CALL TO ORDER

The Rev. Philip Assink, General Synod president, called to order the eighth meeting of the General Synod at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Rev. Dwayne Jackson, General Synod vice president, offered prayer.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION, CONTINUED

The president invited Cameron Van Kooten Laughead, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Commission on Christian Action, to continue presenting the commission’s report (GS Workbook, pp. 173-179). Mr. Van Kooten Laughead addressed the Synod.

CA 22-3 was presented to the house (GS Workbook, pp. 174-175).

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend CA 22-3 as follows (additions are underlined):

To direct the general secretary to encourage congregations to take action regarding food justice, including but not limited to:

1. Developing programs in conjunction with local school districts to provide food or grocery essentials to lower-income students and families on weekends and during holiday breaks and summers.

2. Holding a Sunday offering at least once annually for those items most needed by their local or regional food banks, including necessary items not eligible for purchase with food stamps (i.e., menstruation sanitary products, toilet tissue, soap, etc.).

3. Holding a separate financial offering, at least once annually, to help pay off or reduce the amount of school lunch debt held by students in their local public schools or in the nearest school in which there are students with school lunch debt.

4. Supporting and engaging with Bread for the World as “Covenant Churches” for local, national and international political advocacy to address structural food justice issues.
VOTED: To amend CA 22-3 (yes 115, no 44).

CA 22-3 as amended was before the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 22-3 as amended (yes 152, no 16).

CA 22-4 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 22-4 (GS Workbook, p. 176) (yes 145; no 23).

CA 22-5 was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend CA 22-5 as follows (additions are underlined):

To add a question to the annual CRF that asks congregations to identify barriers in their facilities and how they are working to improve accessibility and their hospitality to people with a variety of both physical and cognitive disabilities.

VOTED: To amend CA 22-5 (yes 158, no 9).

CA 22-5 as amended was before the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 22-5 as amended (yes 151, no 15) (GS Workbook, p. 176)

CA 22-6 was presented to the house (GS Workbook, p. 177).

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend CA 22-6 as follows (deletions are stricken, additions are underlined):

Regardless of our individual understandings of human sexuality, The RCA’s General Synod, meeting at Central College in Pella, Iowa, on June 9–14, 2022, affirms the worth and human dignity of all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and, queer persons regardless of sexuality or gender, as unique individuals and beloved children beloved, shared image-bearers of God; and further,

To lament the ways in which the RCA and church universal has failed to consistently recognize the equal worth of these all persons and has often resorted to fear or frustration when speaking about human lives in our midst, rather than speaking to them to all with love and compassion.
A motion was made and supported from the floor to cease debate.

**VOTED:** To adopt the motion to cease debate (yes 122, no 38).

**VOTED:** To amend CA 22-6 (yes 94, no 64).

CA 22-6 as amended was before the house. It reads as follows:

The RCA’s General Synod, meeting at Central College in Pella, Iowa, on June 9–14, 2022, affirms the worth and human dignity of all persons, regardless of sexuality or gender, as beloved, shared image-bearers of God; and further,

To lament the ways in which the RCA and church universal has failed to consistently recognize the equal worth of all persons and has resorted to fear or frustration when speaking about human lives in our midst, rather than speaking to all with love and compassion.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to further amend CA 22-6 as follows (additions are underlined):

The RCA’s General Synod, meeting at Central College in Pella, Iowa, on June 9–14, 2022, affirms the worth and human dignity of all persons, regardless of sexuality or gender, as beloved, shared image-bearers of God; and further,

To lament the ways in which the RCA and church universal has failed to consistently recognize the equal worth of all persons and has resorted to fear or frustration when speaking about human lives in our midst, rather than speaking to all with love and compassion. Specifically, we acknowledge and lament the harms experienced by LGBTQ persons, whom we embrace as children of God who are welcome in the RCA.

**VOTED:** To further amend CA 22-6 (yes 99, no 70).

CA 22-6 as twice amended was before the house.

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

**VOTED:** To adopt the motion to cease debate (yes 158, no 9).

**VOTED:** To adopt CA 22-6 as twice amended (yes 104; no 65).
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY
The president invited the Rev. Stephen Shaffer, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Commission on Theology, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook, pp. 226-236). Rev. Shaffer addressed the Synod.

TH 22-1 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt TH 22-1 (GS Workbook, p. 236) (yes 145; no 24).

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
The president invited the Rev. Debra Rensink, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Commission for Women, to present the commission’s report (GS Workbook, pp.237-238). Rev. Rensink addressed the Synod.

W 22-1 was presented to the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt W22-1 (GS Workbook, p. 238) (yes 130; no 37).

RECESS
The president declared the General Synod recessed at 9:07 p.m., following prayer by the Rev. Debra Rensink, corresponding delegate from the Commission for Women.