

GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2024 Journal of Actions
Meeting 4
Friday afternoon - June 14, 2024
Arizona Ballroom

CALL TO ORDER

The Rev. Joshua Scheid, General Synod vice president, called to order the fourth meeting of the General Synod at 1:32 p.m. on Friday, June 14, 2024. Israel Camacho, regular delegate from the Classis of the Southwest, offered prayer.

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video highlighting the work of Thiago and Lia Dantas, RCA missionaries.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The vice president called upon the Rev. Judith Nelson, General Synod president, to present her report to the General Synod. The president addressed the Synod. Thereafter, the president assumed the chair.

NEW BUSINESS

The president offered the second and final opportunity for the presentation of new business. No new business was presented.

TABLE DISCUSSION

The president invited the delegates to participate in a short time of sharing at their table about how each became part of the RCA community of faith.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL ON GLOBAL MISSION

The president called upon Scott Engelsman, associate director of Global Mission, to present its report (GS Workbook, pp. 168-174). Mr. Engelsman addressed the Synod.

GM 24-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt GM 24-1 (GS Workbook, p. 171) (yes 173; no 1).

Retiring missionaries John and Lynne Hubers addressed the Synod.

GM 24-2 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt GM 24-2 (GS Workbook, p. 172) (voice vote).

Rev. Joshua Sheid offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the life and work of all retiring RCA missionaries.

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video by the Rev. Dr. James Steward II promoting the need and work of discernment.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BENEFITS SERVICES

The president called upon Lúcio Flávio Rodrigues, vice president of the Board of Benefits Services, to present the agency's report (GS Workbook pp. 181-199). Mr. Flávio Rodrigues addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA CHURCH GROWTH FUND, INC

The president called upon Ronald Rukambe, president of The Reformed Church in America Church Growth Fund, Inc., to present the board's report (GS Workbook, pp. 177-180). Mr. Rukambe addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

The president called upon Kimberly Van Es, moderator of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to continue 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. Ms. Van Es addressed the Synod.

EC 24-2 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-2 (GS Workbook p. 40)
(yes 174, no 1).

EC 24-3 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-3 (GS Workbook p. 40)
(yes 175, no 4).

EC 24-4 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-4 (GS Workbook p. 41)
(yes 173, no 6).

EC 24-5 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-5 (GS Workbook p. 41)
(yes 178, no 2).

EC 24-6 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-6 (GS Workbook p. 45)
(yes 171, no 11).

EC 24-7 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-7 (GS Workbook p. 46)
(yes 157, no 20).

EC 24-8 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-8 (GS Workbook p. 46)
(yes 173, no 5).

EC 24-9 was presented to the house (GS Workbook pp.48-49).

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend EC 24-9 as follows (addition is underlined, deletion is stricken):

To form a task force to study the opportunities and implications of having Reformed Church in America assemblies beyond North America. The task force should include members from the Commission on History, the Commission on Church Order, the Commission on Theology, General Synod Council staff from Global Mission and church multiplication, and classes in relationship with churches beyond North America. The task force should bring recommendations to General Synod ~~2025~~ 2027 for church multiplication outside North America in the RCA.

VOTED: To not adopt the motion to amend (yes 43; no 128).

The motion in its original form was again before the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend EC 24-9 as follows (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

To form a task force to study the opportunities and implications of having Reformed Church in America assemblies beyond North America. The task force should include members from the Commission on History, the Commission on Church Order, the Commission on Theology, General Synod Council staff from Global Mission and church multiplication, and classes in

relationship with churches beyond North America. The task force should bring a preliminary report recommendations to General Synod 2025, with a recommendation given to General Synod 2026 for church multiplication outside North America in the RCA.

VOTED: To adopt the amendment to EC 24-9 (yes 138, no 39).

EC 24-9 as amended was before the house. It reads as follows:

To form a task force to study the opportunities and implications of having Reformed Church in America assemblies beyond North America. The task force should include members from the Commission on History, the Commission on Church Order, the Commission on Theology, General Synod Council staff from Global Mission and church multiplication, and classes in relationship with churches beyond North America. The task force should bring a preliminary report to General Synod 2025 with a recommendation given to General Synod 2026 for church multiplication outside North America in the RCA.

VOTED: To adopt EC 24-9 as amended (yes 163, no 12).

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The president called upon Cedric Nelms, corresponding delegate from the Commission for Women, to present its report (GS Workbook, pp.316-318). Mr. Nelms addressed the Synod.

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 4:42 p.m., following a closing prayer by Tony Davis, corresponding delegate from the Classis of California.