

GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2023 Journal of Actions
Meeting 13
Tuesday morning - June 13, 2023
H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse and Douwstra Auditorium

CALL TO ORDER

The president called to order the thirteenth meeting of the General Synod at 8:48 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 and asked the Synod to join him in song. The Rev. Fiasili Afalava, regular delegate from the Classis of Cascades, offered prayer.

MISSIONARY VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video highlighting the work Mekane Yesus Seminary and John Hubers, RCA missionary. The Rev. Travis West led the Synod in prayer for this mission work.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president called upon the general secretary to review the next steps in the process for electing the vice president of General Synod (GS Workbook, pp. 32-34) following the first ballot (cast during meeting 10), which was a nominating ballot and resulted in four nominees. The delegates cast the first electing ballot.

TABLE DISCUSSION – ‘HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE RCA’S FUTURE’

The president led the delegates through a guided exercise of reflecting on hopes and dreams for the future of the Reformed Church in America and asking God to bless whatever it will take to make this happen.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

The president called upon the Rev. Philip Assink and Kim Van Es, moderator and vice moderator, respectively, of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to conclude its report.

Gratitude was expressed for the leadership, staff, and volunteers who served during the 2023 General Synod.

Rev. Assink and Ms. Van Es addressed the Synod regarding RCA ministers of Word and sacrament who retired in 2022.

L 23-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt L 23-1 (GS Workbook, pp. 117-119)
(voice vote).

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president announced the results of the first electing ballot; Rev. Miriam Barnes and Rev. Joshua Scheid had received the largest number of votes but neither one received a majority of the votes. Therefore, delegates cast a second electing ballot.

NECROLOGY

The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Daniel Meeter, corresponding delegate from the Commission on History, to read the Necrology report (GS Workbook, p. 120). Rev. Dr. Meeter addressed the Synod.

ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president declared the Rev. Joshua Scheid the newly elected vice president and invited him to the platform. Rev. Scheid was accompanied to the platform by Jan Van Wyk, regular delegate from the Classis of Central Iowa. Rev. Scheid addressed the Synod. The president invited past General Synod presidents to the platform. The president-elect offered prayer.

PRESENTATION OF BELL

The president presented a General Synod bell to the president-elect.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

A motion was made and supported to adjourn following closing worship.

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

The president declared the meeting of the 2023 General Synod of the Reformed Church in America adjourned following the closing worship service (including installation of officers and communion). A closing prayer was offered by Jaimi Vander Berg, seminarian seminar participant.

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

The delegates gathered in Douwstra Auditorium on the campus of Central College for a closing worship celebration. The service began at 10:30 a.m.

The service was led by Rev. Jael Serrano-Altamirano, Marcel Arocha, Josiah DeNooyer, Rev. Greg Dunlap, Phil Edmonds, DaShawn Houston, the Rev. Dwayne Jackson, Rev. Jay Kim, Rev. Kelvin Kong, AnnAlissa Lamers, Ruth Langkamp, Thais Lima, Rev. Dr. Micah McCreary, Rev. Judy Devic Nelson, Rev. Fransisca Rumokoy, Rev. Joshua Scheid, Jidong Shan, Rev. Jeremy Simpson, Melani Situmorang, Jordan Troutner, and Anthony Tyler.

The Word was preached by the Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel.

An offering was taken for Setshabelo Family and Child Services in South Africa, and RECONCILE International in South Sudan; as designated by the General Synod president.

The sacrament of communion was shared, with the Rev. Dwayne Jackson, the Rev. Judith Nelson, and the Rev. Joshua Scheid serving as co-celebrants.

The Rev. Judy Nelson and the Rev. Joshua Scheid were installed as General Synod president and vice president, respectively.

Closing prayer was offered by the Rev. Judy Nelson. The closing worship service concluded at 11:53 a.m.

Thus, the 216th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America adjourned at 11:53 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.