

Reflections on Visit of Pope Francis by Members of the Roman Catholic-Reformed Dialogue in the United States:

As Reformed and Catholic participants in a long-standing official theological dialogue, we have been inspired by the ecumenical promise seen in the recent visit of Pope Francis to the United States. While the role of the Bishop of Rome has historically been a matter of contention between Reformed and Catholic communions, we affirm the manner in which Pope Francis modeled a service of unity for the whole church and its ministry. In his intentional compassion for those on society's margins, his pastoral visits with prisoners, his identification with immigrants, his care for the integrity of God's creation, and his public testimony to the values of the gospel, he gave voice and witness to aspirations of the wider Christian community. His servant heart gives hope for further developments along the road toward Christian unity, a journey that we trace to the Second Vatican Council and continue through our dialogue. Although we recognize that significant differences remain between us, we trust that the visit of Pope Francis will prompt further, honest dialogue – between our communions and others – in our search for a full expression of our unity in Christ.

Adopted on October 6, 2015, at the 6th meeting of Round VIII of the official Roman Catholic-Reformed Dialogue in the United

States, meeting at New Brunswick Seminary to discuss the topic of ecclesiology.

Signatories:

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