WORSHIP

The delegates gathered with synod delegates from the Christian Reformed Church in North America. A joint worship team led the delegates in worship. Participants in the service were as follows:

- Liturgist: John Tenyenhuis
- Scripture: Evelyn Bennally
- Preacher: Anna Jackson
- Prayer: Lee DeYoung
- Musicians: Anna Gabhart, Jonathon Gabhart, and Noah Mclaren

WELCOME

The interim general secretary welcomed those present. Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director of the CRCNA, extended his welcome and invited Dr. Cheryl Brandsen, Calvin provost, to welcome delegates on behalf of Calvin College. Dr. Brandsen addressed the joint gathering.

The president and Rev. Jonathon Brown, CRCNA president pro tempore, addressed the joint gathering. Thereafter the CRCNA delegates were released to their 9:00 a.m. convening session.

CALL TO ORDER

The president called to order the third meeting of the General Synod at 8:50 a.m. on Friday, June 8, 2018.

REPORT OF THE INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY

The president called upon the interim general secretary, the Rev. Donald Poest, to present his report

The interim general secretary addressed the Synod, and presented his report. As part of his report the interim general secretary invited all staff present to introduce themselves and be briefly recognized.

At the conclusion of his report the body was invited by the interim general secretary to spend 10 minutes discussing two questions:

What surprised you?
What resonated with you?
NEW BUSINESS
The president offered the second and final opportunity for the presentation of new business. No new business was presented.

REPORT FROM THE RACIAL/ETHNIC MINISTRIES
The president called upon Sung Su Lee, regular delegate from the Classis of Queens, to present the report of the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries (GS Workbook pp. 72-73). Mr. Lee addressed the Synod.

The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Andrés Serrano, corresponding delegate from the General Synod Council, member of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, and member of the Council for Hispanic Ministries, to present the council’s report (GS Workbook pp. 74-75). Rev. Serrano addressed the Synod.


REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON RACE AND ETHNICITY
The president called upon Karla Camacho, corresponding delegate from the Synod of the Far West and corresponding delegate from and member of the Commission on Race and Ethnicity, to present the report of the commission (GS Workbook pp. 249-52). Ms. Camacho addressed the Synod.

RE 18-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt RE 18-1 (GS Workbook p. 251) (voice vote).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL’S FIVE-FOLD TEST TASK FORCE
The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Richard DeBruyne, regular delegate from the Classis of California, moderator of the Commission on Race and Ethnicity, and moderator of the Five-Fold Test Task force, to present the report of the task force (GS Workbook pp. 93-94). Rev. DeBruyne addressed the Synod.

RF 18-5 was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend RF 18-5 as follows (additions are underlined):
…furtherance of the RCA commitment to a multicultural future freed from racism.

And further,
To encourage the GSC, the racial/ethnic councils, and the commissions to intentionally use the standards of the Five Fold Test (population, participation, power, pace setting and purposeful narrative) to guide each of their meetings.

**VOTED:** To adopt the amendment to RF 18-5 (yes 169; no 44).

RF 18-5 as amended was before the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt RF 18-5 (GS Workbook p. 95) as amended (voice vote).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED
The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Chad Pierce, moderator of the Pastoral Formation Coordinating Committee and regular delegate from the General Synod professorate, to present its report. (GS workbook pp. 82-87).

RF 18-1 was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend RF 18-1 as follows (deletions are stricken, additions are underlined):

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“…in consultation with the General Synod professors (professorate).
7. Facilitate Assist the commissioned pastor preparation among classes as together we embrace the mission of the church.
8. Assist the General Synod Council in conducting a triennial review of the overall assessment for theological education and any additional RCA funding to be requested, considering both the total amount and its division, in light of RCA church order and the mission of the church.
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The PFOB shall consist of 13 voting members and one ex-officio, non-voting member. The membership of the PFOB shall reflect the diversity of the RCA in terms of age, gender, and ethnicity. At least three members will be currently serving as General Synod professors. Members are to be chosen by the Commission on Nominations as follows:
1. The three executives of the RCA’s theological agents (WTS, NBTS, MFCA).
2. One member from each of the RCA’s theological agents currently serving as a theological professor or General Synod Professor. One additional member designated by each theological agent.
3. One member appointed by the GSC from among the GSC’s current members.
4. Six members from the RCA, nominated by the PFOB and appointed by the General Synod, two of whom shall be commissioned pastors. These six people will serve three-year, staggered terms, which will be renewable.
5. The general secretary, ex-officio and without vote.

The PFOB exists to….”

A motion was made and supported from the floor to create a separate amendment for each of the foregoing proposed amendments as follows:

RF 18-1a was presented to the house. It reads as follows (deletions are stricken, additions are underlined):

“7. Facilitate assist the commissioned pastor preparation among classes as together we embrace the mission of the church.”

VOTED: To not adopt the amendment in RF 18-1a (yes 101; no 112).

RF 18-1b was presented to the house. It reads as follows (deletions are stricken):

“… and ethnicity. At least three members will be currently serving as General Synod professors. Members are…”

VOTED: To not adopt the amendment in RF 18-1b (yes 103; no 105).

RF 18-1c was presented to the house. It reads as follows (additions are underlined):

“…Members are to be chosen by the Commission on Nominations as follows:”

VOTED: To adopt the amendment in RF 18-1c (yes 133; no 83).

RF 18-1d was presented to the house. It reads as follows (deletions are
stricken, additions are underlined):

“2. One additional member designated by each theological agent. One member from each of the RCA’s theological agents currently serving as a theological professor or General Synod Professor.”

**VOTED:** To not adopt the amendment in RF 18-1d (yes 33; no 185).

RF 18-1e was presented to the house. It reads as follows (deletions are stricken):

“4. Six members from the RCA, nominated by the PFOB and appointed by the General Synod, two of whom shall be commissioned pastors. These six people will serve three year, staggered terms, which will be renewable.”

At the suggestion of the president a motion was made and supported to table any further amendments to RF 18-1 to allow time for additional editorial work to be done on them.

**VOTED:** To table any further amendments to RF 18-1 (yes 195; no 22).

RF 18-2 was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend RF 18-2 as follows (deletions are stricken, additions are underlined):

“To set the General Synod assessment for theological education to $829,000 $875,000 for Fiscal Year 2019, to be allocated in the following manner…”

**VOTED:** To not amend RF 18-2 (yes 50; no 167).

RF 18-2 in its original form was again before the house.

**VOTED:** To adopt RF 18-2 (GS Workbook p. 84) (yes 190; no 24).

RF 18-3 was presented to the house.

The president called upon the Rev. Travis Else, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Order and Governance, to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the advisory committee was to refer RF
18-3 to the Commission on Church Order to determine, in consultation with the Pastoral Formation Coordinating Committee (current body)/Pastoral Formation Oversight Board (proposed body), the appropriate placement in the *BCO* and make the working less ambiguous.

**VOTED:** To refer RF 18-3 (GS Workbook p. 85) to the Commission on Church Order (yes 196; no 22).

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED**

The president called upon Andrea DiPace, corresponding delegate from the General Synod Council and member of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to present the Report of the Office of Finance (GS Workbook pp. 52-64). Ms. DiPace addressed the Synod.

The General Synod viewed a brief video presentation regarding Transformed and Transforming.

**RECESS**

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 11:56 a.m. following prayer by the Rev. Mark Kleinheksel, regular delegate from Great Lakes City Classis.