

**General Synod Council serving as the Committee of Reference
Reformed Church in America
Minutes of October 14, 2021 Meeting
The Westin La Paloma, Tucson, Arizona**

Welcome and Prayer

Ned Beadel, moderator of the General Synod Council (“GSC”), called the meeting of the Committee of Reference (“Committee”) to order on October 14, 2021, at 12:18 p.m. and offered prayer.

Members Present

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

Pedro Agudelo	Kathryn Lohre (ELCA)
Eddy Alemán, ex-officio	Kent McHeard
Philip Assink	Michael Meyer-Veen
Ned Beadel	Eric Moreno
Michelle Chahine	James Nakakihara
Devonna Cousins	Albert Plat
Susan Davis	Neale Roller
Bruce Deckinga	Glenn Spyksma
EJ de Waard	Lee Vande Voort
Jamie Dykstra	Kimberly Van Es
Hellen Harvey	Harris Van Oort
Robert Johnson	Imos Wu

Members Absent

The following members of the Committee were unable to attend the meeting:

Sheila Moses	Leigh Van Kempen
Eric Nichols	Patricia Varga

Staff and Guests

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

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

General Synod

Elizabeth Brand addressed the Committee regarding (a) the 2021 General Synod schedule, and (b) alternate delegates to the special advisory committees approved at the August 13, 2021 GSC meeting. Two of the delegates approved are unable to serve. The following revised membership was presented (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

Overtures and New Business

Moderator: Chuck Swoboda (minister, Classis of Cascades)

Vice Moderator: Dwayne Jackson (minister, Classis of Greater Palisades)

Ministers

Benjamin Bruins (Classis of North Grand Rapids)

~~Laura Dilley (Classis of North Grand Rapids)~~

Stacey Duensing (Classis of Orange)

Jon Garbison (Classis of Wisconsin)

Deb Rensink (Classis of West Sioux)

Elders

Lynne Stenberg (Classis of Montgomery)

June Denny (Classis of Southwest)

Willie Si (Synod of Canada)

Mary Zwart (Classis of Southwest Michigan)

General Synod Professor

Chad Pierce

Church Order and Governance

Moderator: Ben Lin (minister, Classis of New Brunswick)

Vice Moderator: Jan Van Wyk (elder, Synod of the Heartland)

Ministers

George Grevenstuk (Classis of Great Lakes City)

Gary Jarvis (Classis of Zeeland)

Megan Hodgin (Classis of Schenectady)

Carole Barber (Classis of the Americas)

Scott Stephan (Classis of Illinois)

Elders

Mertella Munroe (Classis of Rockland-Westchester)

Lorena Serrano (Classis of the Americas)

Hugo Vasquez (Classis of Holland)

General Synod Professor

Cornelis Kors

~~Tim Brown~~

GSC 21-32

Motion made, supported, and carried:

To approve (a) the 2021 General Synod schedule as presented, and
(b) revisions to the special advisory committees as presented.

Elizabeth Brand addressed the Committee regarding its role and responsibilities at General Synod.

The *Book of Church Order* states that delegates are expected to attend all meetings of the General Synod session unless excused by the Committee of Reference (*BCO* Chapter 3, Part I, Article 1, Section 2, 2019 ed. p. 105). The following voting delegates have submitted requests to be excused from various meetings.

- Cory Moss (Minnesota Classis): Closing worship
- Drew Peterson (Northern Michigan Classis): Tuesday morning plenary/closing worship
- Jon Brown (Holland Classis): Thursday and Friday meetings
- Chuck Swoboda (Cascades Classis): Closing worship
- Michael Molling (City Classis): Thursday, Friday, and Saturday meetings
- Quinn Tirrel (Classis of Central Plains): Closing worship

GSC 21-33

Motion made, supported, and carried:

To approve the requests of Cory Moss, Drew Peterson, Jon Brown, Chuck Swoboda, Michael Molling, and Quinn Tirrel for excused absences from the meetings of the General Synod 2021 as presented, and also to excuse any delegates who have encountered flight disruptions and cancellations.

GSC 21-34

Motion made, supported, and carried to adjourn the October 14, 2021 meeting of the Committee at 12:40 p.m. following prayer by Michelle Chahine.

Angela Worthley, Recorder