

GENERAL SYNOD  
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2024 Journal of Actions  
**Meeting 9**  
**Sunday evening - June 16, 2024**  
**Arizona Ballroom**

CALL TO ORDER

The president called to order the ninth meeting of the General Synod at 7:01 p.m. on Sunday, June 16, 2024. The Rev. Richard (Garret) Szantner, regular delegate from the Classis of Schenectady, offered prayer.

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video from the Rev. Dr. David Kahler, who also serves as an active duty Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel in the Air National Guard, regarding his bi-vocational discernment process.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL ON ADVANCEMENT

The president called upon Larryl Humme, Director of Advancement, to present the Office of Advancement report (GS Workbook pp. 62-63). Mr. Humme addressed the Synod. His presentation included a description of the Van Bunschooten Bequest. The Synod expressed its appreciation for a recent gift from the Ralph Guarino Living Trust for the benefit of The Reformed Church in America Church Growth Fund, Inc.

Mr. Humme recognized the following Missional Impact Partner (“MIP”) churches for 2023, which are churches that gave annual gifts of at least \$40,000 or a minimum of 10 percent of their income to carry out GSC initiatives locally and globally:

- Bethel Reformed Church, Brantford, ON, Canada
- Christ Memorial Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
- Emmanuel Reformed Church, Whitby, ON, Canada
- Faith Reformed Church, Zeeland, Michigan
- Fellowship Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
- Fifth Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- First Reformed Church, Grandville, Michigan
- First Reformed Church, Melvin, Iowa
- Harbor Churches, Hudsonville, Michigan
- Herkimer Reformed Church, Herkimer, New York
- Midland Reformed Church, Midland, Michigan
- Nepali-Speaking Community Church, Kentwood, Michigan
- New Hope Reformed Church, Powell, Ohio
- North Holland Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
- Oak Springs Community Church, Murrieta, California

- Pella Reformed Church, Adams, Nebraska
- Raritan Reformed Church, Raritan, Illinois
- Second Reformed Church, Pella, Iowa
- The Bridge (formerly Meredith Drive Reformed Church), Johnston, Iowa
- Third Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
- Trinity Reformed Church, Orange City, Iowa

#### ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD

The president called upon the general secretary to review the process for electing the vice president of General Synod (GS Workbook, pp. 33-34). The delegates cast the first ballot for General Synod vice president.

#### ECUMENICAL GREETINGS

The president invited the Rev. Dr. Laura Osborne, Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, and the following ecumenical delegates to the platform. Rev. Dr. Osborne addressed the Synod.

- The Rev. Jeffrey Dykema, Christian Reformed Church in North America
- The Rev. Jonathan Linman, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- The Rev. Mark Pettis, United Church of Christ
- Dr. Y. Dianna Wright, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The delegates viewed video greetings from the following:

- The Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi, World Communion of Reformed Churches
- Archbishop Daniel Zelensky, Ukrainian Orthodox Church
- Bishop Vashti McKenzie, National Council of Churches

The ecumenical delegates who were present in-person addressed the Synod from the platform.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

The president called upon the Rev. Kim Pavlovich, corresponding delegate from the Commission on Christian Unity, to present its report (GS Workbook pp. 211- 230). Rev. Pavlovich addressed the Synod.

#### ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president announced the results of the initial ballots cast for General Synod vice-president. No one received at least two-thirds of the votes cast. Persons receiving at least ten votes on the first ballot were:

- Israel Camacho, regular delegate from the Classis of the Southwest

- The Rev. Elizabeth (Beth) Carroll, regular delegate from the Classis of the City
- The Rev. Brian Keepers, regular delegate from the Classis of East Sioux
- The Rev. Sarah Palsma, regular delegate from the Classis of Rochester
- The Rev. Grace Jeeyoon Rim, regular delegate from the Regional Synod of New York

## RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 8:23 p.m., following a closing prayer by Lori Witt, regular delegate from the Classis of Central Iowa.