

**General Synod Council
Reformed Church in America
Minutes of May 8, 2024 Meeting
Zoom Videoconference**

Welcome and Prayer

Kim Van Es, moderator of the General Synod Council (GSC), called the May 8, 2024 meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. (eastern) followed by a prayer. 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>	Michael Meyer-Veen
Nancy Boote	Sheila Moses
Calvin Brouwer	Jidong Shan
Vivian Campbell	Judith Nelson
Michelle Chahine	Eric Nichols
Devonna Cousins	Jon Opgenorth
Susan Davis	Neale Roller
Brian Engel	Joshua Scheid
Dwayne Jackson	Kimberly Van Es
Randy Karcher	Harris Van Oort
Bradley Kautz	Patricia Varga
Yong Bok Kim	Hank Vrielink

Members Absent

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

Linda Cline	Kjersten Sullivan (ELCA)
Clair Hoeksema	Maudelin Willock
Carlos Rivera	

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*
Tony Schmid, *Chief Financial Officer*
Christina Tazelaar, *Chief Operating Officer*

GSC Interim Appointment

Eddy Aleman, general secretary, introduced Tony Schmid as the GSC's Chief Financial Officer. The GSC needs to appoint him as interim treasurer of the General Synod until the General Synod meets in June to vote to appoint him as its treasurer.

GSC 24-55

A motion was made, supported, and adopted:

To appoint Tony Schmid as interim treasurer of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

The moderator thanked Lisa Stover for serving as interim treasurer since August 2023.

Commission Review Report

Judy Nelson provided a report on the annual GSC connection with the Commission on History.

Racial and Ethnic Councils

The NAIM Council has been working on developing its bylaws since the GSC approved formation of an interim leadership team to do so last March (GSC 23-32). Following GSC's action at its spring 2024 meeting to return the proposed bylaws to NAIM to consider several possible changes (GSC 24-40), NAIM adopted further changes to its bylaws at its annual gathering in late April, and presented the revised bylaws.

GSC 24-56

A motion was made, supported, and adopted:

To approve the bylaws of the Native American Indigenous Ministries Council; and further,

To formally reconstitute the council as an official racial and ethnic council of the General Synod Council of the Reformed Church in America, with all the rights and responsibilities thereof as indicated in the Book of Church Order.

The GSC reviewed recommendations from a GSC subcommittee that considered the report presented by the AABC regarding extra-BCO recommendations. The GSC subcommittee, composed of Nancy Boote, Vivian Campbell, Kimberly Van Es, and Maudelin Willock, processed this report and made two recommendations to the GSC in response.

GSC 24-57

A motion was made and adopted:

To ask the general secretary to find ways to 1) share the learnings from NBTS with the denomination (e.g., add ways to access this information to the Dismantling Racism webpage, prepare an article about the power and privilege work at NBTS); and 2) recommend concrete ways to systemically incorporate these learnings into the rhythms of the staff and denomination. We ask that the general secretary report on these efforts at the Fall 2024 GSC meeting.

GSC 24-58

A motion was made and adopted:

To ask the general secretary to research the possibility of creating a diverse volunteer team with representatives from each racial-ethnic council who would be trained with a racial equity lens. We ask that the general secretary bring a detailed related recommendation to the Spring 2025 GSC meeting; this recommendation should consider whether the GSC should propose to the General Synod that money set aside for General Synod special initiatives should be applied toward these efforts.

Executive Session

The GSC met in executive session, during which the Relationship and Review Committee gave its report.

Future Dates and Locations

- 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

Vanessa Funk, Recorder
Terri Boven, Recorder