

## **Dr. Uko Zylstra, Calvin College, MI (Emeritus)**

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Dr. Zylstra was born in the Netherlands during WWII and immigrated with his parents to the U.S. in 1948. He received his B.A. degree from Calvin College with majors in Greek and Biology. He started college intending to prepare for entering the seminary for training in theology, but during his junior year he felt called to “preach” biology rather than theology; thus the dual major. This change in direction was largely triggered by an interest in the philosophical and perspectival issues related to the questions of the nature of life while taking the core biology course. He then attended the University of Michigan where he obtained a M.Sc. degree in Botany before going to the Free University in Amsterdam for a Ph.D. degree in Zoology. Uko taught in the Biology Department at Calvin College since 1976 becoming emeritus in 2012. His primary research interests were in cell biology and electron microscopy, environmental issues – particularly as they pertain to environmental dimensions of world hunger – and issues in the philosophy of biology. Uko, and his wife, Jane, have four children and thirteen delightful grandchildren scattered around the United States and in Australia.