

**General Synod Council
Reformed Church in America
Minutes of May 28, 2021 Meeting
Zoom Video Meeting**

Welcome and Prayer

Ned Beadel, moderator of the General Synod Council (“GSC”), called the meeting to order on May 28, 2021, at 3:01 p.m. (eastern) following the establishment of a quorum and followed by prayer.

Members Present

The following GSC members were present for all or part of the meeting:

Pedro Agudelo	David Landegent
Eddy Alemán, <i>ex-officio</i>	Kent McHeard
Philip Assink	Eric Moreno
Ned Beadel	Sheila Moses
Michelle Chahine	James Nakakihara
Charles Contreras	Albert Plat
Devonna Cousins	Margaret Ritchie
EJ de Waard	Betty Shuster
Bruce Deckinga	Clarance Smith (ELCA)
Stephanie Doeschot	Kimberly Van Es
Hellen Harvey	Harris Van Oort
Anna Jackson	Patricia Varga
Robert Johnson	Imos Wu

The following GSC members were absent:

Jamie Dykstra	Leigh Van Kempen
George Rounds	

Staff and Guests

The following staff members and guests were present for all or part of the meeting:

Terri Boven, *Recorder*
Elizabeth Brand, *Director of General Synod Operations*
Thomas Smith, *Regional Synod Observer from Council of Synod Executives*
Jillisa Teitsma, *Chief Financial Officer*
Jill Ver Steeg, *Chief Operating Officer*
Angela Worthley, *Recorder*

General Synod 2021

A regular stated session of the General Synod has not been held since June 2019 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and concerns regarding the wisdom and safety of delegates and staff from the United States and Canada traveling and meeting together. Following input received from the GSC at its February 22, 2021 meeting (as well as input received from classis presidents, regional synod executives, medical professionals, and RCA staff), the General Synod officers and the general secretary announced a decision to hold a *pro forma* meeting in June 2021 for the purpose of meeting the General Synod's bylaws requirements by calling the meeting to order, noting the absence of a quorum, and then entertaining a motion either to adjourn the annual meeting to a specific date in October 2021, or to simply adjourn the annual meeting which would mean that the next meeting of the General Synod would be in June 2022. In addition, the General Synod officers noted that their decision on the question of whether to adjourn to a date in October 2021 or adjourn and not meet until June 2022 would be made in late May 2021. The purpose of this GSC meeting is for the GSC to once again provide input to the officers to assist them in making that decision.

Officers EJ de Waard, president, and Philip Assink, vice president, described input received during consultation meetings held recently with (1) the presidents of a majority of the classes, and (2) GSC staff and two individuals who are ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament who served as regular delegates to the 2019 General Synod and have extensive medical/science backgrounds - specifically, (a) Frederick Wezeman, Professor Emeritus, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, and (2) Benjamin Doolittle, Associate Professor of Medicine (General Medicine) and of Pediatrics and Director of the Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program at Yale University School of Medicine, and Associate Professor of Religion and Health at Yale Divinity School.

GSC members provided input to the officers.

A poll was taken to determine what proportion of GSC members would advise the officers to plan for an adjournment of the annual meeting to October 2021. The results of the poll indicated a large majority in favor of entertaining an adjournment to October 2021.

The officers will take all input into consideration following today's meeting and make a decision which is to be announced on June 1, 2021. GSC members, staff, and guests were reminded to hold all things discussed at today's meeting confidentially until after that announcement has been made.

Next Meeting

The GSC plans to meet next from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (eastern) on June 22, 2021 by Zoom video conference.

Adjournment

GSC 21-16

Motion made, supported, and carried to adjourn the May 28, 2021 meeting of GSC at 3:42 p.m. (eastern) following prayer by Sheila Moses.

Terri Boven, Recorder
Angela Worthley, Recorder