

**General Synod Council
Reformed Church in America
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115**

Minutes

Time and Place The meeting of the General Synod Council (GSC) of the Reformed Church in America was held at the Central College, Pella, Iowa, beginning at 12:50 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2006. Moderator, Steven Vander Molen presided at the meeting.

Prayer The moderator asked Lizbeth Moss to open session with prayer.

Members Present The following members of the General Synod Council were present:

Greg Alderman	John Ornee, <i>vice president of GS</i>
Mary Bechler	Nolan Palsma
Glen Blumer, <i>new member</i>	Annie Lee Phillips
Thomas Daubenspeck	Donald Poest
Ted Dykstra	Karyn Ratcliffe
Anna Gonzales	Irving Rivera, <i>past president of GS</i>
Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, <i>ex-officio</i>	Patricia Vamvas
Elisabeth Kersten	Ronald Vande Bunte
Bradley Lewis, <i>president of GS</i>	Steven Vander Molen, <i>moderator</i>
Richard Morano, <i>new member</i>	Carl Ver Beek
Lizbeth Moss	William Vermilyea
P.J. Mouquin	Ruth Webb
Sebastian Ong	

Member Absent The following members of the General Synod Council was unable to attend the meeting:

Daniel Beyer	Stephanie Kaper-Dale
Mary Bryant	Michael Trice
Norman Donkersloot	Pedro Windsor

Cluster Facilitators, Recorder and Communication Observer The following GSC staff was present for all or part of the meeting:

Paul Boice, <i>RCA Communications</i>	Paul Karssen, <i>Coordinator of Legal Affairs</i>
Kenneth Bradsell, <i>Asst Secretary, Cluster Facilitator</i>	Bruce Menning, <i>Cluster Facilitator</i>
Susan Converse, <i>Cluster Facilitator</i>	Mornier Rich, <i>Recorder</i>
Ken Eriks, <i>Cluster Facilitator</i>	Richard Welscott, <i>Cluster Facilitator</i>
Jeffrey Japinga, <i>Executive Coordinator office of the General Secretary</i>	

Review of the Agenda GSC reviewed the agenda that was presented on the white board.

Communication The GSC received the following correspondence as information:

1. Letter from the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries regarding homosexuality.
2. Letter from Racial Ethnic Councils regarding reorganization.
3. Letter from Classis of Queens thanking GSC for assessment relief.

**Assignment of
General Synod
Actions**

Upon recommendation of its moderator, the GSC

GSC 06-34 VOTED: To approve the assignment of the 2006 General Synod Workbook recommendations referred to the GSC as follows:

R-#	Page # Workbook	Substance	Referred to:	Report When?
Mission & Unity				
<i>Ov2</i>	149	One China Policy	To GSC	2007
<i>P-3 R-9c</i>	“d” 62c	ltr to congregations re: Cuba	Wes	
<i>P-4 R-9d</i>	62c	ltr to CRC Cuba re: commitment to them	Wes	
<i>P-5=R-9e</i>	62c	ltr Bush/Rice/Frist travel restrictions Cuba	Wes	
<i>P-6=R-9f amdeded</i>	62d	Trade embargo—Cuba	CCA	2007 GS
Mission & Justice				
R-10 amended	155	Accessibility	Task Force on Disabilities	GS 2007
11 amended	159	Paper-Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Web/email	
13	159	Encourage to make use of Oikocredit	Who? How?	
15	162	Belhar-affirm and commend for study	Who? How?	
16 amended	162/“f”	Annual conf. on racism	GSC	2007
17 amended	163/“f”	GSC report who participated	GSC	2007
18	163	GSC identify who should participate anti-racism training and encourage 80% participation	GSC	2011
19	163	GSC train 4 trainers to do workshops	GSC	Fall 2007
20	163	GSC provide workshops regional synods by fall 2007	GSC	Fall 2007
21 amended	163/“g”	Urge GSC hire full-time staff—regarding racism	GSC	2007
Worship & Theol.				
R-22 substitute		Refer the study guide on Sex./Marriage	COT	
Motion (substitute R-22b)		Clarify purpose of homosexuality dialogue	Adopted	
Ov4=R-22d	194/“o”	Gracious Welcoming	GSC	
Order and Gov.				
R-28a	“h”	January GS	GSC	
R-29amended	202/“h”	Kansfield dismission to Orange	GSC	
R-29a	“h”	Communicate to Orange Classis re: Kansfield	GSC	
R-31substitute	210/“i”	Ad hoc committee to determine relation-assemblies	Adopted as amended	
Finance /Benefits				
R-37	234	Assessment \$39.32	GSC	
Ov 1=R-37b	234	Study per-member Assessment for insurance	BOBS	2007

- One China Policy** Upon recommendation from its moderator, the GSC
- GSC 06-35** VOTED: To direct Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, in consultation with two members of the GSC (Sebastian Ong and Irving Riveria), to write a letter and report back to the GSC at its 2006 fall meeting.
- Oikocredit** Referred to the Office of Communications.
- Belhar** Referred to Office of Communications.
- Hire Full-Time Staff Regarding Racism** Wesley Granberg-Michaelson will report back to the GSC at its 2006 fall meeting regarding the process for hiring a full-time staff person handling racism.
- Gracious Welcome** Referred to the Gracious Welcome team and suggesting they consult with the multiplication and revitalization teams.

Moving the Meeting of General Synod from June to January

GSC would like staff to explore the following plan for future meetings:

- 1/2008 – Our Call
- 1/2009 – General Synod
- 1/2010 – Our Call/General Synod

Election of GSC Moderator

Upon recommendation of its moderator, the GSC

GSC 06-36 VOTED: To enter parliamentary procedure.

Upon recommendation of its moderator, the GSC

GSC 06-37 VOTED: To approve Steven Vander Molen, moderator of GSC from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

OTHER BUSINESS

Personnel and Evaluation Committee

Upon recommendation of its moderator, the GSC

GSC 06-38 VOTED: To approve the GSC moderator and GS officers serve as the Personnel and Evaluation Committee until the GSC Bylaws can be revised and adopted.

Retiring GSC Members

The following retiring GSC members were acknowledged and presented with a gift:

- Daniel Beyer*
- Stephanie Kaper-Dale*
- Nolan Palsma
- Annie Lee Phillips

- Carl Ver Beek
- Pedro Windsor*

*These members were unable to attend this meeting. Their gifts, inclusive of a note of thanks and appreciation for service, were mailed.

Next Meeting

October 13-15, 2006 (Friday 8:30 am – Sunday 11:00 am), Minneapolis, Minnesota
(Note: GSC members will need to travel to Minneapolis on Thursday, October 12th.)

Adjournment

The meeting of the General Synod Council of the Reformed Church in America adjourned with prayer at 2:25 p.m.