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CONNECTING YOU,  
THEN AND NOW

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Stichting Refo500  
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# 1 Preface

2020 was an extraordinary year in many ways for Refo500. First of all, there was the world-wide problem of the coronavirus, in which we all got caught up. The measures taken and the concerns also affected our platform, especially when it came to planning and preparing concrete activities. The fact that the Annual RefoRC Conference, planned for 2020 at Aarhus University, could not take place was a big disappointment not only for us, but also for the colleagues in Aarhus and the many scholars who would have gladly travelled to this Danish city to learn from each other with regard to research in the field of *Early Modern Christianity*.

Another important aspect of the work in 2020 was that it was marked by the approaching end of the partnerships with the 79 partners of Refo500, which will all end on 31 December 2021. In itself, this is not dramatic, because since 2020, partnerships are designed for a period of 4 years and thus, every 4 years a new situation arises with regard to the partners who participate in the international platform. We are grateful that for many years the number of partners has shown an upward trend, which has enabled us to achieve a great deal together in terms of drawing attention to the 16th century reformations and their significance.

From 2018 however, we also see that in general there is less activity when it comes to the program for churches, cities and young people for example, but that the interest in the academic field is growing. This development was also evident in 2020. This has strengthened us in our decision to make changes to the profile of the platform as of 1 January 2022, which will be noticeable even earlier. This annual report tells you more about this.

In the meantime, a lot of time and energy has been spent on maintaining the platform and stimulating the network function and the publicity around all kinds of events and publications that are related to the 16<sup>th</sup> century reformations and Early Modern Christianity. We are grateful for the opportunities that were available in 2020, and for the enthusiasm of so many people from all over the world with whom we were fortunate to work.

Herman J. Selderhuis, director Refo500

April 2021

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## 2 Board

In the year under review, the board of the Refo500 Foundation consisted of Dr. Wim (W.H.Th.) Moehn (President), Drs. Izak A. Kole (Secretary), Willemien Riezebos-Tessemaeker LLM (Board Member) and Henk Bokhorst (Treasurer). In December secretary Drs. Izak Kole stepped down. He had been involved with Refo500 from the beginning and devoted himself to the Foundation for more than 10 years. Unfortunately, due to circumstances, it was not possible to say goodbye to him personally. The board is grateful to Izak for all he has done for the Foundation. The secretariat has been transferred to Willemien Riezebos-Tessemaeker.

The board met twice. As usual, the annual report and the annual financial report were adopted. The budget for the year 2020, drawn up by the treasurer, was also approved.

The Board has approved the further development of the new REFORC, in which not only institutions can participate – as has been the case until now – but also individual scholars. The new REFORC is expected to be launched around May next year. Existing partnerships will continue until the end of 2021. The objectives of the Foundation remain unchanged, although they will be fulfilled in a different way from 2022 onwards.

## 3 Vision Paper 2018-2021

The activities are determined by the Vision Paper 2018–2021, adopted by the board, which describes the mission, vision, goals and ambitions for the third phase:

### 3.1 Mission

The Reformation, as a movement of renewal and change, is important for today and tomorrow. Refo500 makes connections between themes in Reformation times and our days, between then and now, between people and Reformation history. In short: Refo500 is ‘Connecting you, then and now’.

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## 3.2 Vision

A network is a powerful instrument and one can do more together than alone. Partners know where to find each other for, e.g., related events, more public awareness, enlargement of its market, valorization, creating synergy, etc.

## 3.3 Aims

- Refo500 shows that the reformation is relevant.
- Refo500 offers a platform for meeting and cooperation.

## 3.4 Ambitions for 2018–2021

- Strengthening of international cooperation.
- Strengthening of RefoRC as an academic department.
- Developing of the Coram Deo Program (2018) and implementing the program (2019-2021).
- Effectuation of the partnerships of partners in Eastern Europe.

The verbs that go with these ambitions are intended for the network and platform function and not so much for the development of a programme, namely: facilitating, stimulating, informing and cooperating.

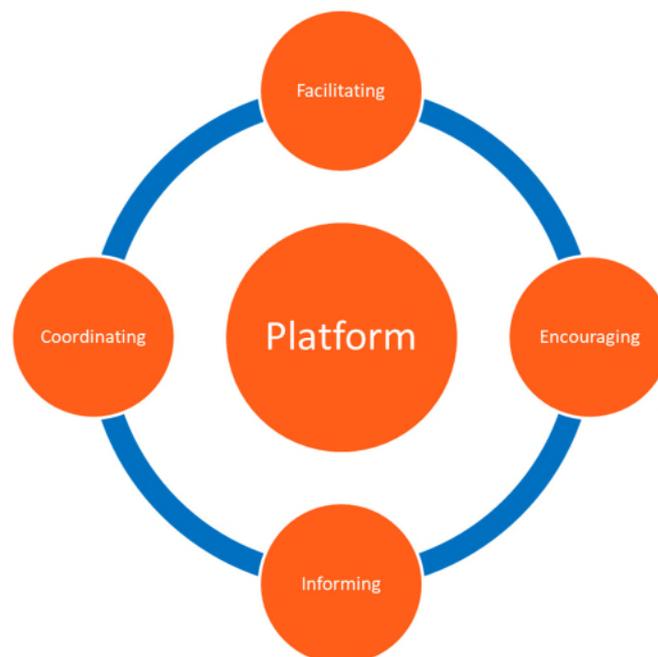


Fig. 1 Refo500 in verbs

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## 4 Activities

Coordination, facilitation and stimulation mainly take place through a lot of direct contact with partners in, for example, meetings, conferences, personal interactions, and, of course, via e-mail. This is the way in which Refo500 brings partners together, so that with other partners they can do more together than they can by themselves. This way, we also make it easier for partners to get in touch with each other, to develop something new together and to make use of each other's expertise. We also come up with ideas and propose projects, such as study days around a book's production or conferences on particular themes.

Unfortunately, the annual partner meeting could not take place due to corona measures. However, there have been interactions with almost all partners.

In cooperation with the University of Aarhus, preparations were made for the Annual RefoRC Conference in May, which had to be cancelled. After that, preparations were made with the Research Centre for the Humanities in Budapest for the Annual RefoRC Conference in 2021 in Budapest.

Preparations were also made for the annual Luther Conference in cooperation with the International Martin Luther Foundation in Erfurt, which was to take place in the Netherlands for the first time. Unfortunately, the planned conference had to be cancelled and postponed until 2021. There have been contacts with the International Reformation Museum in Geneva about their exhibition *Calvin in America*. Furthermore, Refo500 took the initiative for a symposium *Priesterlijke zielen gevraagd m/v* (Priestly Souls Wanted M/F), in cooperation with the Katholieke Vereniging voor Oecumene, the Theological University of Apeldoorn, and Publishing House Brevier. The symposium had to be postponed until 2021.

This last sentence says it all about the activities of 2020. The world situation meant that much could not take place, although contacts with partners could be maintained digitally.

### 4.1 Asia

In Asia, the position of Refo500 was strengthened by the appointment of Nam Kyu Lee as project leader of Refo500 Asia.



Fig. 2 Nam Kyu Lee (Hapdong Theological Seminary) became project leader of Refo500 Asia

## 4.2 RefoRC

In close cooperation with the University of Aarhus, the Tenth Annual RefoRC Conference was organised, for which 104 academics from all over the world registered. Unfortunately, the conference had to be cancelled

## 4.3 Coram Deo Program

The Coram Deo Program is an initiative of Refo500 and therefore it has a place in this year's annual report, but it is also separate because it is its own program with its own income stream, which comes entirely from sponsors. Some activities were planned for 2020, which unfortunately could not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic. These activities have now been rescheduled for 2021.

Furthermore, it turned out that the focus of the Coram Deo Program, namely working with values of the Reformation that inspire people in their personal or professional situation, did not meet the needs of the majority of the target group. Therefore, a modification was decided upon in the sense that the program now supports academic activities within RefoRC that are either focused on current themes or on themes that are clearly relevant for today.

In cooperation with various institutions, some events are being prepared that will take place in 2021 or later. These are mainly events for an academic target group.

#### 4.4 ReIReS

In 2020, Refo500 also contributed to ReIReS, the first step towards a permanent research infrastructure for Religious Studies. Six partners of Refo500 are participating in this project, which is subsidized by Horizon 2020. In January the partners met in Paris.



Fig. 3 Meeting of ReIReS partners in Paris

In ReIReS, Refo500 is mainly concerned with communication. The project has been extended by six months and will end mid-2021.

The hours and other costs incurred for the ReIReS project will be covered by the subsidy received by Refo500.

## 5 RefoRC

### 5.1 General

RefoRC, the Reformation Research Consortium, is the department of Refo500 that focuses on research related to Early Modern Christianity (ca. 1400-ca. 1700). 32 partners of Refo500 are members of RefoRC.

This year's RefoRC Book Award went to Paolo Astorri for his book *Lutheran Theology and Contract Law in Early Modern Germany (ca. 1520-1720)*, published by Ferdinand Schoeningh. The Award comes with a prize of € 1,000. Because there was no Award Ceremony, the winner and his book were announced via a video and a written interview.



Fig. 4 Paolo Astorri with the Book Award 2020

As no Annual RefoRC Conference could be held in 2020, no RefoRC Paper Award 2020 was presented.

In 2020, no appeal was made to the RefoRC support fund, which members of RefoRC can use.

For more than seven years Tarald Rasmussen (Oslo) was the editor of the Journal of Early Modern Christianity. During the year under review, this position was taken over by Wim François (Leuven).

A RefoRC panel was prepared for the European Academy of Religion, which had to cancel its conference as well.

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## 5.2 Annual RefoRC Conference

The Annual RefoRC Conference on Early Modern Christianity appears time and again to meet the needs of academics involved in Early Modern Christianity. Young scholars, and also others, know how to find their way to the annual conference, which this year was to be held in Aarhus: if it were not for the fact that the global pandemic caused unavoidable problems. Aarhus University had chosen *Reformation and Everyday Life* as its theme and had invited well-known keynote speakers. At some point, however, the organizers had to decide not to have the conference at all. The 104 people who had registered were invited to register for the Annual RefoRC conference in 2021.

The plenary lectures in 2021 will focus on the theme *The Long Reformation (c. 1400-1800): Confessions, Cultures, and Societies*. Short papers may, as usual, deal with all facets of Early Modern Christianity, independently of the theme of the plenary lectures. The conference will take place at the Research Centre for the Humanities in Budapest, co-organizer of the conference.

## 5.3 Series

Refo500 Academic Studies (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht)

Eight volumes were published, bringing the total of the volumes in the series to 70.

Journal of Early Modern Christianity (De Gruyter)

Two issues have been published, one of which is a special issue with the theme *Invention, Transfer, and Reception: The Making of the European Reformation*

Kunst und Konfession in der frühen Neuzeit (Schnell und Steiner)

Published is: *Reformatorsche Kirchengestaltung. Tho Gots ere und guder gedächtnis – Die Veränderung und künstlerische Neuausstattung der mittelalterlichen Landkirchen in den norddeutschen Marschen Land Wursten und Osterstade von den Anfängen der Reformation bis zum Ende des Dreißigjährigen Krieges*, by Dietrich Diederichs-Gottschalk.

## 5.4 Board

The RefoRC Board met twice. The Board Members were concerned with the good progress of the series, and with the delivery of content, with the preparations for the Annual RefoRC conferences and everything that goes with it. They offered advice on extending and improving both the network and the programme. The Board has been closely involved in the

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set-up of the new REFORC, which will start mid-2021. One of the most important changes is that REFORC membership is now also open to individual scholars. From now on they can also post their news via the REFORC website and other channels.

## 6 Informing

By "informing" we mean primarily communicating about all kinds of books, projects and events of partners and of course our own productions such as the Annual RefoRC conference. For communication a number of channels and means are available, such as a website, newsletter and social media. In addition, much internal communication takes place through the appropriate channels (e-mail, online conference tools, telephone, and in the past year to a lesser extent physical meetings).

In order to inform the target groups in a helpful way in the future as well, a new house style for RefoRC has been developed, which has already been applied to some of our communications (stationery, business cards, banners) and which will also be used for the new website.

### 6.1 Website

The number of news items changed in accordance with the trend that began a number of years ago: more news was posted on the RefoRC site, but again less news on the Dutch, English and German Refo500 websites. This is related to the trend that there is less and less non-academic news and more and more academic news.

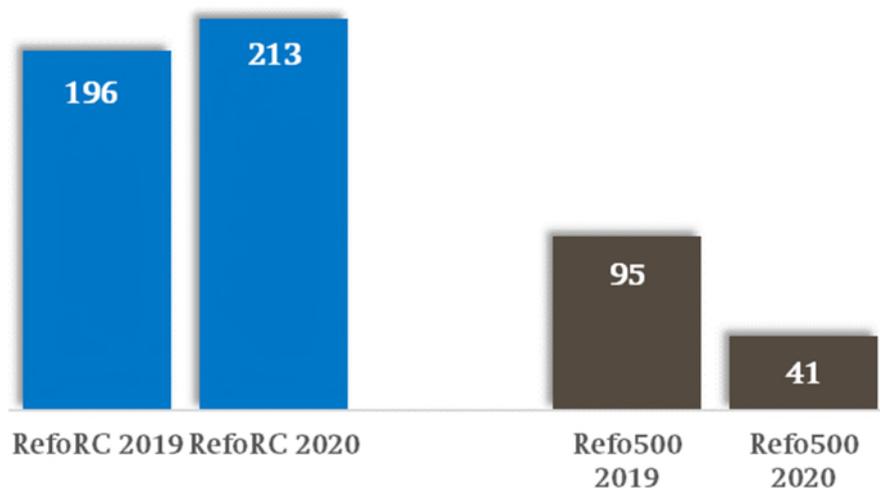


Fig. 5 Number of news items on websites in 2019 and 2020

In view of the future of Refo500, in which RefoRC will be the central focus, plans have been made for the design and layout of a new website for RefoRC, which will be launched in mid-2020.

## 6.2 Social Media

### 6.2.1 Twitter

Both the number of followers and the number of tweet views slightly increased.

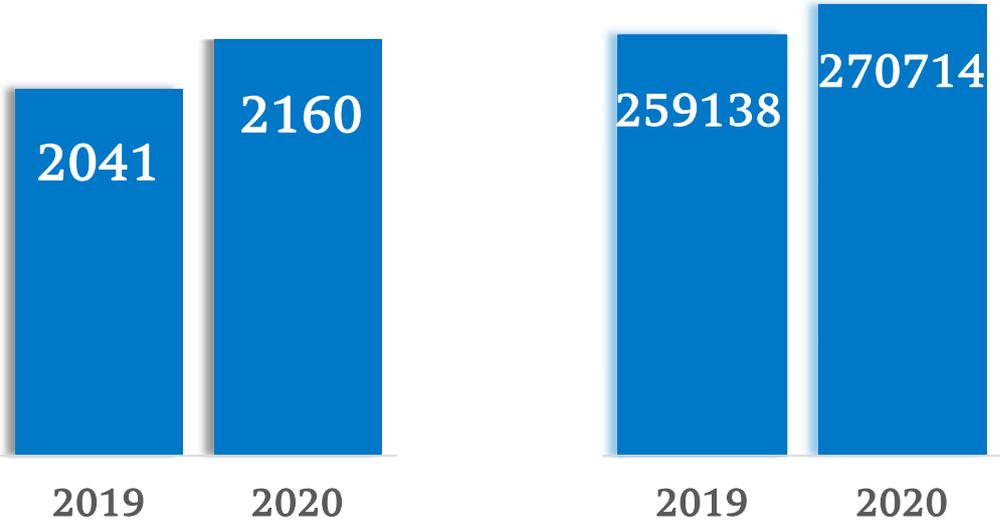


Fig. 6 Number of followers on Twitter 2020 and tweet views 2020

### 6.2.2 Facebook

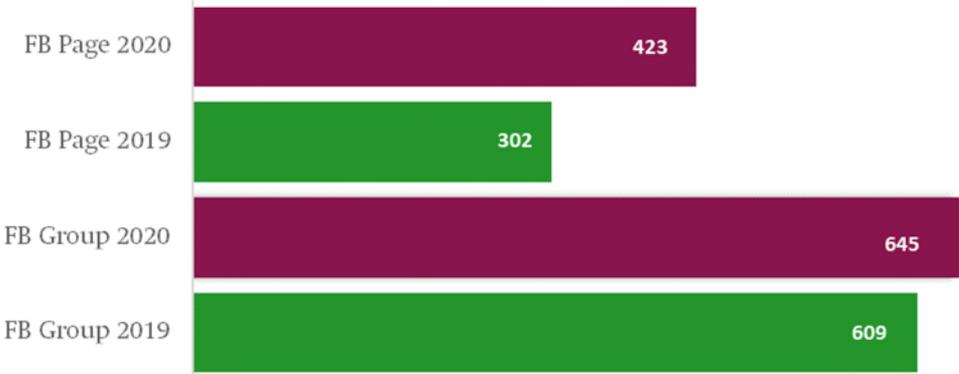


Fig. 7 Number of followers/friends on Facebook 2020

### 6.2.3 Academia.edu

Academia.edu is not often used, in part because a large number of academics can already be reached through the director's account. The number of followers was 421 and the number of pageviews 4100.

### 6.2.4 YouTube

Three new videos have been uploaded. There are currently 130 subscribers. The total number of views of the videos still visible on the account in 2020 is 8721.

### 6.2.5 LinkedIn

A REFORC page was created on LinkedIn, in order to reach the intended target groups there as well.

## 6.3 Newsletters

A total of 33 newsletters found their way to the subscribers. The Dutch, English and German (non-academic) newsletters showed a decline, the academic news a slight increase.

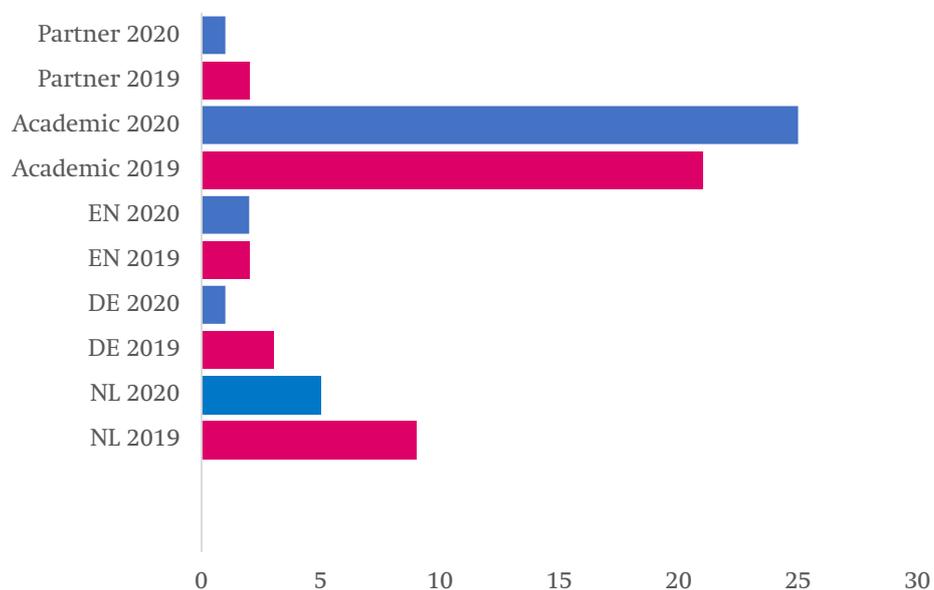


Fig. 8 Number of newsletters 2020

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## 6.4 Press releases

In the year under review, one press release was sent out, namely about the symposium *Priesterlijke zielen gevraagd m/v*, which was organized in cooperation with the TUA, Brevier Uitgeverij and the Katholieke Vereniging voor Oecumene.

## 7 Partners

Number of partners  
on 31 December

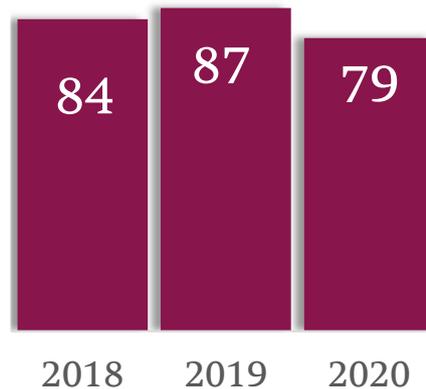


Fig. 9 Number of Partners Refo500

Antiquariaat De Roo, Zwijndrecht  
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca  
Boston University, School of Theology, Boston  
Brevier Uitgeverij, Kampen  
Brill Deutschland GmbH, Paderborn  
Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids  
Crossway, Wheaton  
Deutsches Kulturforum östliches Europa e.V., Berlin  
Donatus Verzekeringen, Rosmalen  
Driestar Educatief, Gouda  
Drukkerij Verloop, Alblasterdam  
Dunham Bible Museum, Houston  
Erdee Media Groep, Apeldoorn  
Europäische Melanchthon-Akademie Bretten  
Evangelische Omroep, Hilversum  
Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven  
Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University, Aarhus  
Faculty of Theology of the University of Copenhagen  
Folkekirkens Uddannelses og Videnscenter, Løgumkloster

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Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII, Bologna  
Gemeente Dordrecht  
Gemeente Zwartewaterland  
Hapdong Theological Seminary, Gyeonggi-do  
IIPAC (International IP ADC Center), Seoul  
Institut für schweizerische Reformationsgeschichte der Universität Zürich  
Institut für Spätmittelalter und Reformation der Universität Tübingen  
Institute for Calvinistic Studies in Korea, Sunnam  
International Reformed Evangelical Seminary, Jakarta  
Internationale Martin Luther Stiftung, Erfurt  
Johannes A Lasco Bibliothek, Emden  
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
Katholieke Vereniging voor Oecumene Athanasius en Willibrord, 's-Hertogenbosch  
Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt  
Kenniscentrum Arbeidsrecht, Goes  
KokBoekencentrum, Utrecht  
Korea Abraham Lincoln Society, Seoul  
Korea Institute for Reformed Preaching, Seoul  
Korean Institute of Reformed Studies, Kosin University, Busan  
Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte, Mainz  
Lund University, Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund  
Martin Luther Stiftung Ruhr, Gladbeck  
MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo  
Musée International de la Réforme, Geneva  
North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, Faculty of Theology  
Ökumenisches Institut für interreligiösen Dialog an der Universität Trier  
Protestantse Theologische Universiteit, Amsterdam  
Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids  
Purun Academy of Reformed Theology, Gyeonggi-do  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson  
Remonstrantse Broederschap, Utrecht  
Research Center for the Humanities, Budapest  
Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, Abingdon  
Royal Jongbloed, Heerenveen  
Society for Reformation Studies, Glasgow  
Sonderforschungsbereich 980 "Episteme in Bewegung", Berlin  
Stiftung LEUCOREA, Stiftung des öffentlichen Rechts an der Martin-Luther-

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Universität Halle-Wittenberg  
Terra Lu Travel, Homberg (Efze)  
The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin  
The Lord's Day Alliance of the U.S., Atlanta  
Theologische Universiteit Apeldoorn  
Theologische Universiteit van de Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland, Kampen  
Torch Trinity Graduate University, Seoul  
Tourist-Information Neustadt, Neustadt an der Weinstrasse  
Uitgeverij Vuurbaak, Hilversum  
Università di Modena-Reggio, Reggio Emilian  
Universität Koblenz-Landau, Institut für Ev. Theologie am Campus Landau  
Universität Osnabrück  
University of Miskolc  
University of Oslo  
University of Warsaw  
University of Wrocław  
Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht GMBH & CO. KG, Göttingen  
Vereniging Protestants Nederland, Apeldoorn  
Verlag Schnell und Steiner GmbH, Regensburg  
Walter de Gruyter GmbH, Berlin  
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia  
Wheaton College, Wheaton  
Yullin Church, Gyeonggi-Do  
Zentrale Universitätsbibliothek „Lucian Blaga“, Klausenburg/Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár

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## 8 People

### Partners

Every partner has one central contact person, and further, all are employees who bring their inspiration, ideas and productions to Refo500.

### Board

Henk Bokhorst (treasurer)  
Izak Kole (secretary)  
Wim Moehn (chairman)  
Willemien Riezebos (board member)

### Advisory Board

Boukje van den Berg-Thijs  
Renger de Bruin  
Gerrit de Fijter  
Wim François  
Wim Janse  
Guido Marnef

### External advisors for liturgical and (church) musical subjects

Jan Luth  
Jan Smelik

### Management and operational leadership

Herman J. Selderhuis  
Karla Boersma

### Employee

Bart Bolhuis

### RefoRC Board

Anne Eusterschulte (Berlin)  
Volker Leppin (Tübingen)  
Alberto Melloni (Bologna)  
Peter Opitz (Zurich)  
Tarald Rasmussen (Oslo)  
Herman Selderhuis (Apeldoorn)  
Zsombor Tóth (Budapest)

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Violet Soen (Leuven)  
Anna Vind (Copenhagen)

Editorial Board *Refo500 Academic Studies*

Christopher B. Brown (Boston)  
Günter Frank (Bretten)  
Bruce Gordon (New Haven)  
Barbara Mahlmann-Bauer (Bern)  
Tarald Rasmussen (Oslo)  
Herman Selderhuis (Apeldoorn)  
Violet Soen (Leuven)  
Zsombor Tóth (Budapest)  
Günther Wassilowsky (Frankfurt)  
Siegrid Westphal (Osnabrück)

Editors-in-Chief *Journal of Early Modern Christianity*

Wim François (Leuven)  
Violet Soen (Leuven)

Co-Editors *Journal of Early Modern Christianity*

Grazyna Jurkowlaniec (Warsaw)  
Tarald Rasmussen (Oslo)  
Rady Roldán-Figueroa (Boston)

*Journal of Early Modern Christianity in Cooperation With*

Sarah Covington (New York)  
Ignasi Fernández Terricabras (Barcelona)  
Mercedes García-Arenal (Madrid)  
Heiner Lück (Halle)  
Volker Leppin (Tübingen)  
Mia M. Mochizuki (New York – Abu Dhabi)  
Zsombor Tóth (Budapest)  
Anna Vind (Copenhagen)

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## Editorial Board Law and Religion in the Early Modern Period

Herman Selderhuis (Apeldoorn)

Wim Decock (Leuven)

Heiner Lück (Halle)

Tarald Rasmussen (Oslo)

### Coordinators

German-speaking region in general: Günter Frank (Bretten)

Asia: Hapdong Theological Seminary (Seoul)

Scandinavia: Tarald Rasmussen (Oslo)

RefoRC: Anna Vind (Copenhagen)

Central and South-East Europe: Zsombor Tóth (Budapest)

### Web editing

Karla Boersma

Bart Bolhuis

### Translations/Text corrections

Jim West (Petros, TN) and several freelancers

### Social media

Karla Boersma

## 9 Numbers

### 9.1 Balance Sheet on 31 December (€)

Assets			Liabilities		
	2020	2019		2020	2019
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>			<i>Equity</i>		
- Office furnishing	308	527	- Special purpose reserve	5.296	15.000
			- Remaining reserves	228.931	188.666
<i>Current assets</i>					
- Inventories	250	394	<i>Long-term debts</i>		
			Remaining debts	-	84
<i>Receivables</i>			<i>Current liabilities</i>		
- Partnership contributions	12.100	11.377	- Repayment obligations	78	167
- Other receivables	1.789	2.391	- Payables	6.758	2.525
			- Taxes and social security insurance	6.760	7.369
<i>Cash and banks</i>	818.363	540.533	- Other debts	8.677	10.257
			- Accruals	576.310	331.154
Total assets	832.810	555.222	Total liabilities	832.810	555.222

## 9.2 Profit and Loss on 31 december (€)

	2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>		
Partnership contributions	128.797	156.285
Conference income	5.323	13.006
Sponsoring	49.500	-
Other income	9.798	56.705
<b>Total income</b>	<b>193.418</b>	<b>225.996</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel	92.143	106.632
Depreciation	220	220
Housing expenses	19.500	19.500
Sales expenses		
▪ Website development and branding	9.704	-
▪ Representation expenses	68	1.235
▪ Conference expenses	12.151	14.087
▪ Bad debts	8.450	12.000
▪ Coram Deo Program expenses	6.711	38.350
▪ ReIReS expenses	3.037	17.144
▪ Donation RefoRC Support Fund	860	566
▪ General RefoRC expenses	9.212	-
▪ Travel	17	-
▪ Collection expenses	355	-
Office expenses	3.362	4.888
General expenses	-3.796	-8.442
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>161.994</b>	<b>206.180</b>
Interest income and expenses	-863	-813
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>30.561</b>	<b>19.003</b>

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## Colofon

Text : Karla Boersma, Henk Bokhorst, Herman J. Selderhuis  
Board address : Hendric Stevinstraat 5, 3841 KB Harderwijk, NL  
W : [www.refo500.com/www.reforc.com](http://www.refo500.com/www.reforc.com)  
E : [info@refo500.com](mailto:info@refo500.com)

Refo500 is the international platform that offers knowledge, expertise, ideas, products and activities on the occasion of 500 years of Reformation.

The platform is part of the Dutch Refo500 Foundation, founded in December 2009.