

GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2024 Journal of Actions
Meeting 12
Monday evening - June 17, 2024
Arizona Ballroom

CALL TO ORDER

The president called to order the twelfth meeting of the General Synod at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024. The Rev. Bradley Vander Waal, regular delegate from the Classis of Minnesota, offered prayer.

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video regarding discernment by Abraham and Sayuri Kist-Okazaki, RCA missionaries.

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. 33-35). The delegates cast the first electing ballot.

REPORT OF EDITORIAL CHANGES

The president called upon the Rev. Christopher Jacobsen, moderator of the Commission on Church Order, to report editorial changes to the General Synod minutes. Rev. Jacobsen reported the following changes (additions underlined, deletions stricken):

CO 24-2

To adopt the following amendment to Bylaws of the General Synod, Chapter 3, Part I, Article 9, Section 3 for recommendation to the ~~classes~~ 2025 General Synod for approval (additions are underlined; deletions are stricken):

EC 24-10

The church is called to reform any biases, behaviors, policies, or procedures that diminish the spiritual gifts or contributions of any Christian due to ability, gender, race, ethnicity, color, or class.

EC 24-13

a. The classis shall ~~work with the minister to~~ designate a minister to serve as a mentor to guide, counsel, and model the learning and developmental processes of each newly-ordained minister or, where deemed appropriate by classis, a minister received from another denomination. The classis shall consult with the newly-ordained minister in designating a mentor.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

The president called upon Kimberly Van Es, moderator of the General Synod Council, to conclude its report.

Ms. Van Es addressed the Synod regarding RCA ministers of Word and sacrament who retired in 2023.

EC 24-15 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-15 (GS Workbook pp. 147-150)
(voice vote).

Gratitude was expressed for the leadership, staff, and volunteers who served during the 2024 General Synod.

NECROLOGY

The president called upon the Rev. Katlyn DeVries and the Rev. James Brumm, corresponding delegate from the Commission on History and moderator of the Commission on Theology, respectively, to read the Necrology report (GS Workbook, p. 151). Rev. DeVries and Rev. Brumm addressed the Synod.

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video regarding discernment by Tara Woodward Bosman, RCA missionary.

ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president declared the Rev. Sarah Palsma the newly elected vice president and invited her to the platform. Rev. Palsma addressed the Synod. The president invited past General Synod presidents to the platform. The president offered prayer.

PRESENTATION OF BELL

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

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

The president declared the meeting of the 217th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America adjourned following the closing worship service (including installation of officers and communion) on Tuesday, morning (June 18, 2024). A closing prayer was offered by the general secretary.

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

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).