

GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2023 Journal of Actions
Meeting 1
Thursday afternoon - June 8, 2023
H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse

CALL TO ORDER

The Rev. Dwayne Jackson, president, called to order the first meeting of the 216th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America at 3:03 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at Central College, Pella, Iowa.

WELCOME

The president welcomed those present and those watching the proceedings via livestream.

QUORUM

The general secretary reported that there are no delegates who could not be seated due to irregularities, and that a quorum was present.

WORSHIP

The president opened the Synod in prayer and invited the worship team to lead the Synod in worship. Participants were as follows:
Marcel Arocha, Josiah DeNooyer, Phil Edmonds, DaShawn Houston, AnnAlissa Lamers, Jael Serrano, Jeremy Simpson, Melani Situmorang, and Anthony Tyler.

MISSIONARY VIDEO

The General Synod viewed a brief video presentation highlighting RCA missionary George Cheriyan and the American Mission Hospital. The Rev. Judy Nelson, vice president of Synod, led the Synod in prayer for this mission work.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The president acknowledged the land the Synod is gathered on this year is part of the traditional land of the Osakiwug and Meskwaki peoples and lamented any role the Reformed Church in America or her members may have played in the displacement of those peoples.

INTRODUCTIONS

The president introduced the following:

- The Rev. Judy Nelson, vice president
- The Rev. Eddy Alemán, general secretary and stated clerk of the Synod
- Russell Paarlberg, parliamentarian

- Terri Boven – meeting recorder, one member of a team of three meeting recorders also including Gael Uwera and Angela Worthley

The president explained that the vice president of Synod and the general secretary have privilege of the floor.

The president recognized the staff team at the back table and the following corresponding delegates:

- Members of the General Synod Council who will also serve as the General Synod's Committee of Reference
- Commission representatives
- Official institutional delegates
- Regional synod executives
- Regional synod women representatives
- Regional synod youth representatives

The president explained that the corresponding delegates have privilege of the floor but do not have voting privileges.

The president also introduced:

- The Rev. Timothy TenClay and the Seminarian Seminar participants
- The Rev. David Blauw, who is serving as the chaplain for the Synod

The president called upon Rev. Blauw to give a brief overview of the ministry of chaplaincy in the Reformed Church in America. Rev. Blauw addressed the Synod.

TABLE DISCUSSION – ‘WHO ARE YOU?’

The president explained that “Family” is the theme to carry through this General Synod in worship, table discussion, and the Synod's work together.

The president led the delegates through a guided exercise of individual introductions and group prayer.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The president invited a motion that privilege of the floor be granted to the parliamentarian.

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To grant privilege of the floor to the parliamentarian.

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

ORIENTATION

The president called upon Russell Paarlberg, parliamentarian, to provide an overview of General Synod, including its purpose and role, and an overview of parliamentary procedure. Mr. Paarlberg addressed the Synod.

The president explained how to operate the voting keypads.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The president called upon the general secretary to review certain procedural matters. The general secretary informed the Synod that the journal for each meeting will be uploaded to the website and will be available by 1:00 p.m. (central) the following day. Any questions or corrections are to be addressed to Paul Karssen at the back table.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To approve the minutes of the 2022 General Synod – “The Acts and Proceedings of the 215th Regular Session of the General Synod—2022”

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The president called upon the Rev. Philip Assink, corresponding delegate from the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to present its report (GS Workbook pp. 38-98).

The president explained how reports are presented to the General Synod, how delegates may access the workbook, and where any new reports will be found. Rev. Assink addressed the Synod.

EC 23-1 was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend EC 23-1 as follows (addition is underlined):

To approve the agenda and schedule of the General Synod as presented in the General Synod Workbook, with the addition of a plenary session at 7:00-8:00 on Saturday evening for the purpose of the whole body to discuss together the interim report of the Restructure Task Force.

VOTED: To amend EC 23-1 (GS Workbook p.39) (yes 98; no 70).

EC 23-1 as amended was before the house. It reads as follows:

To approve the agenda and schedule of the General Synod as presented in the General Synod Workbook, with the addition of a plenary session at 7:00-8:00 on Saturday evening for the purpose of the whole body to discuss together the interim report of the Restructure Task Force.

VOTED: To adopt EC 23-1 as amended (yes 144, no 20).

NEW BUSINESS

The general secretary explained the procedures regarding presentation and referral of new business.

The first opportunity for the presentation of new business was given. No new business was presented.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR, CONTINUED

The president invited a motion that privilege of the floor be granted to the RCA staff who are asked to speak.

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To grant privilege of the floor to the RCA staff who are asked to speak.

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 4:40 p.m., following a closing prayer by Rev. Blauw.