

**General Synod Council serving as the Committee of Reference  
Reformed Church in America  
Minutes of June 9, 2022 Meeting  
Central College, Pella, Iowa**

Welcome and Prayer

Ms. Michelle Chahine called the meeting of the General Synod Council (GSC) serving as the Committee of Reference (Committee) to order on June 9, 2022, at 12:03 p.m. followed by prayer. Ned Beadel, moderator of the GSC, had asked Ms. Chahine previously to lead the meeting when he knew that he was going to be unable to attend. Attendees introduced themselves.

Members Present

The following members of the Committee were present for all or part of the meeting:

Eddy Alemán, ex-officio	Sheila Moses
Philip Assink	Eric Nichols
Michelle Chahine	Neale Roller
Devonna Cousins	Jidong Shan
Susan Davis	Glenn Spyksma
Bruce Deckinga	Kimberly Van Es
Hellen Harvey	Leigh Van Kempen
Dwayne Jackson	Harris Van Oort
Kent McHeard	Imos Wu
Michael Meyer-Veen	

Members Absent

The following members of the Committee were unable to attend the meeting:

Pedro Agudelo	Kathryn Lohre (ELCA)
Carole Barber	Eric Moreno
Ned Beadel	Albert Plat
EJ de Waard	Patricia Varga

Staff and Guests

The following staff members and guests were present for all or part of the meeting:

Terri Boven, *Recorder*  
Elizabeth Brand, *Director of General Synod Operations*

Thomas Smith, *Regional Synod Observer from Council of Synod Executives*

Christina Tazelaar, *Chief Communications Officer*

Jillisa Teitsma, *Chief Financial Officer*

Angela Worthley, *Recorder*

## General Synod

Elizabeth Brand addressed the Committee regarding (a) the 2022 General Synod schedule, and (b) a change to the membership of the special advisory committees that was approved at the May 2, 2022 GSC meeting. The following revised membership was presented (addition is underlined; deletion is stricken):

### **Overtures and New Business**

Moderator: Cora Taitt (minister, Classis of New York)

Vice Moderator: Corinne Ellis (minister, Classis of the Southwest)

#### *Ministers*

Sarah Bruins (Classis of North Grand Rapids)

Dirk Gieser (Classis of Albany)

David Hubbartt (Classis de las Naciones)

Marjorie Vander Wagen (Classis of Chicago)

#### *Elders*

Elba Arias Lopez (Classis of Orange)

Kenneth Mallory (Classis of West Sioux)

Denis Mugabo (Classis of Canadian Prairies)

~~Robert Schoales (Classis of California)~~

Lois Gates (Classis of Central Iowa)

#### *General Synod Professor*

James Brownson

### **Church Order and Governance**

Moderator: Jonathan Opgenorth (minister, Classis of Zeeland)

Vice Moderator: Timothy Grade (minister, Classis of Rocky Mountains)

#### *Ministers*

Kristin Brouwer (Classis of East Sioux)

Kyle Nesbitt (Classis of Cascades)

Ryan Cogswell (Classis of Montgomery)

Brandon Beebe (Classis of Southwest Michigan)

#### *Elders*

Sara Donkersloot (Classis of Zeeland)

Savitri Devi Mark (Classis of Columbia-Greene)  
Barbara Pimentel (Classis of Brooklyn)  
Willie Si (Synod of Canada)

*General Synod Professor*  
Micah McCreary

**GSC 22-35**

Motion made, supported, and adopted:

To approve (a) the 2022 General Synod schedule as presented, and  
(b) the change to the membership of the special advisory  
committees as presented.

Elizabeth Brand addressed the Committee regarding its role and  
responsibilities at General Synod.

The *Book of Church Order* states that delegates are expected to attend all  
meetings of the General Synod session unless excused by the Committee  
of Reference (*BCO* Chapter 3, Part I, Article 1, Section 2, 2021 ed. p.  
107). The following voting delegates had submitted requests to be  
excused from various meetings.

- Mark Kamper (Classis of Zeeland): Closing worship
- Todd Krygsheld (Classis of Zeeland): Tuesday morning
- Jason Semans (Classis of Pleasant Prairie): Monday evening
- Ned Beadel (Classis of California): Thursday and Friday morning  
and afternoon
- Mark Andersen (Classis of Central Iowa): Saturday evening
- Brian Keepers (Classis of East Sioux): Thursday and Friday  
morning and afternoon

**GSC 22-36**

Motion made, supported, and adopted:

To excuse the absences of Mark Kamper, Todd Krygsheld, Jason  
Semans, Ned Beadel, Mark Andersen, and Brian Keepers as  
presented from the meetings of the General Synod 2022.

**GSC 22-37**

Motion made, supported, and adopted to adjourn the June 9, 2022 meeting  
of the Committee at 1:04 p.m. following prayer by Dwayne Jackson.

Terri Boven, Recorder  
Angela Worthley, Recorder