CALL TO ORDER
The Rev. Philip Assink, General Synod president, called to order the seventh meeting of the General Synod at 1:31 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Noreen Fargione, regular delegate from the Classis of Albany, offered prayer.

MISSIONARY VIDEO
Delegates viewed a brief video about the missionary work of Amy and Andrew Fields at the Biblical Seminary of Columbia. Linda Kolk, regular delegate from the Classis of Zeeland, offered prayer.

REPORT OF NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Micah McCreary, corresponding delegate from and president of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and the Rev. Gregory Dunlap, corresponding delegate from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, and to present the report of the seminary (GS Workbook, pp. 251-255). Rev. Dr. McCreary addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL FORMATION CERTIFICATION AGENCY
The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Scott Christiansen, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency, to present the report of the agency (GS Workbook pp. 248-250). Rev. Dr. Christiansen addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
The president called upon Steve Spoelhof, corresponding delegate from and vice chairperson of the Western Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, and the Rev. Dr. Felix Theonugraha, corresponding delegate from and president of Western Theological Seminary, to present the report of the seminary (GS Workbook, pp. 256-263). The Synod viewed a brief video featuring the work of the seminary. Rev. Dr. Theonugraha addressed the Synod.

TE 22-3 was presented to the house.
VOTED: To adopt TE 22-3 (GS Workbook, pp. 261-262) (voice vote).

The Rev. Dr. James Brownson addressed the Synod.

Rev. Dr. Theonugraha and Mr. Spoelhof provided an introduction to the seminary’s revised proposed bylaws and articles of incorporation (GS Workbook, pp. 262-263) that would permit the seminary to become an “officially related” institution of the RCA. This follows the seminary’s original request to become an “affiliated” institution of the RCA, which was submitted to the 2021 General Synod and referred to the General Synod Council in consultation with the Commission on Church Order (TE 21-5).

The Rev. Ned Beadel, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of General Synod, presented the response to TE 21-5, which was among the Referrals from General Synod 2021 (GS Workbook, pp. 81-109). It results from the combined work of the General Synod Council, Western Theological Seminary, and the Commission on Church Order.

RF 22-1 was presented to the house (GS Workbook pp. 88-98).

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 RF 22-1 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance Part 1, p. 1).

Rev. Dr. Theonugraha, Mr. Spoelhof, and the Rev. Joshua Scheid, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Commission on Church Order, addressed the General Synod upon the request of the president, at various times during the discussion.

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

VOTED: To not cease debate (yes 115; no 61) (2/3 majority required).

Upon the request of the president, debate was paused and delegates were asked to spend 5 minutes in prayerful reflection and table conversation, followed by a 20-minute coffee break.

MISSIONARY VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video about the missionary work of Bob Abel to Remember Nhu. The Rev. Andrea Godwin-Stremler, regular delegate
REPORT OF WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, CONTINUED
The Synod continued to debate RF 22-1 (GS Workbook, pp. 88-98).

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

**VOTED:** To cease debate (yes 153; no 24).

**VOTED:** To adopt RF 22-1 (yes 138; no 37).

RF 22-2 was presented to the house (GS Workbook, p. 98).

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend RF 22-2 as follows (additions are underlined):

To designate Western Theological Seminary as an agent of the General Synod for the purpose of granting Certificates of Fitness for Ministry and for the purpose of having General Synod Professors; and further,

To re-evaluate this designation for recommendation to be renewed by the General Synod in five years.

**VOTED:** To amend RF 22-2 (yes 146; no 26).

The amended RF 22-2 was before the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt RF 22-2 as amended (yes 149; no 27).

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION
The president invited Cameron Van Kooten Laughead, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Commission on Christian Action, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook, pp. 173-179). Mr. Van Kooten Laughead addressed the Synod.

CA 22-1 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt CA 22-1 (GS Workbook, p. 174) (yes 139; no 33).

CA 22-2 was presented to the house (GS Workbook, p. 174).

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend CA 22-2 as follows (additions are underlined):
To include a question on the annual Consistorial Report Form (CRF) regarding whether each congregation offers or supports a food pantry or other local hunger program, and whether each congregation is engaged in advocacy for food justice; and further,

To direct GSC staff to use this information to create and maintain a database on the RCA website of hunger and food programs in or supported by RCA congregations.

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

**VOTED:** To adopt the motion to cease debate (yes 163; no 8).

**VOTED:** To amend CA 22-2 (yes 153; no 10).

**VOTED:** To adopt CA 22-2 as amended (yes 160; no 12).

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 5:07 p.m., following prayer by the Rev. Andrew Yamamoto, regular delegate from the Classis of Central California.