

**General Synod Council
Reformed Church in America
Minutes of April 10, 2024 Meeting
Zoom Videoconference**

Welcome and Prayer

Dwayne Jackson, vice moderator of the General Synod Council (GSC), called the April 10, 2024 meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. (eastern) followed by prayer by Dwayne Jackson. Having established a quorum, members and staff were welcomed.

Members Present

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

Eddy Alemán, <i>ex-officio</i>	Bradley Kautz
Nancy Boote	Yong Bok Kim
Calvin Brouwer	Michael Meyer-Veen
Vivian Campbell	Sheila Moses
Devonna Cousins	Judith Nelson
Linda Cline	Eric Nichols
Susan Davis	Jon Opgenorth
Brian Engel	Neale Roller
Clair Hoeksema	Joshua Scheid
Dwayne Jackson	Kjersten Sullivan (ELCA)
Randy Karcher	Kimberly Van Es

Members Absent

The following member of the GSC was unable to attend the meeting:

Michelle Chahine	Harris Van Oort
Carlos Rivera	Patricia Varga
Jidong Shan	Hank Vrielink

Staff

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

Terri Boven, *Recorder*
Elizabeth Brand, *Director of General Synod Operations*
Vanessa Funk, *Recorder*
Lisa Stover, *Interim Chief Financial Officer*
Christina Tazelaar, *Chief Operating Officer*

GSC 24-51 A motion was made, supported, and adopted:

To adopt the agenda as presented

Advisory Committee Membership Lists

The General Synod president presented the 2024 General Synod special advisory committee membership as follows:

Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business

Moderator: Janelle Lopez Koolhaas (Classis of Holland)

Vice Moderator: Vivian Campbell (Classis of New York)

Ministers

Jon Garbison (Classis of Central Plains)

Mike Lamson (Classis of Great Lakes City)

Mike Metten (Regional Synod of the Heartland)

Sarah Palsma (Classis of Rochester)

Elders

Kenny Huan (Classis of Nassau-Suffolk)

Jarel Jacobs (Classis of Central California)

Ina Montoya (Regional Synod of the Far West)

Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance

Moderator: Stephen Shaffer (Classis of Ontario)

Vice Moderator: Jennifer Holmes Curran
(Classis of North Grand Rapids)

Ministers

Rick DeBruyne (Classis of California)

Bob Hoffman (Classis of Schoharie)

Fransisca Rumokoy (Classis of New Brunswick)

Elders

Israel Camacho (Classis of the Southwest)

Sara Donkersloot (Classis of Zeeland)

Patti Gilmer-Van Dorp (Classis of Minnesota)

Claudette Reid (Classis of Passaic Valley)

GSC 24-52 A motion was made, supported, and adopted:

To approve the membership of the 2024 General Synod special advisory committees as presented.

Covenant Shares

The vice moderator presented the recommendation regarding Covenant Shares. The recommendation proposed a 2025 covenant shares rate that reflected a reduction from the 2024 covenant shares rate. The reduction included a reduction to theological education. Lisa Stover answered questions from the GSC members, including how the proposed reduction to the theological education assessment fit in with other significant budget reductions in order to both account for lower assessment revenue and reduce the overall budget deficit.

GSC 24-53

A motion was made, supported, and adopted:

To propose to General Synod a 2025 covenant shares rate of 2.5 percent, of which \$207,500 would be provided to theological education and \$30,000 would be reserved for future General Synod special initiatives.

Future Dates and Locations

- May, 8, 2024 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (consider revised NAIM bylaws, Commission on History connection report and executive session for Relationship and Review Committee report)
- June 13, 2024, 12:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (pre-Synod lunch meeting of Committee of Reference)
- June 17, 2024, 12:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (post-Synod GSC meeting) - *Note: Due to the adjusted end time for General Synod, this meeting is taking place over lunch on the MONDAY of synod rather than the Tuesday.*
- October 11-12, 2024, Fall stated meeting – Grand Rapids, MI

GSC 24-50

A motion was made, supported, and adopted to adjourn the April 10, 2024 meeting of the GSC at 5:19 p.m. (eastern) following a prayer by Judith Nelson.

Vanessa Funk, Recorder
Terri Boven, Recorder