WORSHIP

A worship team led the Synod in worship. Participants were as follows:
- Kathy de Waard, Sebastian Gimenez, Ben Keller, the Rev. Art Van Slageren
- The Rev. Patricia Simmons - liturgist/speaker

The president called to order the fourth meeting of the General Synod at 8:29 a.m. on Friday, October 15, 2021.

The General Synod viewed a brief video presentation highlighting an RCA missionary.

The delegates were dismissed to a second session of discernment groups.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The president called upon the general secretary, the Rev. Eddy Alemán, to present his report.

The general secretary addressed the Synod, and presented his report.

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To commend the report of the General Secretary to the Reformed Church in America and each of the consistories, classes, and regional synods.

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED


The moderator informed the Synod that following the publication of the workbook an additional classis’ votes on constitutional amendments adopted by the 2019 General Synod were reported to the General Synod office, but this did not change the determination of whether any
amendment was approved by 2/3 of the classes.

The general secretary explained the process for amendments to the RCA Constitution and the Bylaws of the General Synod.

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To combine EC 21-2 through EC 21-10 for one vote.

**VOTED:** To adopt the motion (yes 154; no 46).

EC 21-2 through EC 21-10 were presented to the house for approval by a single vote of the body.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-2 through EC 21-10 (GS Workbook p. 41) (yes 187; no 11).

EC 21-11 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-11 (GS Workbook pp. 41-42) (yes 187; no 10).

EC 21-13 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-13 (GS Workbook p. 44) (yes 192; no 8).

EC 21-14 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-14 (GS Workbook p. 44) (yes 196; no 4).

EC 21-15 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-15 (GS Workbook p. 44) (yes 198; no 3).

**NEW BUSINESS**

The president offered the second and final opportunity for the presentation of new business. The first item of new business presented was as follows:

“To send a formal communication from the General Secretary and President of General Synod to the White House, the Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security, to express the biblical reasons for supporting a Humanitarian Moratorium on forced returns to Haiti until proper asylum screenings are
implemented for all.

And further, to ask the general secretary to set aside time for us as a synod to pray for Haitians seeking asylum at the southern border of the U.S.”

A second item of new business was presented as follows:

“To instruct the General Synod Council in consultation with all necessary commissions, staff, and legal counsel to dissolve the Reformed Church in America and return all assets to the churches on a per member basis.

This was not able to come as an overture because the Vision 2020 report was not made available until July of 2020 in the midst of a pandemic which has limited our ability to convene as a classis.

Furthermore, Classis Illiana has endured significant losses and is struggling to fill leadership positions and perform its basic function in the face of a pandemic.

Also, before General Synod 2020, classes were discouraged from sending in overtures limiting our ability to present this business through the regular process.”

A third item of new business was presented as follows:

“To instruct delegates to follow their conscience and refrain from speaking or voting on matters related to the future of the RCA if they have already decided to leave the RCA.”

A fourth item of new business was presented as follows:

“In response to GSC 21-21
To encourage the General Synod Council’s Investment Advisory Committee to add fossil fuels to its current list of restricted investments, to begin divestment from any fossil fuel investments and

To begin considering ‘impact investing’ (a defined term in the investment world), a form of positive screening, rather than just exclusionary screening, as a socially, faithfully and fiscally responsible investment policy for the RCA going forward.”

The items of new business were referred to the Committee of Reference for further referral or disposition as appropriate.
The president declared the General Synod recessed at 12:19 p.m., following prayer by Ben Keller, regular delegate from the Classis of Cascades.