WORSHIP

A worship team led the Synod in worship.

Musicians and vocalists were as follows: Arena Collin, Gezelle Kingdom-Grier, Grandy Soleman Oley, Vidal Sequeira, Erica Simpson, Jeremy Simpson, Melani Amelia Situmorang, and the Rev. Shuo-min (Imos) Wu.

Liturgy was crafted by the Native American and Indigenous Ministries constituency and participants were as follows: the Rev. Eddy Alemán, Michelle Chahine, the Rev. Bradley Kautz, Kenneth Mallory, and Ken Samela.

CALL TO ORDER

The president called to order the tenth meeting of the General Synod at 8:44 a.m. on Monday, June 13, 2022, followed by 15-minutes of prayer around the tables.

REPORT FROM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BLACK COUNCIL
The president called upon the Rev. Maudelin Willock, member of the African American Black Council Executive Committee, and regular delegate from the Regional Synod of New York, to present the council’s report (GS Workbook, pp. 63-67). Rev. Willock addressed the Synod.

REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL FOR HISPANIC MINISTRIES
The president called upon the Rev. Pedro Agudelo, president of the Council for Hispanic Ministries Executive Committee, and corresponding delegate from the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of General Synod, to present the council’s report (GS Workbook, pp. 70-71). Rev. Agudelo addressed the Synod.

REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL FOR PACIFIC AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES
The president called upon the Rev. Ancela Fransisca Rumokoy, president of the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries Executive Committee, and corresponding regional synod women delegate from the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics, to present the council’s report (GS Workbook, pp. 68-69). Rev. Rumokoy addressed the Synod.
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. 32-33). The delegates cast the first ballot for General Synod vice president.

MISSIONARY VIDEO

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. Stephanie Doeschot, regular delegate from the Classis of Illinois
- The Rev. Judith Nelson, regular delegate from the Classis of Holland

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

F 22-1 was presented to the house (GS Workbook, p. 59).

VOTED: To adopt F 22-1 (yes 143; no 27).

F 22-2 was presented to the house (GS Workbook, p. 60).

VOTED: To adopt F 22-2 (yes 154; no 12).

F 22-3b was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend F 22-3b as follows:

To approve the 2023 assessment of $6.12 per confessing member for theological education.

VOTED: To reject the amendment to F 22-3b (yes 42; no 131).
F 22-3b in its original form was again before the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend F 22-3b as follows:

To approve the 2023 assessment of $6.42 $4.76 per confessing member for theological education.

The motion to amend F 22-3b was withdrawn by the delegate who made it.

F 22-3b in its original form was again before the house.

VOTED: To adopt F 22-3b (yes 149; no 24) (GS Workbook, p. 60).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD PROFESSORATE

The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Chad Pierce, regular delegate from the professorate and moderator of the Pastoral Formation Oversight Board, to present the report of the professorate (GS Workbook, p. 239). Rev. Dr. Pierce addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE PASTORAL FORMATION OVERSIGHT BOARD

The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Chad Pierce, regular delegate from the professorate and moderator of the Pastoral Formation Oversight Board, to present the report of the board (GS Workbook, pp. 240-247). Rev. Dr. Pierce addressed the Synod.

TE 22-1 was presented to the house (GS Workbook, pp. 240-243).

The president called upon the Rev. Jonathan Opgenorth, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to provide the advice of the advisory committee, which was to vote in favor TE 22-1 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, Part 2, p. 1).

VOTED: To adopt TE 22-1 (yes 158; no 14).

TE 22-2 was presented to the house (GS Workbook, pp. 243-245).

The president called upon the Rev. Jonathan Opgenorth, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advisory committee’s advice was to amend TE 22-2 as follows (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, Part 2, pp. 1-4). The committee’s additions are double underlined and highlighted; the committee’s deletions
are double struck and highlighted.

To establish the following process for a candidate to receive a Certificate of Readiness for Examination by adopting the following changes to the *Book of Church Order*, Chapter 1, Part II, for recommendation to the classes for approval (additions are underlined; deletions are stricken):

**Article 12. Certificates of Fitness for Ministry Readiness for Examination**

**Sec. 1. Candidates at Seminaries Officially Related to the Reformed Church in America**

A Master of Divinity degree from a seminary officially related to the Reformed Church in America will serve as a Certificate of Readiness for Examination. A candidate for ministry who has received the degree of Master of Divinity from a seminary of the Reformed Church in America, upon the successful completion of the prescribed course of theological studies, is found to be qualified and is adjudged to be a fit candidate for ministry of Word and sacrament in the Reformed Church in America, shall receive from the General Synod through the board of trustees of an RCA seminary a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry, which is entitlement to an examination for licensure and ordination, with the courses that includes course work satisfying addressing the requirements for ministry of Word and sacrament as defined in Chapter 1, Part II, Article 11, Sections 6 and 7, as documented on the candidate’s transcript, from one of the two historic seminaries of the Reformed Church in America, is entitled to an examination for licensure and ordination by a classis.

**Sec. 2. Candidates at Other Seminaries Not Officially Related to the Reformed Church in America**

a. A candidate for ministry who has received the degree of Master of Divinity or an academically equivalent degree from a seminary not officially historically related to the Reformed Church in America upon the successful completion of the prescribed course of theological studies, is found to be qualified, and is adjudged to be a fit candidate for ministry of Word and sacrament in the Reformed Church in America,
and who satisfies addressing the requirements for ministry of Word and Sacrament as defined by Chapter I, Part II, Article 11, Sections 6 and 7, shall receive from the General Synod through the board of trustees of the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry Readiness for Examination, which is entitlement to an examination for licensure and ordination.

b. The General Synod through the board of trustees of the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency shall require the applicant to furnish, at the conclusion of seminary studies, the following: a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools or a theological accrediting agency of comparable standards as determined by the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency; a transcript of the applicant’s academic record at this seminary; and evidence of confessing membership in a Reformed church of the classis making petition.

c. The General Synod through the board of trustees of the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency shall determine that the candidate meets minimum competencies as determined by the standards established by the General Synod and designated as indispensable for the proper exercise of the ministerial office of the church. If a candidate comes under the jurisdiction of a new agent of the General Synod, the classis in which the candidate is enrolled shall apply to the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency on behalf of the candidate. If the candidate has completed less than half the process toward reception of the Certificate of Fitness for Ministry, the relevant agents of the General Synod shall effect the transfer. If the candidate has completed half the process or more, the original agent shall award the Certificate. If the applicant has previously been asked to terminate studies, has withdrawn under duress, or has been denied the Certificate of Fitness for Ministry at a Reformed Church in America seminary or the MFCA, further supervision and/or examination of the applicant shall only be carried out by or with the consent of the seminary or agent within whose program the candidate had previously been enrolled.
Sec. 3. Transfer Between Agents

If a candidate desires to come under the jurisdiction of a new different theological agent of the General Synod during the process, or if the applicant has previously been asked to terminate studies, has withdrawn under duress, or has been denied the Certificate of Readiness for Examination at an official seminary of the RCA or the MECA, the classis in which the candidate is enrolled shall notify both parties on behalf of the candidate. Further supervision and/or examination of the applicant shall only be carried out by or with the consent of the seminary or theological agent within whose program the candidate had previously been enrolled.

Subsequent sections will be renumbered.

Reason:
The proposed revisions reflect consultation among the PFOB, the Commission on Church Order, and the advisory committee, and clarify the intention of the amendments as originally proposed.

VOTED: To adopt the amendment to TE 22-2 (yes 166; no 6).

TE 22-2 as amended was before the house. It reads as follows:

To establish the following process for a candidate to receive a Certificate of Readiness for Examination by adopting the following changes to the Book of Church Order, Chapter 1, Part II, for recommendation to the classes for approval (additions are underlined; deletions are stricken):

Article 12. Certificates of Fitness for Ministry Readiness for Examination

Sec. 1. Candidates at Reformed Church Seminaries Seminaries Officially Related to the Reformed Church in America

A Master of Divinity degree from a seminary officially related to the Reformed Church in America will serve as a Certificate of Readiness for Examination. A candidate for ministry who has received such a degree of Master of Divinity from a seminary of the Reformed Church in
America, upon the successful completion of the prescribed course of theological studies, is found to be qualified and is adjudged to be a fit candidate for ministry of Word and sacrament in the Reformed Church in America, shall receive from the General Synod through the board of trustees of an RCA seminary a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry, which is entitlement to an examination for licensure and ordination that includes course work satisfying the requirements for ministry of Word and sacrament as defined in Chapter 1, Part II, Article 11, Section 7, as documented on the candidate’s transcript, is entitled to an examination for licensure and ordination.

Sec. 2. Candidates at Other Seminaries Not Officially Related to the Reformed Church in America

a. A candidate for ministry who has received the degree of Master of Divinity or an academically equivalent degree from a seminary not officially related to the Reformed Church in America upon the successful completion of the prescribed course of theological studies, is found to be qualified, and is adjudged to be a fit candidate for ministry of Word and sacrament in the Reformed Church in America, addressing the requirements for ministry of Word and Sacrament as defined by Chapter 1, Part II, Article 11, Section 7, shall receive from the General Synod through the board of trustees of the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry Readiness for Examination, which is entitlement to an examination for licensure and ordination.

b. The General Synod through the board of trustees of the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency shall require the applicant to furnish, at the conclusion of seminary studies, the following: a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools or a theological accrediting agency of comparable standards as determined by the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency; a transcript of the applicant’s academic record at this seminary; and evidence of confessing membership in a Reformed church of the classis making petition.
c. The General Synod through the board of trustees of the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency shall determine that the candidate meets minimum competencies as determined by the standards established by the General Synod and designated as indispensable for the proper exercise of the ministerial office of the church. If a candidate comes under the jurisdiction of a new agent of the General Synod, the classis in which the candidate is enrolled shall apply to the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency on behalf of the candidate. If the candidate has completed less than half the process toward reception of the Certificate of Fitness for Ministry, the relevant agents of the General Synod shall effect the transfer. If the candidate has completed half the process or more, the original agent shall award the Certificate. If the applicant has previously been asked to terminate studies, has withdrawn under duress, or has been denied the Certificate of Fitness for Ministry at a Reformed Church in America seminary or the MFCA, further supervision and/or examination of the applicant shall only be carried out by or with the consent of the seminary or agent within whose program the candidate had previously been enrolled.

Sec. 3. Transfer Between Agents

If a candidate desires to come under the jurisdiction of a different theological agent of the General Synod during the process, the classis in which the candidate is enrolled shall notify both parties on behalf of the candidate. Further supervision and/or examination of the applicant shall only be carried out by or with the consent of the theological agent in whose program the candidate had previously been enrolled.

Subsequent sections will be renumbered.

VOTED: To adopt TE 22-2 as amended (yes 166; no 7).

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 11:49 a.m., following prayer by Ruth Langkamp, corresponding delegate from the Commission on Race and Ethnicity.