformer of the early modern age, and make his works international available in a digital network.

We further study the impact of the Reformation on liturgy, perception of time, and 'Theologiegeschichte'. Why, by whom, and how changed the Reformation the traditional way of prayer and dividing up the day? What are the focal points for personal spiritual commitment and the sanctification of time? Besides these questions the educational standards for theological study will be studied in the international topic 'Transkonfessionelle Theologiegeschichte der Frühen Neuzeit', which deals with theological professional identities.

The above mentioned projects represent characteristically Reformed concerns of both our universities. Just as much has the line from the reception of the Reformation to Reformed Orthodoxy been in the focus of research in Apeldoorn and Kampen. We are convinced that the further elaboration of Reformed theology in the subsequent centuries is important for Reformed theology today. Our research focuses on theological texts rooted in early modern universities, however gives also place for discussing the question how Reformed scholastic theology relates to the diverse (international) pietistic movements of the same era. In the here presented research subprogramme Reformed theology from the period of ca. 1560-1750 is being treated as an independent way of receiving and developing the insights of the Reformation, and as an important link in Reformed theological tradition. Whereas some foreign research centers (Tübingen, Toronto, Tucson e.o.) concentrate on the relation

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between the Middle Ages and the Reformation, will this subprogramme also internationally be the first to directly link the Reformation with Reformed scholasticism and Reformed pietism.

In the subproject 'Dordrecht' we research the sources, theology and influence of the Synod of Dordrecht 1618-19, parallel to the producing of a critical edition of all the documents of this confessional marking synod in their original languages (mostly Latin, but some in Dutch, English, German and French) through an international team of institutions and scholars. Connected dissertation projects and scientific conferences also take up the theme. From Kampen and Apeldoorn a substantial contribution is made for a new Latin-English critical edition of 'Synopsis purioris Theologiae', a representative textbook of the early period of Reformed Orthodox theology around the Synod of Dordrecht 1618-19. The subproject of this new edition with extensive introductions and annotations is implemented by the Research Group of Classic Reformed Theology with participants from the Netherlands, Belgium, Great-Britain and Canada.

Our research group has further the intention to work on the theme of theological education in the Netherlands (1575-1750), and on the doctrine of predestination as a substantial example of the research within the field of Reformed orthodoxy. Taking up the issue of Reformed pietistic visions, the reformed orthodox theologian Simon Oomius (1630-1706) is to be studied. We try to understand his views about spiritual leadership, everyday ethics, interpretation of (church)history, philosophy, and political identity. Connected dissertation projects also take up this theme.

Interdisciplinarity is inherent to all these projects and this means that cooperation with other faculties in humanities can be developed on the basis of already existing cooperations for example with the VU University (Amsterdam) and the FU University of Berlin, and with other institutes, mentioned in the rubric 'embedding' of the various subprojects. In case interdisciplinarity is understood as collaboration within theological departments the same possibilities of connections count. The history of exegesis and the use made of the Reformation in dogmatics and practical theology play an evident role in this programme. The edition of the Acts of the Synod of Dordt open up common projects with practical theology, church polity and dogmatics. Within the project "Reformed Orthodoxy" theological topics are dealt with that can be thought through in cooperation with neighboring disciplines.

The integration will especially be sought by means of a series of bi-annual conferences and following book publication to which every subprogramme contributes and enriches the chosen theme. Since most projects are part of international networks in their field, perspectives from non-Reformed and non-theological positions can easily be tied into these integral conferences.

2. Composition and Research Input

Academic staff

A. Tenured staff

Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer
Dr. W.A. den Boer
Prof.dr. F. van der Pol
Prof.dr. H.J. Selderhuis
Dr. A. Huijgen (until end Dec. 2013)

B. Non-tenured staff

Dr. H.A. Speelman
Dr. R.T. te Velde (until Sept 2014)

C. PhD-candidates

D.Timmerman M.A (until March 2014: dissertation)

Other researchers

Associated researchers

Dr. A. Bas

External PhD-candidates

Drs. C.T. Basoski
Drs. G.H. Gim
Drs. M. Golverdingen (until March 2014: dissertation)
Drs. C.T. de Groot
A. van Harten, MA
Drs. J.K. Kim (until Dec 2012: dissertation)
Th. Klöckner, MA
Drs. B.S. Koo
Drs. M.J. Langhout
P. Roberts, MDiv

Secretary

Drs. C.T. Boerke

3. Standard Regulations and Procedures

1. The Programme Leader, assisted by his Secretary, is responsible for making policy and executing initiatives that have been proposed and/or adopted by the group. The Programme Leader will pay particular interest to the academic interaction and exchange between members of the research group, in order to stimulate cooperation, especially between junior and senior scholars. The Programme Leader is member of the Research Committee of both universities.

2. Each year seven meetings are organized:

- *February, September, November:*

a meeting of the research staff and external PhD-candidates; during this meeting chapters written by PhD-students or articles by the research staff will be discussed;

(as much as possible) on the same day in

- *February, September, November:*

a business meeting of the research staff; the meeting in September provides an opportunity to conduct an annual review and to establish new policy directives;

- *May:*

an annual motivation day of the research staff and external PhD-candidates with (an) invited speaker(s) from outside TUA/TUK (depending on the possibilities, this conference can be planned later in the year, changing the date with a regular meeting).

3. Proposals for doctoral research are discussed for approbation in a meeting of the research staff.

4. Supervisors give direction to their AIOs and PhD-students and have to safeguard the quality and progress of the research of their junior researchers in agreement with the specific guidelines of their own university.

5. All members of the research group write an annual report to the Programme Leader which includes a statement of progress of their research, a survey of publications (both academic, professional, and popularizing), and conference papers related to the research projects. This report has to be handed in before 31 December of that year. In January-February of the following year the Programme Leader has individual contact with the senior members of the research staff (the chair holders are responsible for their AIOs and PhD-students) on the basis of these reports.

6. Each year an annual report is composed by the Secretary on the basis of the reports of the members, discussed by the research staff, and then sent to the individual Governing Boards of both universities.

4. PROGRAMME

4.1 SUBPROGRAMME REFORMATION

4.1.1 Ecumenical theology: The theology of Philipp Melanchthon connecting church and science

Renewed interest in the work of Philipp Melanchthon relates to the importance of his theology and philosophy for present issues in church, education and science, but also with a re-orientation on the theology and history of Calvinism, in which Melanchthon and his students played an important role. Research into his theology has so far been limited and one-sided, which also was caused by the lack of a critical edition of his works. The TUA has through the Institute for Reformationresearch together with the European Melanchthonacademy (Bretten, Germany) initiated the critical edition of Melanchthon's works and stimulates around this project conferences, lectures, bookprojects and dissertations.

Subprojecten:

1. *Opera Omnia Melanchthonis*

a. Researcher

Prof.dr. H.J.Selderhuis

b. Description

Ever since 1897 a critical edition of the works of Philipp Melanchthon was planned, but it is not until now that this project will start to be realized through a cooperation of various institutions and scholars within RefoRC, the academic section of Refo500.

c. Aim

Goal of the project is the historical-critical edition of the Opera Philosophica et Theologica of Philipp Melanchthon. His oeuvre consists of a multitude of works on a great variety of topics which have been of enormous and lasting influence on church, university and society through the ages. Now after two years of intense preparation and discussion on editorial and bibliographical issues, a critical edition of Melanchthon is ready to start and will be published by De Gruyter.

d. Embedding

Refo500-partners Melanchthon-Akademie Bretten, Interdisziplinäres Zentrum ‚Mittelalter – Renaissance – Frühe Neuzeit‘ of the Freie Universität Berlin, the Institut für Spätmittelalter und Reformation (University Tübingen), and the Theological University Apeldoorn have joined forces and have chosen the Melanchthon-Akademie in Bretten as center of coordination. Close cooperation with the Melanchthonforschungsstelle Heidelberg and the Humboldt University Berlin has been arranged. General editors of the Opera Philosophica are Günter Frank, Felix Mundt and Anne Eusterschulte; general editors of the Opera Theologica are Volker Leppin, Herman Selderhuis and Walter Sparn. Editors-in-chief of the whole

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project are Günter Frank (Melanchthon-Akademie, Bretten) and Herman Selderhuis (Theological University Apeldoorn).

e. Output

Edition with 30 volumes in total in the period 2014-2030

2. Investigation into content and impact of Melanchton's *Unterricht der visitatoren*

a. Researcher

Postdoc dr. H.A. Speelman

b. Description

This project looks at both content and social impact of Melanchton's *Unterricht* from the perspectives of church history and history of doctrine. In the *Unterricht*, a document that is both confession and church polity, Melanchton formulates the evangelical doctrines and life practices on behalf of the church of Saksen.

c. Aim

Key issues are penitence and education.

d. Embedding

This research project could be connected to a volume in the Opera Melanchthonis series (see above, 4.1.1, 1).

e. Output

H.A. Speelman, Inleiding op een vertaling van *Melanchthons Unterricht der visitatoren an die pfarrherrn im kurfürstenthum zu Sachsen*, in: Frank van der Pol ed., *Philippus Melanchthon Bruggenbouwer* (Kok, Utrecht, 2011), 332-390.

H.A. Speelman, *Hoe overleeft de kerk?: Melanchthons Onderricht aan predikanten* (Groen, Heerenveen, 2013).

Planned:

2016: H.A. Speelman, *Early Modern Protestant Penitential and Eucharistic Piety: Melanchthon and Calvin on Confession and Communion, with a preface of A. van de Beek* (VandenHoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen).

2017: A volume in the Opera Melanchthonis series.

3. Making Confessions influenced by Melanchthon's disciple Ursinus: esp. the Heidelberg Catechism

a. Researchers

Prof.dr. F. van der Pol

Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer

Dr. A. Huijgen (- 2013)

b. Description

Focus on Symbolics. Research of theological genesis and contents.

c. Embedding

International Handboek HC and HC conference June 2013, Apeldoorn.

d. Output

- a. F. van der Pol, 'Defining Reformed Identity: The Early Reception of the Belgic Confession in the Northern Netherlands', in P. Tomson et al. (eds.), *The Belgic Confession at 450th Anniversary, Analecta Bruxellensia* 15, (Brussel, 2012), 63-76.
- b. F. van der Pol, The reception of the Heidelberg Catechism in the Northern Netherlands, publication 2013 in Handbook HC (2013, see sub f)
- c. F. van der Pol, '“An Antichism, Pseudechism, and Parechism”. The Dutch *Catholijcke Catechismus* (1594) challenge to the authenticity of the Heidelberg Catechism', Symposium 'Profil und Wirkung des Heidelberger Katechismus', 9-11 Mai 2013, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg / Verein für Reformationsgeschichte.
- d. F. van der Pol, 'Aspects of the Theology of Controversy: Two Early Modern Polemical Approaches of the Heidelberg Catechism', Internat. Conference 'The Spirituality of the Heidelberg Catechism', 21-22 June 2013, Apeldoorn (TUA, HHS-VU,TUK, , see sub h).
- e. F. van der Pol, '*Catholijcke Catechismus* (1594): A Roman Catholic controversy with the Heidelberg Catechism', Internat. Conference 'The Heidelberg Catechism in Ecumenical Perspective', 18-19 April 2013, Leuven (IPRS Leuven, CER CU Leuven, FPG Brussel).
- f. A. Huijgen, editor with John Fesko (Westminster California), Aleida Siller (Reformierte Bund), Handbook Heidelberg Catechismus, 35 contributions, publication in Dutch (Kok, Utrecht), German (Gütersloher Verlagshaus, Gütersloh) and English (Crossway, Illinois), 2013.
- g. A. Huijgen, The prayer in the HC, publication 2013 in Handbook HC (see sub f).
- h. A. Huijgen, The actuality of the HC, publication 2013 in Handbook HC (see sub f).
- i. A. Huijgen, *The Spirituality of the Heidelberg Catechism*, papers international conference Apeldoorn (TUA, HHS-VU,TUK), publication Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, forthcoming Febr. 2015.
- j. '450 jaar Nederlandse Geloofsbelijdenis' and 'De vroege receptie van de *Confessio Belgica* in Nederland', in: F. van der Pol (red.), *Geloofstaal trekt haar spoor. 450 jaar Nederlandse Geloofsbelijdenis*, (Utrecht: Kok, 2013), 8-15, 71-85.
- k. F. van der Pol en W. van Vlastuin (red.), *Leven met de Heidelbergse Catechismus. 450 jaar omgang met het troostboek*, (Gouda: Driestar Educatief, 2013), met daarin de bijdrage 'De komst van de Heidelbergse Catechismus naar Nederland', 31-51.
- l. E.A. de Boer, 'Een Nederlander als peetvader van de Heidelberger. Joannes Anastasius Geldrus, de Pfalz en de Catechismus', in: F. van der Pol – W. van Vlastuin (red.), *Leven met de Heidelbergse Catechismus. 450-jaar omgang met het troostboek* (Gouda: Driestar Educatief, 2013), 9-30, 135-137.
- m. E.A. de Boer, 'Christology and Christianity: The Theological Power of the Threefold Office in Lord's Day 12', in: *Ki nem száradó Patak. Györi István tiszteletére* (Sárospatak, 2014), 309-326 (partially published earlier in *In die Skriflig / Luce Verbi* 2013).
- n. E.A. de Boer, 'Liturgical Reform in the "Breaking of the Bread" in the Lord's Supper in the Palatinate and its Resonance in the Heidelberg Catechism', in *Acta Theologica Supplementum* 20 (2014), 194-210.
- o. E.A. de Boer, 4 articles more forthcoming.

4. Dissertation Projects

4.1

a. Reseacher

Drs. Jin Kook Kim

b. Description

Die Amtslehre Philipp Melanchthons

c. Output

Dissertation 2012

4.2.

a. Researcher

Drs. M.J. Langhout

b. Description

The Reformation in the city of Gorcum 1550-1610.

A study of changes in ideas and institutions in the sixteenth century city of Gorcum, specifically from urban perspective with concentration on the interwovenness of ecclesiastical and governemental viewpoints. The research deals with a broad spectrum of the town population, not with a single church formation. Starting with a sketch of the late medieval communal values and sociopolitical climate the theological appeal of the Reformation in the city of Gorcum is to be traced. The tension and coextensiveness of religious and civic communities will be searched, especially in the period after the dramatic events of the 'martyrs of Gorcum' in 1572. Until now there is not taken much interest in this later period of local Protestantism because of religious predilection, religious grievance, and hagiographic interests. The beginning of the 17th century forms the end of this study of the Reformation in urban perspective, above all based on archival sources.

c. Aim

Researcher looks to how the population – cutting across the confessional borders and putting aside religious values and practices sanctioned by centuries of tradition and habit - pursues new concepts and religious ideas.

d. Embedding

Genre: a case study in the genre of reformation in the cities. Research of the process of confessionalisation from a specific local perspective.

e. Output: dissertation, 2016

Supervisor: prof.dr. F. van der Pol

5. Scientific conferences

a. Researcher: Prof.dr. H.J. Selderhuis

b. Embedding

International Conferences in cooperation with Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt Universität Berlin, Institut für Spätmittelalter and Reformation/Universität Tübingen and the Melanchthonakademie (Bretten).

c. Output

Conferences in 2013, 2015 and 2017.

4.1.2. Project Calvin Edition in the Digital Era (CEDE): 2012-2017

a. Researchers

Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer (Supervisor of the project)

Dr. H.A. Speelman (Traicté de la sainte cene)

Dr. A. Bas (Articuli facultatis Parisiensis)

External:¹

Drs. Chr. Boerke (Commentarius in Psalmos)

Dr. Victor d'Assonville (Commentarius in Timotheum & Titum)

Drs. J.H. Kreijkes, Praefatio in Chrysostomi homilias)

Drs. J.C. Klok (Sermones in Gal. & Eph.)

Dr. A. Bas (Articuli facultatis Parisiensis cum antidoto) as try-out

b. Description

This project is academically connected to the *Ioannis Calvini opera omnia denuo recognita* (COR), undertaken by the International Congress on Calvin Research. The following three projects are in place and can be brought to results. They provide a chance to give our universities a high profile in international research. This project proposes also to coordinate editorial work on COR, done by various (independent) scholars over the world, and the (sections of the) edition as such. This, of course, in careful consultation of the presidium of the ICCR and the editor of the series (Librairie Droz, Genève).

- Modern technology, digital access to sources, and knowledge of the classical languages (or lack thereof) posit a challenge to such editorial work. What are the chances of international cooperation in projects when using a digital network? What should be the requirements for a critical edition in the present scholarly and educational climate? How far should book and digital publication be combined? For this aim contact has been made with the Huijgens Institute (KNAW) in The Hague.
- Both the project and the challenges it raises invite cooperation with established institutions as the Meeter Center (Grand Rapids, MI), the Institut für Schweizerische Reformationsgeschichte (Zurich, Switzerland), the Institut de l'Histoire de la Réformation (Geneva) e.a.. Connection with other Reformation studies and editions is a priority.

c. Projects:

1. Institutio 1536

a. Researcher

Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer

¹ These scholars are willing to cooperate in the project, but – except dr. A. Bas – they have no formal affiliation with the faculty yet.

b. Description and aim

Wilhelm H. Neuser † and Willem van 't Spijker have established the text of the 1536 edition for critical edition. Introduction to and unlocking of the text in annotations is the aim of the project. The project provides the opportunity to place this catechetical manual in the history of doctrine and of systematizing of doctrinal teaching. It also provides an inroad in the early development of John Calvin in the wake of his attachment to the circle of Meaux and before he aligned with the Reformed cause in an institutional form.

c. Embedding

Critical edition of the *Institutio* 1536 in section 1 of the *Ioannis Calvini opera omnia denuo recognita* [COR], devoted to the various editions of the *Institutio*.

d. Output

June 2014 Symposium: What should the standard and aim of text edition be in the digital age of the 21st century?

(2018): critical edition in COR; book English: *Introduction in John Calvin's Catholic Institutes*.

2. *The Strasbourg Years: Calvin's Writings of 1538-1541*

a. Researchers

Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer (supervisor of the project),

b. Description

Edition for COR of the following treatises (and minor publications) were written during the Strasbourg years (next to the *Institutio* of 1539, its French edition of 1541, the commentary on Romans of 1540, and the 1539 hymnal): Sadoleti epistola ... responsio, Praefatio in Chrysostomi homilias (J.H. Kreijkjes), Biltnüs eins neuwen Propheten, Consilium admodum paternum Pauli III, Epinicion Christo cantatum, Les actes de la journée imperiale de Reguespourg, material published by Rodolphe Peter, 'Calvin traducteur de Melanchthon', Petit traicté de la sainte cene 1541 H.A. Speelman).

Embedding

b. Embedding

Coöperation with A. Noblesse Rochier (Strasbourg), dr. F.P. van Stam.

c. Output

- June 2013 Symposium: work conference on the Strasbourg works.

- E.A. de Boer, "'Portrait of a New Prophet". John Calvin as Pamphleteer in Strasbourg (1539)', forthcoming in: *Renaissance & Reformation Review* 12/2-3 (2010 [2011]), 327-346.

- E.A. de Boer (ed.), 2017: critical edition in COR; monograph: John Calvin – the Strasbourg Years. The Formation of the Reformer.

3. *The Identity of Church and Christians in the Perspective of Calvin's Works in the Debate on Anti-Nicodemism*

a. Researcher

Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer

b. Description

The following works by Calvin, in chronological order of first editions, take up the debate started by the *Epistolae duae* (1537)² and must be investigated.

1. *Petit traicté, monstrant que c'est que doit faire un homme fidele congnoissant la verité de l'évanglie, quand il est entre les papistes. Avec une Epistre du mesme argument* (1543).
2. *Excuse de Jehan Calvin a Messieurs les Nicodemites sur la complaincte qu'ilz font de sa trop grand' rigueur* (1544).
3. *Two Epystles* (1548).
4. *Quatre sermons fort utiles pour nostre temps avec exposition du Pseaume 87* (Genève: Robert Estienne, 1552).

Included will be also: the 'Appendices' to Calvin's *Petit traicte monstrant* in the edition of 1545 (BC I, 45/9), a dossier prepared to inform Luther and Melanchthon and invite them to express agreement: a. Conseil de M. Philippes Melanchton; b. Conseil de Martin Bucer; c. Conseil de Pierre Martyr; d. Le conseil et conclusion de Jean Calvin; e. Epistre de Jean Calvin a un sien amy; f. Autre epistre de Jean Calvin à un autre sien amy [Valérand Poullain]. A Geneve ce 14. Juillet 1546. In 1549 ... the Latin dossier, prepared in 1545 with the treatises translated by Calvin himself (CO 12, 25-26). In the 1550 edition also Heinrich Bullinger's reaction of October 1549 is added (49/5-6): g. *Responsum Pastorum Tigurinae Ecclesiae* [30 September 1549] (ed. 1550, p. 337), followed by: *An liceat homini christiano simulare assensum falsae doctrinae, et superstitionum, quas tamen animus damnat*. [...] 17. Junii, anno 1549. *Pastores et lectores ministris Ecclesiae Tigurinae in Helvetia* (edit. 1550, pp. 338-344). Prof.dr. Francis M. Higman has established the text of the French treatises.

c. Embedding

Coöperation with prof.Dr. F.M. Higman and Dr. M.G.P. van Veen.

d. Output

Critical edition in COR: 2016.

4. *Commentary on 1 Corinthians*

a. Researchers

Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer, together with
Prof.dr. Riemer Faber, Waterloo University, Toronto, Canada.

b. Output

Commentary in 1 Corinthians in COR: 2019

5. *Calvin, Traicté de la sainte cene*

a. Researcher Dr. H.A. Speelman

b. Output

² *Ioannis Calvinii opera omnia, series IV Scripta didactica et polemica, vol. IV Epistolae duae (1537) – Deux discours (Oct. 1536)*, ed. Erik Alexander de Boer – Frans Pieter van Stam (Genève: Librairie Droz, 2009) = COR 4/4.

On Calvin's doctrine of Holy Communion the researcher earlier published (*Biechten bij Calvijn, Over het geheim van heilig communiceren*, Heerenveen 2010 = translated in 2016, H.A. Speelman, *Early Modern Protestant Penitential and Eucharistic Piety: Melancthon and Calvin on Confession and Communion*, with a preface of A. van de Beek (VandenHoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen).

[Johannes Calvijn], *Eén met Christus: Een klein traktaat over het heilig Avondmaal*, vertaald en ingeleid door Herman Speelman met een woord vooraf door Paul van Geest (Brevier, Kampen, 2014).

H.A. Speelman, *The Eucharist as a Mysterious Representation of Christ: A comparison between Calvin's 1541 Petit traicté de la sainte cene and A Kempis's 1441 Devota exhortacio ad sacra communionem*, lecture on the RefoRC Conference on Arts, Portraits and Representation in the Reformation Era in Bologna from May 14-17, 2014 with a contribution for the Conference bundle.

H.A. Speelman, *Gereformeerde eucharistische vroomheid in de vroegmoderne tijd: Nieuw licht op avondmaal en tucht bij Calvijn*, paper Utrecht 26. Oct. 2014 Gezelschap van Christelijke Historici in Nederland, with contribution in the bundle *Geloof in geschiedenis*.

6. The development of *Disciplina* in the context of Genevan Confessions Period

c. Researcher

Dr. H.A. Speelman

b. Description

The publication of a selection of Calvin's later writings, in combination with a discussion of the history and effect of *disciplina*, as the third characteristic of the church. The latter section builds on the first, while the selection of confessional texts provides the context for the ecclesiastical issue. For several years there has been worked on this topic, however in the way of good consultation of prof. dr. E.A. de Boer, the supervisor of the whole Calvin research, this project is changed for another, more fitting, *Calvin, Traicté de la sainte cene*. (See description above, project 4.1.2. nr. 5)

d. Output

In earlier publications, the researcher has written on Calvin's ecclesiology (*Calvijn en de zelfstandigheid van de kerk*, Kampen 1994 = H.A. Speelman, *Calvin and the Independence of the Church*, with a Preface of E.A. de Boer [Reformed Historical Theology, 25], (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, 2014) [In print and digital].

H.A. Speelman, *Distinctly Flexible: A key feature of the Protestant Church Polity*, in Leo J. Koffeman and Johannes Smit eds., *Protestant Church Polity in Changing Contexts II: Proceedings of the International Conference*, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 7-10 November 2014 [Church Polity and Ecumenism Global Perspectives, 3], 2011 (LIT Verlag, Berlin/_Münster/Wien), 187-192.

H.A. Speelman, *Calvinism and the Origins of Religious Plurality in Europe*, lecture on the 9th Comenius conference of Dutch/ Belgian and Eastmideuropean Theological Institutions on Protestant Traditions & the Soul of Europe, Amsterdam 25-29 June 2014 with a contribution for the Conference bundle.

H.A. Speelman, *Calvin on Confession: His Struggle for a New Form of Discipline and our Struggle to Understand his View*, lecture on the Eleventh International Congress on Calvin Research on the University of Zurich 24-28 August, 2014 with a contribution for the Conference bundle.

7. *Dissertation projects*

7.1 *Ecclesiology, Politics, and Pierre Viret: Church and Polity as a Unifying Theme.*

a. Researcher

Paul Roberts M.Div.

b. Description

Ecclesiology, Politics, and Pierre Viret: Church and Polity as a Unifying Theme.

The dissertation shall address the question of the relationship of Viret's political thought (see Robert Dean Linder, *The Political Ideas of Pierre Viret*, 1963) to his ecclesiology, namely, whether his theology tended toward democratic authority and the extent to which it influenced, or was influenced by, his political thought.

c. Aim

Historical-theological study on the relation between ecclesiology and political thought from the perspective of Pierre Viret's mature ideas as laid down in the Church order of Lyon, France.

d. Embedding

Historical-theological study, related to promotor's orientation on John Calvin and Geneva (e.g. the Morély affair). Viret, originally pastor in Geneva, remained affiliated to the city also during his later years. Study of the sources, e.g. the Church order of Lyon, is close to the edition program of Calvin's work. There is also a link with the program of political ethics at TUK.

e. Output

Dissertation 2017

Supervisor: Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer

7.2. *The Beginning of a Spirit-Filled Church. A study of the implications of the pneumatology for the ecclesiology of John Calvin's commentary on the Acts of the Apostles.*

a. Researcher

H.H. van Alten

b. Description: A comparison will be made between John Calvin's exegesis and the sermons on Acts by the Greek Church Father John Chrysostom and the contemporaries Desiderius Erasmus (Paraphrases, Annotationes) and Thomas de Vio (Cajetan's commentary on Acts).

c. Aim

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Historical-theological analysis of the bearing of the passages on the Holy Spirit and Pentecost in Acts on Calvin's doctrine of the Church, and thus the relation of pneumatology and ecclesiology.

d. Embedding

Analysis of Calvin's commentary on Acts, its historical genesis, and study of his sources. Against the background of the critical edition in COR, a Church Father and two contemporary sources are evaluated.

e. Output

Dissertation 2016

Supervisor: Prof.dr. E.A. de Boer

4.1.3. Changing perception of time in the Century of the Reformation

Time sanctified. A weekly meditation Routine for Mortals to meditate on the Quatuor Novissima of human life

a. Researcher

Prof.dr. F. van der Pol

b. Description

An anonymous 16th-century Dutch meditation booklet about death, personal and Last Judgment, hell and heaven. The late ars-moriendi text (ca. 1550) contains mental structures, and functions as a spiritual guide for personal care for the here and the hereafter. How does this treatise deal with the framework of the Christian life from the perspective of death? What are the focal points in the sanctification of time? And what can be said about its place in the late medieval / early modern dissemination process, and in the historical context of the mid 1550s?

c. Output

Studies in Spirituality, Peeters, Leuven (contribution accepted, forthcoming 2015)

4.1.4 Transkonfessionelle Theologieggeschichte der Frühen Neuzeit (1450–1700)

a. Researcher

Prof.dr H.J. Selderhuis

b. Description and embedding

Topic is the origin and development of theological schools in the Early Modern Era. In this project Prof. Dr. Irene Dingel (Institut für Europäische Geschichte, Mainz) and Prof. Dr. Peter Walter (University Freiburg) co-operate. Several meetings of the projectteam have taken place as well as two conferences (2010 Freiburg, 2011 Mainz). A third conference will

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take place in 2013 in Apeldoorn and will be linked to the project 4.2.3 *Theological Education in the Netherlands, 1575-1750*.

c. Output

2014-2018

- Multi-volume Handbook published by Mohr Siebeck
- Annual conferences in Freiburg, Mainz and Apeldoorn

4.2 SUBPROGRAMME REFORMED ORTHODOXY

Reformed theology from the era ca. 1560 to 1750 is part of the historical identity of both institutions, TUA and TUK. In addition to the Reformation of the sixteenth century, also the further elaboration of Reformed theology in the subsequent centuries is important for Reformed theology today.

Research in historical theology has, during the last decades, uncovered important strands of continuity:

- A fundamental continuity of doctrinal content between Reformation and Reformed orthodox theology;
- A renewed continuity with medieval theology, both in employing the “scholastic” method and in incorporating a rich tradition of insights, concepts, and arguments;
- This, in turn, makes all the more visible the continuities between Reformation and Middle Ages which were already demonstrated in the research of the Reformation.

The research of this subprogram focuses on *scholastic* theology: the corpus of texts rooted in early modern universities. It is precisely the institutional context of universities and academies that makes Reformed theology in the orthodox era a common and ecumenical enterprise, moving beyond a collection of opinions by individual scholars. It found itself standing in the tradition of *fides quaerens intellectum*.

Given the focus on the connection between Reformed theology and early modern universities or academies, the planned research has a few common features:

- Explicit attention for the institutional aspects of theological education and research in the era under study;
- Consistent reference to the scholastic theology and philosophy of the Middle Ages;
- Description of the interaction between Reformed theology and alternative currents of thought, both in theology and in philosophy, from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries (Socinians, Roman Catholics, Remonstrants, Enlightenment thinkers such as Descartes and Spinoza);
- The usage, in historical analysis, of the methods of tradition history and history of ideas;
- Investigation of systematical-theological aspects, such as the treatment of concepts and arguments, the usage of philosophy, etcetera.

The focus on theology in the context of university and academy does not lead to the exclusion of theologians without an academic appointment. The program also has place for discussing the question of how Reformed scholastic theology relates to the diverse (international) pietistic movements of the same era. This question can be studied parallel to similar research that was already done regarding Lutheran orthodoxy and Lutheran pietism.

4.2.1 Dordrecht

1. Edition Acta Dordrecht

a. Researcher

Prof.dr. H.J. Selderhuis (supervisor of the project)

b. Description

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All documents related to the Synod will be edited and published as an academic source-edition. Expected are 14 volumes. Around the edition conferences will take place and dissertation-projects will be initiated.

c. Aim

The goal of the project is to the research into the sources, theology and influence of the Synod of Dordrecht parallel to producing a critical edition of all the documents of the Synod of Dordrecht in their original languages (mostly Latin, but some in Dutch, English, German and French) through an international team of institutions and scholars.

d. Embedding

The Johannes a Lasco Bibliothek (Emden, Germany) coordinates the edition of the Acts of the Synod of Dordrecht, in cooperation with the Huygens Institute/ING, the Institut für Schweizerische Reformationsgeschichte Zürich, de Remonstrant Brotherhood, the Theological University Apeldoorn and the Free University Amsterdam. Editors from other European universities are involved as well. The project is one of the RefoRC-projects and operates within Refo500. The project is to be completed in time for the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dordrecht in 2018/19.

e. Output

2012-2018. Academic source-edition by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen. The critical edition will be published as a multi-volume series, and be made available in digital format as well. The first volume was published in 2014: *Acta et Documenta Synodi Nationalis Dordrechtanae (1618-1619)*, Donald Sinnema, Christian Moser, Herman J. Selderhuis (eds.)

2. Dissertation Projects

2.1. *The Dordt Church Order in perspective*

a. Researcher

Drs A.van Harten-Tip

b. Description

The Dordt Church Order in perspective

A study of the development of Dutch reformed church polity from the year 1586 onwards, resulting in the Dordt Church Order of 1619.

Starting with a description of the theological, political, and social backgrounds of the members of the Synod of Dordt 1618/1619 and the Reformed Church of the Netherlands the influence of these factors on contents and characteristics of the Dordt Church Order is traced. The reason for the (non-)reception of the Dordt Church Order until 1625 is part of the research.

c. Aim

Researcher wants to give an insight into the decisions on church polity and their history and motives that were made in 1619 and that have impact on the Reformed Churches until today.

d. Embedding

Genre: a study in church polity, with theological, historical en sociological input.

e. Output: dissertation, 2016

Supervisor: prof.dr. H.J. Selderhuis

2.2. *Die Gotteslehre von Gomarus*

a. Researcher

Si Hun Kim

e. Output: Dissertation 2013

Supervisor: prof.dr. H.J. Selderhuis

4.2.2 Synopsis of Purer Theology

a. Researchers

dr. W.A. den Boer

dr. R.T. te Velde

a. Description and aim

Prerequisite for research into Reformed scholastic theology is acquaintance with representative sources, in order to become familiar with its world of thought. In the English-speaking theological world there seems to be need for such sources.

Certainly, the *Synopsis Purioris Theologiae*, authored by the Leiden professors Polyander, Rivet, Walaeus and Thysius, can be seen as a representative text for the early period of Reformed Orthodox theology around the Synod of Dordt (1618-19). In the decades after the first publication in 1625, a total of four reprints saw light, and the work was used as a textbook for theological education in the Netherlands and abroad. Still in 1881 the young Herman Bavinck published the Synopsis again (in Latin); in the twentieth century a Dutch translation saw light, but never an English translation appeared.

The now planned edition (published by Brill, Leiden) is a Latin-English edition with extensive introductions and annotations. The introductions place the Synopsis in its historical and theological context. In annotations, literary and historical references are offered, besides substantive clarification of arguments that otherwise are difficult to understand. Thus, using the latest scientific insights an accurate reading and understanding of the text of the Synopsis will be possible.

b. Embedding

The project is implemented by the Research Group of Classic Reformed Theology, a group of scientists (classicists, theologians and (church) historians) from the Netherlands, Belgium, Great-Britain and Canada. The participants are associated with different institutions. From Apeldoorn (until 2013) and Kampen a substantial contribution is made by Dr. W.A. den Boer (one of the general editors and contributor) and Dr. R.T. te Velde (Volume 1 editor, and one of the team leaders). Expansion by researchers associated with TUK and TUA is possible. The project foresees the publication of three volumes.

c. Output

- Volume 1 (ed. dr. R.T. te Velde): 2014

- Volume 2 (ed. Prof.dr. H. van den Belt): 2015/16

- Volume 3 (ed. dr. H.J.M.J. Goris): Fall 2016/17

Additional output (realized or planned):

- Sixteenth Century Study Conference Panel-Session ‘The Synopsis of Purer Theology (1625) as Compendium of Reformed Theology.’ (Oct. 2011);
- R.T. te Velde, “Eloquent Silence: The Doctrine of God in the Synopsis of Purer Theology”, CHRC 2012.
- Symposium / Noster-themabijeenkomst “Synergie en synopsis. De winst van interdisciplinaire samenwerking in het project Synopsis Purioris Theologiae (1625)” – 28 november 2012. William den Boer was one of the organizers; Dolf te Velde delivered a paper on the Introduction to Volume 1 (disp. 1-23).
- Visiting professorship prof.dr. Riemer Faber at the Theological University Kampen (January – June 2013).
- International Conference on the occasion of the publication of Volume 1 (2014).
- International Conference on the occasion of the publication of Volume 3 and the finishing of the project (2016/17).

4.2.3. Theological Education in the Netherlands, 1575-1750

a. Researchers

Dr. R.T. te Velde (p.m.)

b. Description, aim and embedding

A first sketch is given here of a voluminous project that needs to be filled in for its specific parts. After the standard work by Christiaan Sepp, *Het godgeleerd onderwijs in Nederland gedurende de 16e en 17e eeuw* (1873), research was continued on the detailed level. A new summarizing description that incorporates the results of the reappraisal of Reformed scholasticism since the 1980s, however, was not undertaken thus far. TUK and TUA intend to work on this task for a longer period.

During the era of Reformed Orthodoxy, the Netherlands were an important junction in the network of Reformed theology. Students from abroad (Poland, Germany, Hungary, Scotland, and other countries) enrolled at Dutch universities, while also theologians from France, Germany and England were appointed in theological faculties throughout the Netherlands. When “Dutch” theology of this period is examined, the international dimension is immediately present.

The project will be connected to the in project 4.1.4 mentioned, recently established Arbeitskreis “Transkonfessionelle Theologiegeschichte der Frühen Neuzeit 1450-1700” that plans to produce a multi-volume international and interconfessional handbook of the history of theology, and is directed by prof. dr. Peter Walter, prof. dr. Irene Dingel, and prof. dr. Herman Selderhuis (see also project A.3 above). Profit will be taken from the “history of universities” that was developed elsewhere as a special part of historical research.

For constructing a general framework, an inventory of the theological faculties, academies and “Illustre Schools” will be assembled, with lists of the professors serving there. It is important to make visible the biographical connections and the formation of “schools” around influential theologians like Voetius and Cocceius.

After this first stage of description, the inner dynamics can be sketched that led to the full deployment of the Reformed theological positions. Important themes and discussions will be placed in their historical contexts. Given the focus on the academy as the *Sitz im Leben* of Reformed theology, it is plausible to study the points of contact with other academic disciplines (philosophy, humanities, and the emergent natural sciences). Project leader: prof. dr. A.J. Beck, Leuven.

c. Output

During the years 2012-2017, output will be limited.

- Congress papers and articles in the course of the Arbeitskreis “Transkonfessionelle Theologiegeschichte”, in which also the results of the Synopsis project can be elaborated;
- Parts of the forementioned handbook “History of Early Modern Theology”; publication data unknown;

4.2.4 Predestination

a. Researcher

Dr. R.T. te Velde

b. Description

The doctrine of predestination may serve as a substantial example of the research within the field of Reformed orthodoxy. The Synod of Dordt functions as a point of crystallization: here the Reformed position was confessionally fixated. In a wider sense, however, many theological discussions occurred that are important for interpreting the Canons of Dordt.

The theme of election has an extensive pre-history, and an equally complicated after-history. A specific blockade for understanding “Dordt” adequately is the nineteenth century reception of the Reformed tradition by theologians such as Friedrich Schleiermacher and Alexander Schweizer. They interpreted the “dogma” of “predestination” in terms of deterministic necessity, and in doing so they were followed by antagonists of “orthodox faith” such as Abraham Kuyper. By elucidating the ontological presuppositions of Reformed theology from the point of view of the thought of John Duns Scotus, newer research has pointed out that the deterministic understanding is a misunderstanding. By examining the Reformed doctrine of election again along the lines of “necessity” and “contingency”, this doctrine can be made fruitful for theological discussions today.

From a second point of view, the connection between election and Christology can be studied. Starting with the church fathers (Augustine), the election of our human nature in Christ has been an important notion. Often the Canons of Dordt are charged with lacking precisely this notion. Is this criticism justified? How can we, in a systematical-theological way, elaborate the place of Christ in God’s decree of election?

c. Output

- “Grounds of Election and Reprobation”, added paper to the Volume by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen with the contributions of the 1th integral conference EMRT, Oct 29-30, 2014 on the theme *The Doctrine of Election in Reformed Perspective. Historical Trajectories and Contexts of Controversy* (see for this conference the broader description below , pp. 24-25);
- Articles in international journals between 2012 and 2015;
- Possibly a monograph after 2015 (depending on continued appointment).

4.2.5 Simon Oomius

1. *Simon Oomius: Reformed Pietistic Visions on Man, Church, Society and Politics*

a. Researcher

Prof.dr. F. van der Pol

b. Description

Basic materials, papers, and contributions, with a monograph as outcome:

- 'The Institutes of life. The Dutch Reformed Pietist Simon Oomius on Calvin's Spiritual Leadership', in: Herman J. Selderhuis (ed.), *Calvinus clarissimus theologus*, (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2012), 358-366.
- 'The Orthodox Reformed Pietist: Simon Oomius - His Relationship to Philosophy, with Particular Attention to *Dissertatie* (1672) and *Institutiones Theologiae Practicae* (1672-1680)', in: Günter Frank u. Herman J. Selderhuis (Hsg.), *Philosophie der Reformierten* (Stuttgart : Frommann-Holzboog, 2012), 323-336.
- 'Simon Oomius on elderly. A 17th century pietist as spiritual guide', (forthcoming Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2015).
- 'Reformation' and 'Reformers', a 17th-century Approach. The Profile and Use of two Fundamental Concepts in Some Works of the Dutch Reformed Pietist Simon Oomius, in P. Opitz (ed.) *The Myth of the Reformation*, (Zürich, Institut für Schweizerische Reformationgeschichte der Universität Zürich / Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2013), 139-147.
- 'Cicero in the Interplay of Principle and Practice. A 17th-century Reformed-Pietistic Approach by dr. Simon Oomius. Internationales Symposium der Europäischen Melancthon-Akademie Bretten und des Interdisziplinären Zentrums Mittelalter – Renaissance – Frühe Neuzeit der FU Berlin, 'Cicero und Reformierte Philosophie in der Frühen Neuzeit', 6-8 Okt. 2011, Günter Frank u. Anne Eusterschulte (Hsg.), *Cicero und Reformierte Philosophie in der Frühen Neuzeit*, (Forthcoming Stuttgart: Frommann-Holzboog, 2015).
- 'Ecclesia semper reformanda: de missie van de vliegende bij uit Kampen [Simon Oomius]'. Academische rede tijdens de 157e dies natalis Theologische Universiteit Kampen, 6 dec. 2011 (Forthcoming: in monograph about Simon Oomius, 2015).
- Een gereformeerd-orthodoxe, piëtistische benadering van remonstrantse posities en Geneefse mysteries, in A. Goudriaan, J. van de Kampen en W. van Vlastuin (red.), *Pietas reformata. Religieuze vernieuwing onder gereformeerden in de vroegmoderne tijd. Afscheidsbundel prof.dr. W.J. op 't Hof*, (Forthcoming 2015).
- 'Genevan Mysteries Defended. Simon Oomius's Reformed Pietistic Repudiation of Remonstrant Positions compared with that of Hieronymus Vogellius'. Paper 1th EMRT-conference, Oct. 29-30. 2014, A Lasco Bibliothek, Emden. (Forthcoming Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2016).

c. Output

Monograph: 2015.

2. Dissertation Projects

2.1 Augustine in Oomius's *Dissertatie* (1672) and *Institutiones theologiae practicae* (1672-1680).

a. Researcher

Bonseung Koo, M.A

Supervisor: Prof.dr. F. van der Pol

b. Description / aim

The aim of the research will be to discover how Oomius in his *Diss* and *ITP* used Augustine and to evaluate this using, and to grasp the outline of his reception of Augustine. This study deals with the reception of Augustine and his theology in a 17th century Dutch manual of practical theology written by a representative of Dutch Reformed Pietism in the period of high

Orthodoxy. From the manual, which presents an exhaustive study of the doctrines of Scripture and of God, it must become clear how Oomius uses Augustine as an important and reliable reference in the areas of dogmatic, exegesis, church history, and spirituality. Key questions are: how does Oomius take over arguments from Augustine by paraphrasing him, by using the same examples, by appealing to the same names, by summarizing Augustines explanation of biblical texts with (dis)approval, or by including literal citations from his commentaries, letters and other publications. In what kind of context, especially polemical, is Augustine used? How supports Augustine – the most cited Church Father in Oomius’s ITP – the essence of Oomius’s own theology? How verifies the Reformed pietist his religious identity with quotations of Augustine? By studying Oomius’s work this research can trace in detail and evidently how the Augustinian method was applied to the 17th century Reformed theology.

c. Output

Dissertation 2016.

2.2. Simon Oomius’s doctrine of providence of God operationalized in the (national) political and ecclesiastical context of the initial phase of William IIIth’s stadtholdership (provisional title).

a. Researcher

drs. C.Th. Basoski

Supervisor: Prof.dr. F. van der Pol

b. Description / aim

The publications of Simon Oomius represent an interesting case study for the 17th century Dutch Republic in the period of high Orthodoxy and Reformed pietism. Oomius produced five political treatises: 2 wartrumphets, 1 consolationtrumphet, 1 triumphtrumphet, and 1 peacetrumphet. Altogether they are connected with the political and military events of the year 1672; in the national history of the Dutch Republic mentioned the Year of Disaster, in which three surrounding nations attacked the Netherlands. In his triumphets Oomius gives a religious Interpretation of political reality. Key question: How operationalized Oomius the doctrine of providence of God in this (national) political and ecclesiastical context? A contribution to the discussion of theological themes within 17th-century Reformed Pietism about the identity of the Dutch Republic, which has developed on an exegetical, doctrinal and constitutional law background.

c. Output

Dissertation 2018.

5. Integral Conferences

5.1 1th Integral EMRT-conference, Oct. 29-30. 2014, A Lasco Bibliothek, Emden: *The Doctrine of Election in Reformed Perspective. Historical Trajectories and Contexts of Controversy.*

The conference will integrate the first research results of this programme. Since the works of Melanchthon, Calvin, the Acts of Dordrecht, Simon Oomius and the Synopsis purioris

contain extensive material on the conference-topic and yet function in various contexts, the conference offers the possibility to deal with the various positions in their theological, ecclesiastical and confessional developments as well as look at them in a comparative approach. The sections that deal with the theological training and the developments of theological schools, can show how the doctrine of predestination was taught and received. Since most projects are part of the international networks in this field, perspectives from non-reformed and non-theological positions can easily be tied in.

For centuries the topic of predestination has been an object of intense discussion and has given rise to splits in denominations and between confessions, existing up until today. Apart from that the topic functions in the context of preaching and pastorate and is of evident relevance for many churches in the Netherlands and abroad.

5.2 Second Integral Conference, Spring 2016: *Modus Docendi: shifting forms of teaching the doctrine of God's eternal election*

This conference aims at disclosing the development of theology, exemplified in the doctrine of predestination, from the 16th to 18th century. What theological methods, philosophical tools and forms of discourse were used to express biblical teaching? The role of the confessions of the 16th century seems to have changed with the shifting contexts. It is necessary to outline how do the Canons of Dordt were intended to relate to the Belgic Confession and Heidelberg Catechism and to trace what the reception (also editions) of the Canons was in the following centuries. How the Canons were used in academic and in ecclesiastical teaching context is also subject of research. This conference also aims at providing material for Churches to be able to evaluate their use of the confessions, especially the Canons of Dordt.