

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

In order that the parliamentarian and executive staff may respond to questions for clarification and participate as requested by the General Synod president in presentations to the General Synod and in other activities that appear on the agenda, the General Synod:

VOTED: To grant privilege of the floor to the General Synod Council executive staff so they may respond to questions for clarification and participate as requested by the president in presentations and other activities on the agenda.

VOTED: To grant privilege of the floor to the General Synod parliamentarian.

SEATING OF DELEGATES

The general secretary informed the synod that there were no irregularities and all delegates could be seated. The possible membership of General Synod was 258, with enrolled membership at 236; therefore, a quorum was declared present.

MINUTES AND JOURNAL

The Acts and Proceedings of the 202nd regular session of the General Synod were read by title. The General Synod authorized its officers to approve the journal of actions.

The Rules of Order were read by title, and copies were placed on the secretary's table.

General Synod Council members Mary Bechler and Stephanie Doeschot, and John Kapteyn, corresponding delegate from the Commission on Nominations, were appointed as tellers. The following seminarians were also appointed as tellers:

Dawn Alpaugh
 Brandon Beebe
 Jay Carroll
 John Chen
 Nancy Claus
 Lorene Duin
 Donna Field
 Kenita Harris
 Jessica Kast-Keat
 Josh Lunde Whitler
 Matthew Miller
 Terika Raak

Marcus Roskamp
 Marla Rotman
 Debbie E. Rundecker
 Matt Schmidt
 Joanne Sidoti
 Marijke Strong
 Julia Turner
 Kendra L. Van Houten
 Jill Vande Zante
 Brett Vander Berg
 Andrew Yamamoto

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

The General Synod approved a schedule based on the agenda of General Synod prescribed in the Special Rules of Order (*BCO* 2003, Chapter 3, Part II, Article 1).

In addition to the prescribed agenda, the schedule provided for the following presentations, forums, programs, and activities:

Address—Saturday evening

Barbara Williams-Skinner addressed the synod, calling delegates to prayer and reconciliation. Williams-Skinner is co-founder and president of the Skinner Leadership

Institute, has served as executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C., and is currently a board member for the Christian Community Development Association, Fuller Theological Seminary, and the Community Empowerment Equity Partnership.

Ecumenical presentations regarding the Belhar Confession—Sunday evening

- Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi, World Alliance of Reformed Churches
- Rev. Peter Borgdorff, Christian Reformed Church in North America
- Rev. Debra Braaksma, RCA missionary to Sudan
- Rev. Godfrey Betha, Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The General Synod approved the list of delegates serving on advisory committees.

VOTED: To approve the 2009 General Synod advisory committee assignments including revisions.

All regular and corresponding delegates were assigned to one of twenty “issue advisory committees.” Each of these advisory committees reviewed the same reports and recommendations pertaining to the business before synod. The president named one delegate to be moderator of each of these issue advisory committees. The named issues were: 1) the Belhar Confession, and 2) RCA Communications.

A limited number of delegates were designated by the president to serve on advisory committees that will consider specific business on church order and governance, overtures and new business, women’s ministries, and finance and benefits.

The six Review Committees on Our Call were: 1) Multiplication, 2) Revitalization, 3) Discipleship, 4) Leadership, 5) Global Mission, and 6) Multiracial Future Freed from Racism.

Moderators of the Review Forums on Our Call

Seth Sundstrom and Mary Ann Wierks, Multiplication Forum
 Sally De Vowe and Tim Meendering, Revitalization Forum
 Thomas Elenbaas and Marcia Gibbons, Discipleship Forum
 Janice Melichar-Utter and Aaron Vis, Leadership Forum
 Donald Baker and Victor Folkert, Global Mission Forum
 Roger Peterson and Cora Taitt, Multiracial Future Freed from Racism Forum

Moderators of the Advisory Committees on the Belhar Confession and the Advisory Committees on RCA Communications

J. Erik Buteyn	Donald Poest
Andrea DeWard	Steven Sayer
Kent Fry	M. Scot Sherman
Verlyn Hemmen	Jonathan Sherrill
Paul Janssen	Tanner Smith
Jean Lemmenes	W. Peter Te Winkle
Marianne Lin	Leigh Van Kempen
Daniel Meeter	Nancy Van Wyk Phillips
Cheryl Molhoek	Jill Ver Steeg
Phyllis Palsma	Dennis Voskuil

General Synod Advisory Committees

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH ORDER AND GOVERNANCE

Moderator: George Brown (General Synod Professor of Theology)

Vice Moderator: Steven Smallegan (Zeeland)

Minister:

Arlene Wilhelm (Mid-Hudson)

Elders:

Leon Schuiteman (West Sioux)

Willem Spaans (Canadian Prairies)

Jacob Thomas (Queens)

Corresponding:

Randy Kooy (Illiana)

Nancy Ruiter (Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantic)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BENEFITS

Moderator: Douglas Leonard (Rockland-Westchester)

Vice Moderator: Mary Linge (Regional Synod of New York)

Minister:

Kerri Weldon (Albany)

Elders:

Joe Clow (Wisconsin)

Leonard De Braber (North Grand Rapids)

Jan Nienhuis (Zeeland)

Kathryn Romero (New Brunswick)

Lloyd Sandbulte (Central Iowa)

Corresponding:

Philip Doeschot (Board of Benefits Services)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND NEW BUSINESS

Moderator: Justin Meyers (Queens)

Vice Moderator: Robert Luidens (Schenectady)

Ministers:

Philip Somsen (Pleasant Prairie)

Richard Veenstra (Muskegon)

Elders:

Robert Foreman (Central Plains)

Kenneth Hoesch (Zeeland)

Yen-Tse Lin (Nassau-Suffolk)

Judy Parr (Holland)

Glenn Spyksma (Central California)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Moderator: Sherri Meyer-Veen (Schoharie)

Vice Moderator: Jessica Scholten (Holland)

Ministers:

John Coakley (General Synod Professor of Theology)

Madeline Fuentez (Wisconsin)

Elders:

Muryl Korver (East Sioux)

Bradley Lewis (Schenectady)

Corresponding:

Margaret Kapteyn (Regional Synod of Canada)

Stacey Midge (Commission for Women)

Pat Williams (Regional Synod of the Great Lakes)

DISPOSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The General Secretary noted that the Office of the General Synod received no communications that were required to be referred to appropriate committees.

PRESENTATION AND REFERRAL OF NEW BUSINESS

No items of new business were presented to the synod.