WORSHIP SERVICE
A worship team led the Synod in worship. Participants were as follows: Vivian Campbell, Devonna Cousins, the Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards, Sheila Moses, Irma Williams, Arena Collin, Gezelle Kingdom-Grier, Grandy Soleman Oley, Barbara Pimentel, Vidal Sequeira, Erica Simpson, Jeremy Simpson, Melani Amelia Situmorang, and the Rev. Maudelin Willock.

The Word was preached by the Rev. Susanah Wade.

The president called to order the third meeting of the General Synod at 8:48 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2022.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY
The general secretary provided an overview of the business for the day. Thereafter the president called upon the general secretary, the Rev. Eddy Alemán, to present his report.

The general secretary addressed the Synod.

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To commend the General Secretary’s report to all classes and consistories.

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

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


Reason: The letter was not published until May 12, 2022, which supports that this
could not have been submitted through regular channels.

The additional item of new business was referred to the Committee of Reference for further referral or disposition as appropriate.

MISSIONARY VIDEO
The General Synod viewed a brief video presentation highlighting Jaime and Martha Amaro, RCA missionaries. Thereafter the Rev. George Montanari, regular delegate from Classis of New Brunswick, led the Synod in prayer.

BOARD OF BENEFITS SERVICES REPORT
President invited the Rev. Dr. Jack Doorlag, president of the Board of Benefits Services, to present the agency’s report (GS Workbook pp. 155-172), and the Rev. Jonathan Opgenorth, regular delegate from the Classis of Zeeland and moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to present the advice of the advisory committee. The Rev. Dr. Doorlag addressed the Synod.

BBS 22-1 was presented to the house. It reads as follow:

To adopt the following amendments to the Bylaws of The Board of Benefits Services of the Reformed Church in America, Inc., a Michigan nonprofit membership corporation (additions are underlined; deletions are stricken):

Section 3.3 Number and Term of Directors. The board consists of at least eight (8) and not more than sixteen (16) directors. The composition of the board shall be as follows: one person designated by the General Synod Council from among its moderator or the president or vice president of the General Synod, the moderator of the General Synod Council, the general secretary of the General Synod or his or her designee, one member of the General Synod Council with interest and experience in the work of The Board of Benefits Services designated by the General Synod Council from among its members, and at least five (5) and no more than thirteen (13) directors-at-large who shall be nominated and elected in the manner set forth in BCO Chapter 3, Part I, Article 4 (as it may be amended from time to time).
Eligibility for each at-large director, method for election and/or appointment (including the filling of vacancies for any reason), and the term of office shall be as provided for General Synod agencies in the BCO. The terms of office on the board of directors of the corporation for the member of the General Synod Council shall be limited to his or her term of service as such member, and of the general secretary of the General Synod shall be limited to his or
her term of service as such general secretary. The Commission on Nominations (as defined in the BCO) should strive to assure that no more than one third of the at-large director terms expire annually. The at-large directors shall have such experience, qualifications, and professional backgrounds as are necessary or appropriate to ensure that the board of directors is properly equipped to monitor the performance of the Executive Director and effectively represent the various constituencies in the Reformed Church in America that have an interest in the proper and effective functioning of the corporation, and may include one or more ordained ministers, dependents of ordained ministers or employees of institutions or agencies of the Reformed Church in America who are participants in the plans and programs that are managed and administered by the corporation at the date of their nomination. No more than one half of the board of directors shall be ordained ministers or dependents of ordained ministers or employees of institutions or agencies of the Reformed Church in America. The general secretary shall use every opportunity to bring the work of the corporation before the Reformed Church in America.

Section 5.2 President. The President must be a member of the board of directors. The President presides over all board meetings, and performs such other duties as are usually required of that officer or as may be requested by the board. The President or his or her designee shall be a member or ex-officio member of all committees of the board, with such rights, responsibilities and privileges as may be established at the time of formation of the committee.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES
The board may create committees from time to time. All committee chairs must be directors. With or without cause, the board may at any time disband any committee, including any executive committee, or remove any committee member.

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 advice of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance was to amend BBS 22-1 as follows: (additions are double underlined and highlighted; deletions are double struck and highlighted):

Section 3.3 Number and Term of Directors. The board consists of at least eight (8) nine (9) and not more than sixteen (16) seventeen (17) directors.
The composition of the board shall be as follows: one person designated by the General Synod Council from among its moderator or the president or vice president of the General Synod, the moderator of the General Synod Council, the general secretary of the General Synod or his or her designee, one member of the General Synod Council with interest and experience in the work of The Board of Benefits Services designated by the General Synod Council from among its members, one person designated by the General Synod Council from among its moderator or the president or vice president of the General Synod, and at least five (5) and no more than thirteen (13) directors-at-large who shall be nominated and elected in the manner set forth in BCO Chapter 3, Part I, Article 4 (as it may be amended from time to time)...

**VOTED:** To adopt the amendment to BBS 22-1 (yes 171, no 2).

BBS 22-1 as amended was before the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt BBS 22-1 as amended (yes 171, no 2).

**COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION**


**COMMISSION ON RACE AND ETHNICITY**

The president invited the Rev. Nathan Pyle, corresponding delegate from the Commission on Race and Ethnicity, to present its report. The Rev. Pyle addressed the Synod (GS Workbook pp. 219-225).

RE 22-1 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt RE 22-1 (GS Workbook pp. 222-223) (yes 163, no 12).

RE 22-2 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt RE 22-2 (GS Workbook p. 224) (yes 129, no 45).

RE 22-3 was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend RE 22-3 as follows (deletion is stricken):

To direct the General Synod Council to reinstate and recognize a fourth
racial/ethnic council for Native American and First Nations Ministries as a permanent council in the Reformed Church in America with all rights and privileges hereto according to the *Book of Church Order*, Chapter 3, Part I, Article 3, Section 2b (2021 edition, p. 109).

**VOTED:** To amend RE 22-3 (GS Workbook p. 225) (yes 151, no 19).

RE 22-3 as amended was before the house. It reads as follows:

To direct the General Synod Council to reinstate and recognize a fourth racial/ethnic council for Native American and First Nations Ministries as a council in the Reformed Church in America with all rights and privileges hereto according to the *Book of Church Order*, Chapter 3, Part I, Article 3, Section 2b (2021 edition, p. 109).

**VOTED:** To adopt RE 22-3 as amended (yes 172, no 1).

RE 22-4 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt RE 22-4 (GS Workbook p. 225) (yes 151, no 20).

**RECESS**

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 11:50 a.m., following prayer by Elvis Alvarez, regular delegate from the Classis of Greater Palisades.