

## Afterword

Dennis Voskuil

During the last quarter century, issues related to homosexuality have disturbed the peace of the Reformed Church in America. Our church, of course, is not alone in this respect as nearly all denominations in the United States and Canada have struggled with internal disagreements regarding faithful biblical and theological responses to this culturally divisive issue.

During its long history, the Reformed Church in America has been confronted with any number of challenging issues. During the eighteenth century the issue of Americanization deeply divided the church; between 1754 and 1772, the colonial church was divided into factions known as “coetus” and “conferentie.” Later, members of the church took divergent positions on the American revolt against England. More recently, the church has engaged explosive issues such as ordination of women, pluralistic universalism, commissioned pastors, and proposed mergers with Presbyterians.

As with the issues above, the discussions surrounding homosexuality have divided congregations and families. Longstanding friendships have also been tested and, in some cases, fractured.

The author of one of the articles in this issue of the *Reformed Review*, David Myers, has been one of my closest friends since I arrived in Holland, Michigan to teach at Hope College in 1977. Over the years, David, an outstanding professor of psychology and leading textbook author, has shared many poignant moments with me and my family. Moreover, we share many common interests: teaching, noon-hour basketball games, Hope College sports, the church, and the Reformed faith.

Yet, David and I have significant disagreements over biblical and theological interpretations of homosexuality. To be honest, these disagreements and their implications have tested our friendship.

As the Reformed Church seeks to respond faithfully to the issue of homosexuality, it is important that we are able to hear one another despite our differences, for the sake of the body of our Lord Jesus.

It is to this end that this issue of the *Reformed Review* has been published.