GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2021 Journal of Actions
Meeting 7
Saturday morning – October 16, 2021
Arizona Ballroom

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. Bradley Kautz - liturgist/speaker

CALL TO ORDER
The president called to order the seventh meeting of the General Synod at 8:27 a.m. on Saturday, October 16, 2021.

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

REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL FOR HISPANIC MINISTRIES
The president called upon the Rev. Pedro Agudelo, corresponding delegate from, and president of, the Council for Hispanic Ministries, to present the council’s report (GS Workbook pp. 81-83). Rev. Agudelo addressed the Synod.

REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL FOR PACIFIC AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES
The president called upon the Rev. Imus Wu, corresponding delegate from the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries, to present the council’s report (GS Workbook pp. 78-80). Rev. Wu addressed the Synod.

REPORT FROM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BLACK COUNCIL
The president noted that the African American Black Council chose to present a video report by the Rev. Sharon Atkins, president of the African American Black Council (GS Workbook pp. 69-76). The delegates viewed the video.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED
EC 21-19 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-19 (GS Workbook p. 50) (yes 185; no 16).

EC 21-20 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-20 (GS Workbook p. 50) (yes 177; no 20).

EC 21-21 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-21 (GS Workbook p. 50) (yes 185; no 14).

EC 21-22 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt EC 21-22 (GS Workbook p. 50) (yes 186; no 15).

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To include a question about participation in anti-racism training in the annual Consistory Report Form.

**VOTED:** To adopt the motion (yes 165; no 33).

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON RACE AND ETHNICITY**

The president called upon the Rev. Kelvin Spooner, corresponding delegate from, and moderator of, the Commission on Race and Ethnicity, to present the report of the commission (GS Workbook pp. 281-284). Rev. Spooner addressed the Synod.

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To direct the General Synod Council to work with the General Secretary to increase the position of the Director of the Office of Advocacy and Race Relations to a full time position.

**VOTED:** To not adopt the motion (yes 94; no 97).

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

The president called upon the Rev. Dirk Gieser, corresponding delegate from, and moderator of, the Commission on Christian Worship, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook pp. 228). Rev. Gieser addressed the Synod.
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION

The president called upon the Rev. Mark Swart, corresponding delegate from, and moderator of, the Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook pp. 210-214). Rev. Swart addressed the synod.

The delegates viewed a brief video presentation featuring the work of mission partner personnel Rawee Bunupuradah. Upon the request of the president, the vice president offered prayer.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The president called upon the Rev. Debra Rensink, regular delegate from and moderator of the Commission for Women, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook p. 308). Rev. Rensink addressed the synod.

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE REPORT

The president called upon Gregory Christy, president of Northwestern College, to share a brief report from one of the RCA colleges. Christy addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE COMMISION ON CHURCH ORDER

The president called upon Rev. Joshua Scheid, regular delegate from Classis of Nassau-Suffolk and moderator of the Commission on Church Order, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook pp 229-241), and Janet Van Wyk, regular delegate from Classis of Central Iowa and vice moderator of the advisory committee on Church Order and Governance, to present the advice of the advisory committee. Rev. Scheid and Ms. Van Wyk addressed the Synod.

CO 21-1 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ms. Van Wyk, vice 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 CO 21-1 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 1).

VOTED: to adopt CO 21-1 (GS Workbook pp. 230-231) (yes 208, no 3).
CO 21-2 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ms. Van Wyk, vice 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 CO 21-2 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 1).

**VOTED:** to adopt CO 21-2 (GS Workbook pp. 231-232 (yes 207, no 0)).

CO 21-5 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ms. Van Wyk, vice 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 CO 21-5 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 3).

**VOTED:** to adopt CO 21-5 (GS Workbook p. 238) (voice vote).

CO 21-6 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ms. Van Wyk, vice 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 CO 21-6 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 3).

**VOTED:** to adopt CO 21-6 (GS Workbook p. 238) (Voice vote).

CO 21-7 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ms. Van Wyk, vice 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 CO 21-7 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 3).

VOTED: to adopt CO 21-7 (GS Workbook p. 239) (yes 209, no 1)

CO 21-3 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ms. Van Wyk, vice moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance was to amend CO 21-3 as follows: (additions are underlined twice; deletions are stricken twice)

Sec. 3. Meetings

a. The committee shall be convened by the president of General Synod, in the event of an emergency as described in Section 1. In the event of a disaster that makes his or her participation impossible, the basis of succession for convening shall be: (a) president, (b) vice president, (c) immediate past president of General Synod.

b. Meetings may be held using electronic means as long as the meeting allows for simultaneous aural communication among all participating members.

c. The presence of two-thirds a majority of the classis representatives is required to constitute a quorum.

d. By a two-thirds vote of those present, this committee is empowered to postpone a session of the General Synod and schedule the time and place for the next session by a two-thirds majority vote of the classis representatives present and voting.

e. By the vote of three-quarters of the entire committee membership, this committee may also take any of the following actions: set the amount of the General Synod assessment, act on recommendations offered by the Commission on Nominations, or other actions that may be required for the General Synod to function.
The convener shall make a report to the next session of the General Synod of all meetings held and actions taken under this emergency provision. At the next session of the General Synod, all decisions of this committee must be reviewed and ratified to continue to have effect.

**VOTED:** to adopt the amendment to CO 21-3 (GS Workbook pp. 235-37) (yes 202, no 6).

CO 21-3 as amended was presented to the house. A motion was made and supported to further amend CO 21-3 as follows: (deletions are double stricken)

**Sec. 3. Meetings**

e. The committee shall be convened by the president of General Synod, in the event of an emergency as described in Section 1. In the event of a disaster that makes his or her participation impossible, the basis of succession for convening shall be: (a) president, (b) vice president, (c) immediate past president of General Synod.

**VOTED:** to adopt the further amendment to CO 21-3 (voice vote).

**VOTED:** to adopt CO 21-3 as amended and further amended (GS Workbook pp. 235-37) (yes 205, no 5).

CO 21-4 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Ms. Van Wyk, vice moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance was to amend CO 21-4 as follows: (deletions are stricken twice)

**Sec. 1.** The General Synod shall meet no less frequently than annually at such time and place as shall have been determined was either reported by the Executive Committee at its a previous stated session or determined by the Committee on Emergencies. All meetings of the General Synod shall begin and end with prayer.
VOTED: to adopt the amendment to CO 21-4 (GS Workbook p. 237) (yes 205, no 5).

CO 21-4 as amended was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt CO 21-4 as amended (GS Workbook p. 237) (yes 205, no 5).

COMMISION ON HISTORY
The president called upon Rev. David Zomer, corresponding delegate from the Commission on History, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook pp. 242-60). Rev. Zomer addressed the Synod.

COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS
The president called upon Carol Mutch, corresponding delegate from Classis of Passaic Valley and moderator of the Commission on Nominations, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook pp. 265-280). Ms. Mutch addressed the Synod.

N 21-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt N 21-1 (GS Workbook p. 278) (yes 201, no 4).

N 21-2 was presented to the house.

VOTED: to adopt N 21-2 (GS Workbook p. 279) (voice vote).

N 21-3 was presented to the house.


RECESS
The president declared the General Synod recessed at 11:58 a.m., following a closing prayer by Rev. Gerald Norman, regular delegate from the Classis of West Sioux.