

GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2024 Journal of Actions
Meeting 1
Thursday afternoon - June 13, 2024
Arizona Ballroom

CALL TO ORDER

The Rev. Judy Nelson, president, called to order the first meeting of the 217th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America at 3:01 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at The Westin La Paloma, Tucson, Arizona.

WELCOME

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

QUORUM

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

WORSHIP

The president opened the Synod in prayer.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The president acknowledged the land the Synod is gathered on this year is part of the traditional land of the Tohono O’Odham and the Yaqui 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. Joshua Scheid, vice president
- The Rev. Eddy Alemán, general secretary and stated clerk of the Synod
- Russell Paarlberg, parliamentarian
- Gael Uwera – meeting recorder, one member of a team of three meeting recorders also including Terri Boven 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 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 or the right to make motions.

The president also introduced:

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

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

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To grant privilege of the floor to the parliamentarian, invited presenters, and RCA staff who are asked to speak.

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 RCA website and will be available by 1:00 p.m. local time the following day. Any questions or corrections are to be addressed to staff 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 2023 General Synod – “The Acts and Proceedings of the 216th Regular Session of the General Synod—2023”

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The president called upon Kimberly Van Es, corresponding delegate from the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to present its report (GS Workbook pp. 38-49).

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. Kim Van Es addressed the Synod.

EC 24-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-1 (GS Workbook p. 39) (yes 164; no 4).

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.

ANTIRACISM TRAINING

The president called upon the Rev. Jeremy Simpson and Martha Draayer to present antiracism training. Rev. Simpson and Ms. Draayer addressed the Synod.

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 5:38 p.m., following a closing prayer by the Rev. Phyllis Palsma.