CALL TO ORDER

The Rev. Philip Assink, General Synod president, called to order the twelfth meeting of the General Synod at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2022. Hellen Harvey, corresponding delegate from the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, offered prayer.

MISSIONARY VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video about the missionary work of Jeremy and Susan Beebout at Eglise Evangélique de la République du Niger (EERN) in Niger. Thomas Cellilli, regular delegate from the Classis of Pleasant Prairie, offered prayer.

PRESENTATIONS OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

The president invited Dean Schramm, member of Commission of Nominations and regular delegate from the Classis of Illiana, and the following vice presidential candidates to the platform:

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

Mr. Schramm introduced each candidate in alphabetical order and each candidate addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED

The president called upon the Rev. Cora Taitt, regular delegate from the Classis of New York and moderator of the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business, and the Rev. Corinne Ellis, regular delegate from the Classis of the Southwest and vice moderator of the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business, to present the committee’s report (Report of the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business, Part 3). The Revs. Taitt and Ellis addressed the Synod.

In response to the third item of new business that was accepted (Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business, Part 3, p. 4), ONB 22-11 was presented to the house. It reads as follows:
To deny the third item of new business.

Reasons:

1. The committee affirms the intent of not criminalizing women who have abortions and the importance of advocacy for the unborn. However, portions of the letter do not bear witness to the gracious nature of Christ.
2. The signers of the letter are leaders of advocacy groups and not denominational heads and therefore it does not seem appropriate for the general secretary of our denomination to sign.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend the motion as follows:

To deny the third item of new business; and further,

To recommend that the Commission on Christian Action in collaboration with the Commissions for Women and Theology to revisit the CCA statement from 1990 regarding social determinants that affect a woman's reproductive rights.

The president ruled the motion out of order.

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

**VOTED:** To adopt the motion cease debate (yes 121, no 42).

**VOTED:** To adopt ONB 22-11 (yes 94, no 71).

**RECESS**

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 7:56 p.m., following prayer by Gildo Vieira, regular delegate from the Classis of Ontario.