WORSHIP
A worship team led the Synod in worship. Participants were as follows:
- Kathy de Waard, Sebastian Gimenez, Ben Keller, and the Rev. Art VanSlageren
- The Rev. Brian Engel - liturgist/speaker

CALL TO ORDER
The president called to order the eleventh meeting of the General Synod at 8:29 a.m. on Monday, October 18, 2021.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BENEFITS SERVICES
The president noted that the Board of Benefits Services chose to present a video report by Jack Doorlag, president of the Board of Benefits Services. (GS Workbook pp. 188-200). The delegates viewed the video.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD
The president called upon the general secretary to review the process for electing the vice president of General Synod (GS Workbook, pp. 33-34). The delegates cast the first ballot for General Synod vice president.

HOPE COLLEGE REPORT
The president noted that Hope College chose to present a video report by Matthew Scogin, president of Hope College. The delegates viewed the video.

REPORT OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA CHURCH GROWTH FUND, INC.
The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Michael Bos, corresponding delegate from and president of The Reformed Church in America Church Growth Fund, Inc., to present the board’s report. (GS Workbook pp. 180-187). Rev. Dr. Bos addressed the Synod.

CGF 21-1 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ben Lin, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the advisory committee was to vote in favor of CGF 21-1 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance).
VOTED: To adopt CGF 21-1 (GS Workbook, p. 183-186) (yes 197; no 5).

CGF 21-2 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ben Lin, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the Advisory Committee was to vote in favor CGF 21-2 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 4).

VOTED: To adopt CGF 21-2 (GS Workbook, p. 187) (yes 202; no 3).

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION

The president invited the Cameron Van Kooten-Laughead, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Commission on Christian Action, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook, pp. 201-209). Mr. Van Kooten-Laughead addressed the Synod.

CA 21-1 was presented to the house. (GS Workbook, pp. 202-203)

A motion was made and supported to amend CA 21-1 by adding the following at the end:

“and further, we respectfully acknowledge the Westin Hotel is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the Tohono O’odham and the Yaqui.”

A motion was made and supported to further amend the proposed amendment as follows (addition underlined):

“and further, we respectfully acknowledge the Westin La Paloma Hotel is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the Tohono O'odham and the Yaqui.”

VOTED: To adopt the further amendment to the amendment (yes 177; no 6).

Following certain revisions made without objection, amendments to CA 21-1 in the following form were presented to the house.
“To join the Commission on Christian Action and acknowledge our failure to speak out about the concerns of our indigenous congregations and tribal communities, and express remorse at this inaction; and further,

To direct the General Synod Council, in consultation with the Commissions on Race and Ethnicity and Christian Action, to advocate for the concerns expressed by the indigenous congregations in the RCA;

and further, we respectfully acknowledge the Westin La Paloma Hotel is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the Tohono O'odham and the Yaqui.”

VOTED: To adopt the foregoing amendments to CA 21-1 (yes 175; no 11).

CA 21-1 as amended was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported to add the following to the end of CA 21-1 as amended:

“and further to instruct the General Synod Council to annually state a land acknowledgement for any location in which General Synod meets.”

VOTED: To adopt the amendment to CA 21-1 (yes 132; no 69).

CA 21-1 as amended was presented to the house. It reads in its entirety as follows:

“To join the Commission on Christian Action and acknowledge our failure to speak out about the concerns of our indigenous congregations and tribal communities, and express remorse at this inaction; and further,

To direct the General Synod Council, in consultation with the Commissions on Race and Ethnicity and Christian Action, to advocate for the concerns expressed by the indigenous congregations in the RCA;

and further, we respectfully acknowledge the Westin La Paloma Hotel is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the Tohono O'odham and the Yaqui;

and further to instruct the General Synod Council to annually state a land acknowledgement for any location in which General Synod meets.”
VOTED: To approve all amendments to CA 21-1 (yes 116; no 82).

A motion was made and supported from the floor to cease debate.

VOTED: To cease debate (yes 187; no 13).

VOTED: To adopt CA 21-1 as amended (yes 145; no 55).

CA 21-2 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 21-2 (GS Workbook, pp. 202-203) (yes 175; no 20).

CA 21-3 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 21-3 (GS Workbook, p. 203) (yes 147; no 50).

CA 21-4 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 21-4 (GS Workbook, p. 204) (yes 143; no 43).

CA 21-5 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 21-5 (GS Workbook pp. 204-205) (yes 145; no 50).

CA 21-6 was presented to the house. It reads as follows:

To direct the GSC, through its Investment Committee, to require greater transparency as to where all RCA funds, including retirement funds, are invested, and to continue researching the feasibility and legality of increasing RCA investment in ESG portfolios, taking every reasonable opportunity to utilize them.

A motion was made and supported to amend CA 21-6 as follows (additions underlined):

““To direct the GSC, through its Investment Committee, to require greater transparency as to where all RCA funds, including retirement funds, are invested, and to continue researching the feasibility and legality of increasing RCA investment in ESG portfolios while taking every reasonable opportunity to utilize them; adding fossil fuels to the current list of restricted investments and actively divesting from current fossil fuel
investments; and to begin considering 'impact investing' as a socially, faithfully, and fiscally responsible positive screening investment policy for the RCA.”

VOTED: To not adopt the motion to amend (yes 69; no 129).

CA 21-6 in its original form was again before the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 21-6 (GS Workbook pp. 205) (yes 160; no 38).

General Synod viewed a brief video presentation featuring the work of mission personnel Denise Kingdom-Grier. Upon the request of the president, the Rev. Nancy Boote offered a prayer.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president announced the results of the initial ballots cast for General Synod vice-president. No one received at least two-thirds of the votes cast. Persons receiving at least ten votes on the first ballot were:

- The Rev. Brad Kautz, regular delegate from the Classis of the Rocky Mountains.
- The Rev. Pedro Agudelo, corresponding delegate from the Classis of Queens.
- The Rev. Dwayne Jackson, regular delegate from the Classis of Greater Palisades.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN ACTION, CONTINUED

CA 21-7 presented to the house.

Without objection from the house, the president directed that CA 21-7 be revised by adding “/provincial” immediately following “state” so the affected phrase reads as follows:

“…by regularly contacting local, state/provincial, and federal representatives.”

VOTED: to adopt CA 21-7 as revised (Workbook p. 205) (yes 158; no 42).

CA 21-8 presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported to amend CA 21-8 as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are stricken):
“To urge the general secretary to distribute the above report and resources from the Friends Committee on National Legislation pertaining to the 2002 Iraq War AUMF to classes and congregations across the United States to engage with in study, prayerful discernment, and action, including but not limited to contacting their respective U.S. congress persons and senators to encourage the repeal of the 2002 Iraq War Powers Authorization”.

VOTED: to adopt the amendment to CA 21-8 (Workbook p. 206) (yes 159; no 35).

CA 21-8 as amended was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt CA 21-8 as amended (Workbook p. 206) (yes 156; no 43).

CA 21-9 was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt CA 21-9 (Workbook p. 208 (yes 186; no 16).

CA 21-10 was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt CA 21-10 (Workbook p. 208) (yes, 179; no 17).

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF FINANCE

The president called upon the Rev. Robert Johnson, corresponding delegate from the General Synod Council, to the platform to present the finance report (GS Workbook pp. 55-66). The Rev. Johnson addressed the Synod.

F 21-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt F 21-1 (Workbook p. 65) (yes 192; no 11).

F 21-2 was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt F 21-2 (Workbook p. 66) (yes 193; no 8).

F 21-3b was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt F 21-3b (Workbook p. 66) (yes 176; no 27).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The president called upon the Rev. Ned Beadel, moderator of General Synod Council and moderator of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to the platform to present an
item of business related to the General Synod Bylaws. The Rev. Beadel addressed the Synod.

EC 21-12 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** to adopt EC 21-12 (Workbook p. 43) (yes 185; no 27).

**RECESS**

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 11:18 a.m., following a closing prayer by the Rev. Liz Testa.