

Provisional Acts of GS Aldergrove 2025

Day 1 — Morning Session

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Article 1 – Opening of Synod

On behalf of the convening church, the Aldergrove CanRC, Rev. Rob Schouten called the meeting to order. He then read Colossians 1:1-23, and, with a focus on Colossians 1:18a, spoke some words of reflection (see Appendix 1). He then led in prayer and had the assembly sing Hymn 44. He spoke some encouraging words to the delegates regarding the work before them.

Article 2 – Credentials

The credentials were examined by the Aldergrove CanRC and all was found to be in good order. Twenty-two primary delegates and two alternate delegates were present and signed the attendance list.

Delegated by Regional Synod West 2024:

Ministers: Hendrik Alkema, Karlo Janssen. Joe Poppe, Rob Schouten, Carl Van Dam, Ken Wieske

Elders: Richard J. Buist (alt.), Ken Hoeksema (alt.), Lyndon Kok, James Teitsma, Bill van Beek, Adam van den Hoven

Delegated by Regional Synod East 2024:

Ministers: Rolf den Hollander, Peter Holtvliuwer, Hilmer Jagersma, Marc Jagt, John Louwerse, Jake Torenvliet

Elders: Don Aasman, Gerald Boot, Ron Bremer, John Harsevoort, John Jager, Andy Jairam

Article 3 – Election of Officers

The following officers were elected to serve Synod for its duration:

Chairman: Rev. John Louwerse

Vice-chairman: Rev. Rob Schouten

First Clerk: Rev. Karlo Janssen

Second Clerk: Rev. Peter Holtvliuwer

Article 4 – Constitution of Synod

On behalf of the convening church, Rev. Schouten declared Synod constituted. The elected officers took their places. Rev. Louwerse called for a break to give the executive the opportunity to come with proposals regarding the proceedings of Synod and the division of tasks among the various members of Synod.

Synod was adjourned.

Day 1 — Afternoon Session

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Article 5 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session at 1:00pm. The chairman had the meeting sing Hymn 82:1. He read the roll and noted all synod members were present. He thanked the assembly for the confidence expressed in the elected officers of Synod. He expressed appreciation to the convening church for all the work done in preparation for Synod. He extended a warm welcome to the fraternal delegates and observers.

Article 6 – Housekeeping Matters

The executive presented recommendations on housekeeping matters. Synod decided the following:

1. *Presence on the Internet*: Synod will publish the *Acts of Synod* on the federation website as they become available. However, as the *Acts* are adopted, Synod will decide whether there are any decisions which should not be immediately posted on the Internet. Confidential acts will not be posted. Only plenary sessions in which individuals address General Synod and the churches will be live streamed publicly (cf. GS 2025 art. 62).
2. *Time Schedule*:
Monday to Friday
morning session – 9:00 - 12:00
afternoon session – 2:00 - 5:00
evening session – 7:00 - 9:00
Saturday May 10
morning session – 9:00 – 1:00
3. *Devotions*: Synod shall begin and close each day in plenary session with Scripture reading, prayer and singing. Mealtimes will be opened with Scripture reading and prayer. A schedule will be handed out for the mealtime and evening close.
4. *Press Release*: A press release shall be published after synod has been closed.
5. *Advisory Committees*: Advisory Committees shall use the template provided by the first clerk for their proposals. These proposals shall be submitted via email to the first clerk before they are dealt with in plenary session. The first clerk will ensure distribution digitally and in print upon request.
6. *Synod Documents*: Copies of internal synod documents are available only to members of synod and fraternal delegates. Officially delegated observers will receive all non-confidential materials.
7. *Guidelines*: For all procedures the Guidelines for Synod shall apply.
8. *Travel expenses*: Expenses are to be submitted, with receipts, to the convening church using the supplied form.
9. *Roll call*: Roll call shall take place each plenary session by means of a visual check by the executive.

Article 7 – Late Submissions

Regarding late submissions the executive recommended the following:

1. Letters from the Free Church of Scotland (FCS) and Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) (FCC): admitted.
2. Credo Christian High School re visiting GS 2025 on the morning of Monday, May 12: admitted and agreed to accommodate.
3. Letter from Convening Church re confidential materials: admitted.
4. Letter from the Carman East CanRC re General Fund: admitted as this was mandated by GS 2022.
5. Appointment letters from various Synod committees: admitted as these were mandated by GS 2022.
6. Letter re admissibility of two personal appeals: admitted as it pertains to appeals already on the agenda (listed 8.6.8).
7. Letter re admissibility of appeals submitted without prior notification: admitted as it pertains to appeals already on the agenda (listed under 8.6.8).
8. Letter from the Convening Church re item 7 above: admitted for information.

ADOPTED

Article 8 – Format of the Acts

1. Materials

- 1.1 Submissions from: Glanbrook (Trinity) (8.4.4), Hamilton (Cornerstone) (8.1.8), Flamborough (Redemption) (8.1.4), Ancaster (8.1.2), Attercliffe (8.1.3)
- 1.2 Appeal from Chilliwack (8.6.6)

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The submissions were declared admissible as they interact with GS 2022 art. 7.8.

3. Observations

- 3.1 The above submissions express concern over GS 2022 art. 7.8 to change the format of synodical decisions from the traditional structure:

Materials – Admissibility – Observations – Considerations – Recommendations
to the structure:

Materials – Admissibility – Decisions – Grounds.

- 3.2 The churches argue that the previous format:

- Better reflected the content of overtures, appeals and the thoughts of the churches through the "Observations" section.
- Explained the reasoning of a Synod more fully through "Considerations".
- Provided a clearer basis for accountability and understanding, especially for future assemblies and local office-bearers.

- 3.3 The Glanbrook (Trinity) CanRC overture notes that a similar proposal was already rejected by GS 2013, after full interaction with the churches. GS 2022 adopted the new

format without reference to this prior decision and without receiving an overture from the churches.

3.4 Several submissions (Glanbrook, the Chilliwack CanRC, the Hamilton (Cornerstone) CanRC) express concern that the change in 2022 was adopted via an informal letter and motion, with no clear procedural justification or visibility for the churches.

3.5 Chilliwack notes that decisions are now harder to interpret and appeal.

3.6 The Flamborough (Redemption) CanRC and Cornerstone highlight how the observations and considerations serve a distinct ecclesiastical purpose, making synodical reasoning both transparent and logically traceable. They argue that brevity should not come at the cost of ecclesiastical clarity and accountability.

3.7 The submissions uniformly request that Synod 2025 restore the previous format and codify it in the Guidelines to ensure consistent, transparent recording of synodical decisions.

4. Considerations

4.1 The churches raise valid concerns. The previous format supported an ecclesiastical manner of decision-making (CO art. 30) by:

- Summarizing the voices of the churches (Observations),
- Articulating the logic of Synod's evaluation (Considerations), and
- Stating the actual action (Recommendations).

4.2 The new format lacks transparency. Without observations and considerations:

- Readers must cross-reference other documents to understand Synod's response to the churches.
- Churches cannot easily see whether their concerns were heard or how their arguments were weighed.
- Future appeals become more difficult to formulate due to insufficient published reasoning.

4.3 The manner in which the GS 2022 change was adopted—via an informal letter and in-session motion—did not meet the standards normally expected for structural decisions. It also bypassed prior Synodical precedent (GS 2013).

4.4 A uniform format, clearly stipulated in the Guidelines for Synod, would serve the churches by providing consistent expectations and strengthening trust in the decision-making process.

5. Recommendation

That Synod decide:

5.1 To return to the previously used format for all synodical decisions:

Materials – Admissibility – Observations – Considerations – Recommendation(s)

5.2 To revise the *Guidelines for General Synod* to specify this format as the standard for all future Synods. (see Appendix XXX)

ADOPTED

Article 9 – Agenda

1 OPENING ON BEHALF OF THE CONVENING CHURCH

2 EXAMINATION OF THE CREDENTIALS

2.1 Credentials Regional Synod East (RSE)

2.2 Credentials Regional Synod West (RSW)

2.3 Credentials Fraternal Delegates & Observers

2.3.1 Credentials Delegate: Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCSA)

2.3.2 Credentials Delegates: Free Reformed Churches of Australia (FRCA)

2.3.3 Credentials Delegate: United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)

2.3.4 Credentials Delegate: Reformed Churches of New Zealand (RCNZ)

2.3.5 Credentials Delegate: Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)

2.3.6 Credentials Delegate: Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

2.3.7 Credentials Observer: Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)

2.3.8 Credentials Delegate: Reformed Calvinist Churches in Indonesia (GGRCI)

2.3.9 Credentials Delegate: Reformed Church of Quebec (ERQ)

2.3.10 Credentials Observer: Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK)

2.3.11 Credentials Observer: Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)

3 ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS

4 CONSTITUTION OF SYNOD

5 INFORMATION FROM THE CONVENING CHURCH

6 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7 SETTING OF THE TIME SCHEDULE

8 INCOMING MAIL

8.1 GENERAL MATTERS

8.1.1 GKN request for sister church relationship

8.1.2 Ancaster letter re Format of the Acts of GS

8.1.3 Attercliffe re Format of the Acts of GS

8.1.4 Flamborough (Redemption) letter re Format of the Acts of GS

8.1.5 Glanbrook (Trinity) re Format of Acts

8.1.6 Chilliwack re Format of Acts

8.1.7 Guelph (Emmanuel) re delegate selection for GS officers

8.1.8 Hamilton (Cornerstone) Overture re Housekeeping matters

8.1.9 Glanbrook (Trinity) letter re procedure for Liturgical Forms

8.1.10 Langley re procedure re CO55 see (cf. 8.3.8.1.35)

8.1.11 FCC letter of greetings

8.1.12 FCS response to invitation to attend Synod

8.1.13 letter from Credo Christian High School re visit

8.1.14 letter from the Correspondence Committee Aldergrove re retention of material

8.2 COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.2.1 Synod Guelph 2022

8.2.1.1 Guelph (Emmanuel) cover letter re GS 2022

8.2.1.2 Guelph (Emmanuel) re Financial Report GS 2022

8.2.1.3 Guelph (Living Word) re Audit GS 2022

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- 8.2.2 Archives of GS 2022
 - 8.2.2.1 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) Report re inspection of Archives GS 2022
 - 8.2.2.2 Burlington (Ebenezer) Report re Archives GS
 - 8.2.3 Days of Prayer ad CO art. 54
 - 8.2.3.1 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) and Edmonton (Providence) re Days of Prayer
 - 8.2.4 Committee for Needy Student Fund - (CNSF)
 - 8.2.4.1 Grassie (Covenant) CNSF Report to GS 2025
 - 8.2.5 Committee for the Official Website - (CWeb)
 - 8.2.5.1 CWeb Report to GS 2025
 - 8.2.6 Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS)
 - 8.2.6.1 BoG at CRTS Report to GS 2025
 - 8.2.6.2 CRTS Supplemental Report
 - 8.2.7 Committee for Pastoral Training Program (CPTPF)
 - 8.2.7.1 CPTPF Report to GS 2025
 - 8.2.8 Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise* (SCBP)
 - 8.2.8.1 SCBP Report to GS 2025
 - 8.2.8.2 SCBP Supplement Report re Proposed Songs
 - 8.2.8.3 SCBP Further Note on SCBP Reports
 - 8.2.8.4 SCBP additional letter re mandate
 - 8.2.9 Committee for Bible Translations (CBT)
 - 8.2.9.1 CBT Report to GS 2025
 - 8.2.10 Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER)
 - 8.2.10.1 Report 1: General Mandate
 - 8.2.10.2 Report 2: CER Study Mandate
 - 8.2.10.3 Report 3: Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)
 - 8.2.10.4 Report 4: Reformed Church of Quebec (ERQ)
 - 8.2.10.5 Report 5: Free Reformed Churches in North America (FRCNA)
 - 8.2.10.6 Report 6: Heritage Reformed Congregations (HRC)
 - 8.2.10.7 Report 7: Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (KPCA-K)
 - 8.2.10.8 Report 8: Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)
 - 8.2.10.9 Report 9: Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)
 - 8.2.10.10 Report 10: Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)
 - 8.2.10.11 Report 11: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada (RPCC)
 - 8.2.10.12 Report 12: United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)
 - 8.2.10.13 Report 13: Free Reformed Churches of Australia (FRCA)
 - 8.2.10.14 Report 14: Reformed Churches in Brazil (IRB)
 - 8.2.10.15-17: Introduction to the Indonesia Reports
 - 8.2.10.15 Report 15: Reformed Churches in Indonesia (GGRI)
 - 8.2.10.16 Report 16: The Calvinist Reformed Churches in Indonesia (GGRCI)
 - 8.2.10.17 Report 17: Reformed Churches in Indonesia on the island of Timor (GGRI-T)

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- 8.2.10.18 Report 18: Kosin Presbyterian Church in Korea (KPCK)
 - 8.2.10.19 Report 19: Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK)
 - 8.2.10.20 Report 20: Reformed Churches in New Zealand (RCNZ)
 - 8.2.10.21 Report 21: Free Church of Scotland (FCS)
 - 8.2.10.22 Report 22: Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) (FCC)
 - 8.2.10.23 Report 23: Free Reformed Churches in South Africa (FRCSA)
 - 8.2.10.24 Report 24: North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC)
 - 8.2.10.25 Report 25: International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC)
 - 8.2.10.26 CER supplementary report to GS 2025 (re GK)
 - 8.2.10.27 CER financial report 2022-2025
 - 8.2.10.28 Confidential submission from CER re 8.2.10.16 and 8.2.10.17

8.2.11 Address Church

- 8.2.11.1 Report from the Address Church - Burlington (Ebenezer)

8.2.12 General Fund

- 8.2.12.1 General Fund Report Carman East
- 8.2.12.2 Carman West review of General Fund

8.3 LETTERS FROM THE CHURCHES REGARDING THE REPORTS

- 8.3.1 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re term 'Audit' in reports
- 8.3.2 Calgary re GS 2022 Financial report
- 8.3.3 Letter Regarding Days of Prayer ad CO art. 54
 - 8.3.3.1 Grassie (Covenant) re Days of Prayer report
- 8.3.4 Letter Regarding CNSF
 - 8.3.4.1 Fergus North re CNSF
 - 8.3.4.2 Willoughby Heights re CNSF
- 8.3.5 Letter Regarding CWeb - none
- 8.3.6 Letter Regarding CRTS
 - 8.3.6.1 Toronto (Bethel) re CRTS 6th professor
- 8.3.7 Letters Regarding CTPPF
 - 8.3.7.1 Willoughby Heights re CTPPF
- 8.3.8 Letters Regarding SCBP
 - 8.3.8.1 Sub Proposed songs incl. hymn cap and general interactions
 - 8.3.8.1.1 Aldergrove re SCBP proposed songs
 - 8.3.8.1.2 Aldergrove Attachment #2 re proposed songs (Psalms)
 - 8.3.8.1.3 Aldergrove Attachment #3 re proposed songs (Hymns)
 - 8.3.8.1.4 Aldergrove Attachment #4 re proposed songs (Psalms & Hymns)
 - 8.3.8.1.5 Aldergrove re SCBP proposed songs 2
 - 8.3.8.1.6 Attercliffe re SCBP report points 2,3,6,7
 - 8.3.8.1.7 Barrhead re SCBP report re Psalms and Hymns and Liturgical Forms (cf. 8.3.8.2.3)
 - 8.3.8.1.8 Burlington (Fellowship) SCBP report re songs
 - 8.3.8.1.9 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re SCBP Hymns

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- 8.3.8.1.10 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re predominance of Psalms and RSE 2024 re CO art. 55
 - 8.3.8.1.11 Caledonia re SCBP report Liturgical Forms and Principled View (cf. 8.3.8.2.5)
 - 8.3.8.1.12 Calgary re SCBP report various
 - 8.3.8.1.13 Carman East re SCBP report Principled View
 - 8.3.8.1.14 Chilliwack re SCBP Liturgical Forms and Principled View
 - 8.3.8.1.15 Devon re SCBP re proposed hymn
 - 8.3.8.1.16 Edmonton (Immanuel) cover letter for 9 appendices
 - 8.3.8.1.17 Edmonton (Immanuel) re SCBP mandate items
 - 8.3.8.1.18 Edmonton (Immanuel) re SCBP supplement - proposed songs
 - 8.3.8.1.19 Edmonton (Providence) re SCBP report re errata section 2 #13
 - 8.3.8.1.20 Elm Creek re SCBP5 funding/publish model
 - 8.3.8.1.21 Elm Creek re SCBP6 proposed psalm and hymns
 - 8.3.8.1.22 Elm Creek re SCBP7 Principled View
 - 8.3.8.1.23 Fergus (Maranatha) re SCBP Principled Guidelines
 - 8.3.8.1.24 Fergus (Maranatha) re SCBP Producing an Augment
 - 8.3.8.1.25 Fergus (Maranatha) re SCBP Proposed Hymns
 - 8.3.8.1.26 Fergus (Maranatha) re SCBP Proposed Psalms
 - 8.3.8.1.27 Flamborough (Redemption) re SCBP report re proposed Psalms and Hymns
 - 8.3.8.1.28 Grand Rapids re SCBP report re proposed Psalms and Hymns
 - 8.3.8.1.29 Grand Valley re SCBP Liturgical Forms and Principled View (cf. 8.3.8.2.12)
 - 8.3.8.1.30 Grassie (Covenant) re SCBP Principled View
 - 8.3.8.1.31 Guelph (Emmanuel) re SCBP report sect 2,3,5,6
 - 8.3.8.1.32 Hamilton (Cornerstone) re proposed songs
 - 8.3.8.1.33 Hamilton (Providence) re SCBP re publishing & funding
 - 8.3.8.1.34 Kerwood (Grace) re proposed hymn
 - 8.3.8.1.35 Langley re SCBP report re procedure, CO 55, Psalms, Hymns, cap (cf. 8.1.10)
 - 8.3.8.1.36 Neerlandia re SCBP
 - 8.3.8.1.37 Nooksack Valley re SCBP report Liturgical Forms & Principled View (cf. 8.3.8.2.13)
 - 8.3.8.1.38 Orangeville re SCBP report re proposed Psalms and Hymns (cf. 8.3.8.2.14)
 - 8.3.8.1.39 Ottawa (Jubilee) re SCBP report Hymns
 - 8.3.8.1.40 Owen Sound re SCBP report re proposed Psalms and Hymns
 - 8.3.8.1.41 St. Albert re SCBP report re Augment
 - 8.3.8.1.42 Taber re SCBP report
 - 8.3.8.1.43 Toronto (Bethel) re SCBP report
 - 8.3.8.1.44 Winnipeg (Grace) re SCBP proposed Psalms and Hymns
 - 8.3.8.1.45 Winnipeg (Redeemer) re SCBP report re proposed Psalms and Hymns
 - 8.3.8.1.46 Willoughby Heights re SCBP report various (cf. 8.3.8.2.17)
 - 8.3.8.2 Sub Liturgical Forms

337	8.3.8.2.1	Aldergrove re SCBP Lord's Supper Form
338	8.3.8.2.2	Arthur re SCBP Lord's Supper Form
339	8.3.8.2.3	Barrhead re SCBP report re Psalms and Hymns and Liturgical Forms
340		(cf. 8.3.8.1.7)
341	8.3.8.2.4	Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re SCBP Lord's Supper Form
342	8.3.8.2.5	Caledonia re SCBP report Liturgical Forms and Principled View (cf.
343		8.3.8.1.11)
344	8.3.8.2.6	Chilliwack re SCBP Liturgical Forms and Principled View (cf.
345		8.3.8.1.14)
346	8.3.8.2.7	Elm Creek re SCBP2 Lord Supper form
347	8.3.8.2.8	Elm Creek re SCBP3 proposed shorter LS forms
348	8.3.8.2.9	Fergus (Maranatha) re SCBP Liturgical Form of Lord's Supper
349	8.3.8.2.10	Flamborough (Redemption) re SCBP proposed shorter LS forms
350	8.3.8.2.11	Guelph (Living Word) re 8.2.8.1 re Lord Supper form
351	8.3.8.2.12	Grand Valley re SCBP Liturgical Forms and Principled View (cf.
352		8.3.8.1.29)
353	8.3.8.2.13	Nooksack Valley re SCBP report Liturgical Forms and Principled View
354		(cf. 8.3.8.1.37)
355	8.3.8.2.14	Orangeville re SCBP proposed shorter LS forms (cf. 8.3.8.1.38)
356	8.3.8.2.15	St. Albert re SCBP Liturgical Form of Lord's Supper
357	8.3.8.2.16	Surrey (Maranatha) re SCBP proposed shorter LS forms
358	8.3.8.2.17	Willoughby Heights re SCBP report various (cf. 8.3.8.1.46)
359	8.3.9	Letter regarding CBT Report
360	8.3.9.1	Calgary re CBT report
361	8.3.10	Letters Regarding CER Report
362	8.3.10.1	Ancaster re CER report 1 general mandate re licensure
363	8.3.10.2	Barrhead re CO art.50 and ARPC, ERQ
364	8.3.10.3	Brampton (Grace) re CER re CO art. 50 re Ecclesiastical Relationships
365	8.3.10.4	Brampton (Grace) re CER re rules for Ecclesiastical Fellowship
366	8.3.10.5	Burlington (Fellowship) CER on CO art. 50 re Ecclesiastical Fellowship
367	8.3.10.6	Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re CER on CO art. 50 re Ecclesiastical
368		Fellowship
369	8.3.10.7	Calgary re CER report
370	8.3.10.8	Carman East re CER report 1 mandate
371	8.3.10.9	Flamborough (Redemption) re CER general
372	8.3.10.10	Grand Rapids re CER report
373	8.3.10.11	Guelph (Emmanuel) re CER report RPCC / PCA reports 11&19
374	8.3.10.12	Hamilton (Providence) re CER sub report 1 study mandate
375	8.3.10.13	Nooksack Valley re CER report
376	8.3.10.14	Attercliffe re CER sub report 2
377	8.3.10.15	Chilliwack re CER sub report 2
378	8.3.10.16	Edmonton (Immanuel) re CER sub report 2
379	8.3.10.17	Fergus North re CER sub report 2
380	8.3.10.18	Grassie (Covenant) re CER sub report 2

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- 8.3.10.19 Fergus North re CER sub report 3 ARPC
 - 8.3.10.20 Grassie (Covenant) re CER sub report 3 ARPC
 - 8.3.10.21 Hamilton (Providence) re CER sub report 3 ARPC
 - 8.3.10.22 Fergus (Maranatha) re CER sub report 10 RPCNA
 - 8.3.10.23 Tintern Spring Creek re CER sub report 12 URCNA
 - 8.3.10.24 Tintern Spring Creek re CER re above appx URCNA Escondido 2024 pg
412-416
 - 8.3.10.25 Smithville re CER sub report 17 GGRI-T
 - 8.3.10.26 Fergus (Maranatha) re CER sub report 19 GK
 - 8.3.10.27 Glanbrook (Trinity) re CER sub report 21 FCS

8.4 OVERTURES

8.4.1 Overture re Liturgical Forms

- 8.4.1.1 Hamilton (Blessings) cover letter Overture re Liturgical Forms
- 8.4.1.2 Classis Central Ontario (CCO) Overture to RSE 2020 re Liturgical Forms

8.4.2 RSE 2024 cover letter re Overtures

- 8.4.2.1 RSE 2024 Overture re Footnote for Apostles' Creed
- 8.4.2.2 RSE 2024 Overture re CO art. 55
- 8.4.2.3 RSE 2024 Overture re Shortening the Duration of GS
- 8.4.2.4 RSE 2024 Overture re CO art. 49, 44, 47 (CCO)
- 8.4.2.5 RSE 2024 Overture re CO art. 49, 44, 47 (CNO)

8.4.3 RSW 2024 cover letter re Overtures

- 8.4.3.1 RSW 2024 Overture re CO art. 30
- 8.4.3.2 RSW 2024 Overture re CO art. 55 (CPE)
- 8.4.3.3 RSW 2024 Overture re CO art. 55 (CPW)
- 8.4.3.4 RSW 2024 Overture re Form of Baptism of Infants

8.4.4 Glanbrook (Trinity) Overture re Format of Synod Decisions

8.4.5 Glanbrook (Trinity) Overture re Length of Terms CER

8.5 LETTERS FROM THE CHURCHES REGARDING THE OVERTURES

8.5.1 Apostles' Creed (Overture 8.4.2.1)

- 8.5.1.1 Attercliffe re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.2 Barrhead re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.3 Caledonia re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.4 Calgary re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.5 Carman East re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.6 Carman West re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.7 Chilliwack re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.8 Cloverdale re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.9 Edmonton (Immanuel) re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.10 Elm Creek re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.11 Fergus (Maranatha) re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.12 Fergus North re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.13 Edmonton (Providence) re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
- 8.5.1.14 Flamborough (Redemption) re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed

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- 424 8.5.1.15 Houston re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
 - 425 8.5.1.16 Neerlandia re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
 - 426 8.5.1.17 Willoughby Heights re 8.4.2.1 Footnote Apostles' Creed
 - 427 8.5.2 CER terms (Overture 8.4.5)
 - 428 8.5.2.1 Attercliffe re 8.4.5 re CER length of term
 - 429 8.5.3 CO art. 30 (Overture 8.4.3.1)
 - 430 8.5.3.1 Arthur re RSW re CO art. 30
 - 431 8.5.3.2 Barrhead re CO art. 30
 - 432 8.5.3.3 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re CO art. 30
 - 433 8.5.3.4 Caledonia re RSW re CO art. 30
 - 434 8.5.3.5 Calgary re RSW re CO art. 30
 - 435 8.5.3.6 Carman East re RSW re CO art. 30
 - 436 8.5.3.7 Carman West re RSW re CO art. 30
 - 437 8.5.3.8 Dunnville West re CO art. 30
 - 438 8.5.3.9 Elm Creek re CO art. 30
 - 439 8.5.3.10 Elora re CO art. 30
 - 440 8.5.3.11 Fergus (Maranatha) re CO art. 30
 - 441 8.5.3.12 Flamborough (Redemption) re CO art. 30
 - 442 8.5.3.13 Grand Rapids re CO art. 30
 - 443 8.5.3.14 Grand Valley re CO art. 30
 - 444 8.5.3.15 Grassie (Covenant) re CO art. 30
 - 445 8.5.3.16 Houston re CO art. 30
 - 446 8.5.3.17 Lincoln (Vineyard) re CO art. 30
 - 447 8.5.3.18 Neerlandia re CO art. 30
 - 448 8.5.3.19 Niagara South re CPW CO art. 30
 - 449 8.5.3.20 St. Albert re RSW re Co art. 30
 - 450 8.5.3.21 Toronto (Bethel) re CO art. 30
 - 451 8.5.3.22 Willoughby Heights re CPW CO art. 30
 - 452 8.5.4 CO art. 49, 47, 44 (Overtures 8.4.2.4, 8.4.2.5)
 - 453 8.5.4.1 Ancaster re 8.4.2.4 & 8.4.2.5 CO art. 49 CCO CNO
 - 454 8.5.4.2 Brampton (Grace) re Overture re CO art. 49 (CCO, CNO)
 - 455 8.5.4.3 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re Overture re CO art. 49 (CCO, CNO)
 - 456 8.5.4.4 Caledonia re Overture re CO art. 49 (CCO, CNO)
 - 457 8.5.4.5 Calgary re RSE CO art. 49 (CCO)
 - 458 8.5.4.6 Calgary re RSE CO art. 49 (CNO)
 - 459 8.5.4.7 Carman East re RSE CO art. 49 (CCO)
 - 460 8.5.4.8 Carman East re RSE CO art. 49 (CNO)
 - 461 8.5.4.9 Chilliwack re CO art. 49 broader representation
 - 462 8.5.4.10 Cloverdale re 8.4.2.4 CO art. 49 (CCO)
 - 463 8.5.4.11 Cloverdale re 8.4.2.5 CO art. 49 (CNO)
 - 464 8.5.4.12 Coaldale re 8.4.2.4 CO art. 49 (CCO)
 - 465 8.5.4.13 Coaldale re 8.4.2.5 CO art. 49 (CNO)
 - 466 8.5.4.14 Edmonton (Immanuel) re 8.4.2.4 CO art. 49 (CCO)
 - 467 8.5.4.15 Edmonton (Immanuel) re 8.4.2.5 CO art. 49 (CNO)

468	8.5.4.16 Edmonton (Providence) re 8.4.2.4 & 8.4.2.5 CO art. 49
469	8.5.4.17 Fergus (Maranatha) re CO art. 49
470	8.5.4.18 Fergus North re 8.4.2.4 & 8.4.2.5 CO art. 49
471	8.5.4.19 Grand Rapids re CO art. 49 (CNO, CCO)
472	8.5.4.20 Lincoln (Vineyard) re 8.4.2.4 & 8.4.2.5 CO art. 49
473	8.5.4.21 Neerlandia re CO art. 49
474	8.5.4.22 Niagara South re RSE CO art. 49
475	8.5.4.23 Orangeville re 8.4.2.4 CO art. 49 (CCO)
476	8.5.4.24 Orangeville re 8.4.2.5 CO art. 49 (CNO)
477	8.5.4.25 Ottawa (Jubilee) re 8.4.2.4 & 8.4.2.5 CO art.49
478	8.5.4.26 Sardis re Overture re CO art. 49 (CNO, CCO)
479	8.5.4.27 St. Albert re 8.4.2.4 CO art. 49 (CCO)
480	8.5.4.28 St. Albert re 8.4.2.4 CO art. 49 (CNO)
481	8.5.4.29 Willoughby Heights re Overture re CO art. 49 (CNO, CCO)
482	8.5.4.30 Winnipeg (Redeemer) re Overture re CO art. 49 (CNO, CCO)
483	8.5.5 CO art. 55 (Overtures 8.4.2.2, 8.4.3.2, 8.4.3.3)
484	8.5.5.1 Abbotsford (Pathway) re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55
485	8.5.5.2 Ancaster re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55
486	8.5.5.3 Ancaster re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55 Appendix 1
487	8.5.5.4 Ancaster re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55 Appendix 2
488	8.5.5.5 Ancaster re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55 Appendix 3
489	8.5.5.6 Ancaster re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55 Appendix 4
490	8.5.5.7 Ancaster re 8.4.3.2 on CO art. 55
491	8.5.5.8 Ancaster re 8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
492	8.5.5.9 Arthur re RSE re CO art. 55
493	8.5.5.10 Attercliffe re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55
494	8.5.5.11 Barrhead re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
495	8.5.5.12 Brampton (Grace) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
496	8.5.5.13 Burlington (Fellowship) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
497	8.5.5.14 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
498	8.5.5.15 Caledonia re RSE re CO art. 55
499	8.5.5.16 Caledonia re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
500	8.5.5.17 Caledonia re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)
501	8.5.5.18 Calgary re RSE re CO art. 55
502	8.5.5.19 Calgary re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
503	8.5.5.20 Calgary re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)
504	8.5.5.21 Carman East re RSE re CO art. 55
505	8.5.5.22 Carman East re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
506	8.5.5.23 Carman East re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)
507	8.5.5.24 Carman West re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
508	8.5.5.25 Carman West re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)
509	8.5.5.26 Chilliwack re CO art. 55
510	8.5.5.27 Coaldale re RSE re CO art. 55
511	8.5.5.28 Coaldale re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
512	8.5.5.29 Coaldale re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)

513	8.5.5.30 Dunnville East re RSE re CO art. 55
514	8.5.5.31 Dunnville West re CO art. 55
515	8.5.5.32 Edmonton (Immanuel) re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55
516	8.5.5.33 Edmonton (Providence) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
517	8.5.5.34 Elm Creek re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
518	8.5.5.35 Elm Creek re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)
519	8.5.5.36 Fergus (Maranatha) re CO art. 55
520	8.5.5.37 Fergus North re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55
521	8.5.5.38 Fergus North re 8.4.3.2 on CO art. 55
522	8.5.5.39 Fergus North re 8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
523	8.5.5.40 Flamborough (Redemption) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
524	8.5.5.41 Grand Rapids re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
525	8.5.5.42 Grand Valley re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55
526	8.5.5.43 Grassie (Covenant) re RSE re CO art. 55
527	8.5.5.44 Grassie (Covenant) re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
528	8.5.5.45 Grassie (Covenant) re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)
529	8.5.5.46 Guelph (Emmanuel) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art.55
530	8.5.5.47 Guelph (Living Word) re RSE re CO art. 55
531	8.5.5.48 Hamilton (Cornerstone) re RSE re CO art. 55
532	8.5.5.49 Hamilton (Cornerstone) re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
533	8.5.5.50 Hamilton (Cornerstone) re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)
534	8.5.5.51 Hamilton (Providence) re RSE re CO art. 55
535	8.5.5.52 Houston re RSE re CO art. 55
536	8.5.5.53 Houston re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
537	8.5.5.54 Houston re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)
538	8.5.5.55 Lincoln (Vineyard) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
539	8.5.5.56 Kerwood re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
540	8.5.5.57 London (Pilgrim) re RSE CO art.55
541	8.5.5.58 Lynden re 8.4.2.2 on CO art. 55
542	8.5.5.59 Lynden re 8.4.3.2 on CO art. 55
543	8.5.5.60 Lynden re 8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
544	8.5.5.61 Neerlandia re CO art. 55
545	8.5.5.62 Niagara South re RSE CO art. 55
546	8.5.5.63 Niagara South re CPW CO art. 55
547	8.5.5.64 Nooksack Valley re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
548	8.5.5.65 Orangeville re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
549	8.5.5.66 Ottawa (Jubilee) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
550	8.5.5.67 Owen Sound re RSE CO art. 55
551	8.5.5.68 Sardis re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
552	8.5.5.69 Smithers (and Prince George (Messiah)) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art.
553	55
554	8.5.5.70 Smithville re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55
555	8.5.5.71 St. Albert re RSE CO art. 55
556	8.5.5.72 St. Albert re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPE)
557	8.5.5.73 St. Albert re RSW re CO art. 55 (CPW)

8.5.5.74 Toronto (Bethel) re RSE CO art. 55

8.5.5.75 Vernon re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55

8.5.5.76 Willoughby Heights re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55

8.5.5.77 Winnipeg (Grace) re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55

8.5.5.78 Yarrow re 8.4.2.2/8.4.3.2/8.4.3.3 on CO art. 55

8.5.6 Duration of GS (Overture 8.4.2.3)

8.5.6.1 Ancaster re RSE shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.2 Attercliffe re shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.3 Brampton (Grace) re shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.4 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.5 Caledonia re shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.6 Calgary re shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.7 Carman West re CO art. 49 shortening duration of GS

8.5.6.8 Chilliwack re CO art. 49 shortening duration of GS

8.5.6.9 Coaldale re CO art. 49 shortening duration of GS

8.5.6.10 Edmonton (Immanuel) re RSE shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.11 Edmonton (Providence) re RSE shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.12 Elm Creek re Duration of Synod - proposal 1 - hybrid model

8.5.6.13 Elm Creek re Duration of Synod - proposal 2 - clerical support

8.5.6.14 Fergus (Maranatha) re Duration of Synod - proposal 1 - hybrid model

8.5.6.15 Fergus (Maranatha) re Duration of Synod - proposal 2 - clerical support

8.5.6.16 Fergus North re shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.17 Grand Rapids re CO art. 49 shortening duration of GS

8.5.6.18 Grassie (Covenant) re CO art. 49 shortening duration of GS - delegation

8.5.6.19 Grassie (Covenant) re CO art. 49 shortening duration of GS- hybrid model

8.5.6.20 Neerlandia re CO art. 49 shortening duration of GS

8.5.6.21 Niagara South re RSE shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.22 Ottawa (Jubilee) re RSE shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.23 Smithville re shortening of duration of GS

8.5.6.24 St. Albert re CO art. 49 shortening duration GS

8.5.6.25 Willoughby Heights re CO art. 49 shortening duration GS

8.5.7 Format Synod Acts (Overture 8.4.4) - none

8.5.8 Liturgical Forms: Amending Questions (Overture 8.4.1.2)

8.5.8.1 Ancaster re 8.4.1.2 amending questions

8.5.8.2 Arthur re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms

8.5.8.3 Attercliffe re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms

8.5.8.4 Brampton (Grace) re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms

8.5.8.5 Winnipeg (Redeemer) re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms

8.5.8.6 Burlington (Ebenezer) re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms

8.5.8.7 Burlington (Ebenezer) attachment letter to GS 1989

8.5.8.8 Burlington (Fellowship) re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms

8.5.8.9 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re 8.4.1 Liturgical Forms

8.5.8.10 Calgary re 8.4.1.2 amending questions

8.5.8.11 Carman East re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms

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- 8.5.8.12 Carman West re 8.4.1.2 amending questions
 - 8.5.8.13 Chilliwack re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.14 Dunnville East re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.15 Edmonton (Immanuel) re 8.4.1.2 amending questions
 - 8.5.8.16 Fergus North re 8.4.1
 - 8.5.8.17 Grand Rapids re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.18 Grand Valley re 8.4.1.1 re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.19 Houston re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.20 Houston re 8.4.1.2 amending questions
 - 8.5.8.21 Kerwood re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.22 Langley re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.23 Niagara South re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.24 Orangeville re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.25 Ottawa (Jubilee) re 8.4.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.26 Sardis re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.27 Smithville re 8.4.1 re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.28 Tintern Spring Creek re 8.4.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms
 - 8.5.8.29 Willoughby Heights re 8.4.1.1 Blessings re Liturgical Forms

8.5.9 Liturgical Forms: Infant Baptism (Overture 8.4.3.4)

- 8.5.9.1 Arthur re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.2 Attercliffe re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.3 Barrhead re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.4 Calgary re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.5 Carman East re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.6 Coaldale re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.7 Dunnville West re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.8 Edmonton (Providence) re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.9 Fergus (Maranatha) re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.10 Flamborough (Redemption) re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.11 Houston re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.12 Kerwood re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.13 Langley re Liturgical form procedure
- 8.5.9.14 Neerlandia re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.15 Niagara South re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.16 Ottawa (Jubilee) re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.17 St. Albert re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.18 Tintern Spring Creek re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.9.19 Willoughby Heights re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants
- 8.5.8.20 Brampton (Grace) re 8.4.3.4 re Form for Baptism of Infants

8.6 APPEALS

8.6.1 re GS 2022 art. 105, Hymn Cap

- 8.6.1.1 Brampton (Grace) Appeal re GS 2022 art. 105, hymn cap
- 8.6.1.2 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) Appeal re GS 2022 art. 105, hymn cap
- 8.6.1.3 Flamborough (Redemption) Appeal re GS 2022 art. 105, hymn cap

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- 8.6.1.4 Glanbrook (Trinity) Appeal re GS 2022 art. 105, hymn cap
 - 8.6.1.5 Sardis Appeal re GS2022 art. 105 hymn cap
 - 8.6.1.6 Toronto (Bethel) Appeal re GS 2022 art. 105, hymn cap Main
 - 8.6.1.7 Toronto (Bethel) Appeal re hymn cap Appx1 - Overture RSE 2020
 - 8.6.1.8 Toronto (Bethel) Appeal re hymn cap Appx2 – GS 2022 art. 105
 - 8.6.1.9 Vernon Appeal re GS 2022 art. 105 hymn cap
 - 8.6.2 re GS 2022 art. 142, worship services on days of commemoration
 - 8.6.2.1 Dunnville West Appeal re GS 2022 art. 142 Worship services on days of commemoration
 - 8.6.3 re GS 2022 art. 155, Guest Preachers
 - 8.6.3.1 Burlington (Fellowship) re GS 2022 art. 155, Guest Preachers
 - 8.6.3.2 Coaldale Appeal re GS 2022 art. 155.4.4, Guest Preachers
 - 8.6.3.3 Ottawa (Jubilee) Appeal re GS 2022 art. 155, Guest Preachers
 - 8.6.4 re GS 2022 art. 143 Preparatory Examinations by Classis
 - 8.6.4.1 Coaldale Appeal re GS 2022 art. 143 3.2 & 3.4, Preparatory Examination by Classis
 - 8.6.5 re RSE 2021 art. 15 re CO art. 55
 - 8.6.5.1 Glanbrook (Trinity) Appeal re RSE 2021 art. 15, re CO art. 55
 - 8.6.5.2 Glanbrook (Trinity) Appeal re RSE 2021 art. 15, appendices
 - 8.6.6 re GS 2022 art. 7 re Format of the Acts
 - 8.6.6.1 Chilliwack Appeal re GS 2022 art. 7 Format of the Acts
 - 8.6.7 re GS 2022 art. 111, re SCBP modernization of language of hymns
 - 8.6.7.1 Flamborough (Redemption) Appeal re GS 2022 art. 111, modernization of language 3 hymns
 - 8.6.8 Confidential Appeals
 - 8.6.8.1 Appeal re GS 2022 (confidential acts) art.60 & 81 (Willoughby Heights)
 - 8.6.8.2 Personal Appeal (confidential)
 - 8.6.8.3 email re confidential appeals
 - 8.6.8.4 Personal Appeal (confidential)
 - 8.6.8.5 Personal Appeal (confidential)
 - 8.6.8.6 Letter regarding appeal (confidential)
 - 8.6.8.7 letter regarding confidential appeals
 - 8.6.8.8 letter from the Correspondence Committee Aldergrove CONFIDENTIAL
 - 8.6.9 Personal Appeal
 - 8.6.9.1 incl. 13 attachments to the above
 - 8.6.10 Appeal of GS 2022 art. 108 re length of appointments
 - 8.6.10.1 Ancaster re GS 2022 art. 108, re length of appointments
 - 8.6.11 Appeal of GS 2019 art. 23 and GS 2022 art. 120
 - 8.6.11.1 Kerwood re Lord's Supper forms
- 9 APPOINTMENTS
- 9.1 Board of Governors CRTS (BoG) Academic and Finance & Property Committees

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- 9.1.1 Nominations from RSE
 - 9.1.2 Nominations from RSW
 - 9.1.3 Nominations for Finance & Property Committee
 - 9.2 CPTPF - Committee for Pastoral Training Funding
 - 9.3 CER - Committee on Ecumenical Relations
 - 9.3.1 CER Nominations for appointments
 - 9.4 SCBP - Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise*
 - 9.4.1 SCBP Nominations for appointments
 - 9.5 CBT - Committee on Bible Translations
 - 9.6 CWeb - Committee for the Official Website
 - 9.6.1 CWeb - Nomination for appointment
 - 9.7 CNSF - Committee for the Needy Students' Fund
 - 9.8 Churches for Days of Prayer ad CO art. 54
 - 9.8.1 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re Appointment re CO art. 54
 - 9.9 General Fund
 - 9.10 Financial Review of the General Fund
 - 9.11 Archive Church
 - 9.12 The Church for inspecting the Archives
 - 9.12.1 Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) re Inspection of Archives of GS
 - 9.13 Financial Review of GS 2025
 - 9.14 Address Church
 - 9.15 Committee for Publication of the Acts
 - 9.16 Convening Church for the next General Synod
 - 10 CENSURE AD ARTICLE 34 CO
 - 11 FINANCIAL MATTERS
 - 12 PREPARATION FOR NEXT GENERAL SYNOD
 - 12.1 Aldergrove re preparation considerations and recommendations
 - 13 ADOPTION OF THE ACTS
 - 14 APPROVAL OF THE PRESS RELEASE
 - 15 CLOSING

Upon a motion by Br. Boot and seconded by Rev. den Hollander the agenda was

ADOPTED

Article 10 – Advisory Committees

Not to be published on the website until after Synod is over.

Article 11 – Fraternal delegates and observers

A welcome was extended to a fraternal delegate and a fraternal observer who had arrived in the course of the day. The chairman read out the decision of GS 2022 (art. 108 dec. 3.7) regarding

the rights and privileges of fraternal delegates and observers. He noted that this evening session will focus on fraternal relations and will be livestreamed.

Following some further comments from the chairman and the first clerk regarding procedures, Synod was adjourned for committee work.

Day 1 — Evening Session

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Article 12 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session at 7:00pm. The chairman had the meeting sing Psalm 111:1. He observed all synod members were present. He extended a special welcome to fraternal delegates, audience, and those on livestream, and noted that the business of this session would be fraternal relations.

Article 13 – GK (Reformed Churches [The Netherlands])

1. Material

- 1.1 Letter from the Reformed Churches The Netherlands (*GKN confirming request to enter into sister church relationship* (Jan. 18, 2024) (8.1.1)
- 1.2 CER Report 19: *Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK)* (8.2.10.19)
- 1.3 CER Supplementary Report (8.2.10.26)
- 1.4 Submissions from the following church: Fergus (Maranatha) (8.3.10.26)

2. Admissibility

All material was declared admissible.

3. Observations

- 3.1 GS 2022 (art. 148) observed:
 - [4.1] The Reformed Churches (DGK) display the marks of the true church of Jesus Christ in their preaching, worship, and governance.
- 3.2 GS 2022 (art. 148) mandated the CER:
 - [3.1] To maintain contact with The Reformed Churches (DGK);
 - [3.2] To express gratitude for how the DGK is dealing with the Liberated Reformed Church at Abbotsford (LRCA).
 - [3.3] To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER):
 - [3.3.1] To continue to monitor developments within this federation, paying special attention to:
 - [3.3.1.1] The relationship between the DGK and the Reformed Churches The Netherlands (GKN);
 - [3.3.1.2] The relationship between the DGK and the LRCA;
 - [3.3.2] To be available for dialogue with the DGK;
 - [3.3.3] To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

3.3 GS 2022 (art. 149) observed:

[4.1] The Reformed Churches The Netherlands (GKN) display the marks of the true church of Jesus Christ in their preaching, worship, and governance.

3.4 GS 2022 (art. 149) mandated the CER:

[3.1] To maintain contact with the Reformed Churches The Netherlands (GKN);

[3.2] To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER):

[3.2.1] To continue to monitor developments within this federation, paying special attention to:

[3.2.1.1] The relationship between the GKN and The Reformed Churches (DGK);

[3.2.2] To be available for dialogue with the GKN;

[3.2.2] To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

3.5 The CER Report observes:

3.5.1 The impediments to entering into sister church relations with The Reformed Churches (DGK) and the Reformed Churches The Netherlands (GKN) are the continued separation of the DGK and the GKN and the DGK relationship with the Liberated Reformed Church at Abbotsford (LRCA).

3.5.2 The Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK) still had to take decisions regarding ecumenical relations. It is likely that the request for Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) made by the GKN to the CanRC will remain.

3.5.3 Prior to the merger, the DGK decided by a majority vote to discontinue its relationship with the LRCA.

3.5.4 The CER delegated Rev. Janssen to attend the events marking the merger of the DGK and the GKN on October 4, 2024, and the concurrent extraordinary synods the following day.

3.6 The CER Report 19 recommends that Synod establish Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) Category A1 with the Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK) under the adopted rules;

3.7 The Reformed Churches The Netherlands (GKN) letter says, “on December 2, 2023, synod Kampen 2023 decided to recognize the churches of De Gereformeerde Kerken {DGK} as churches of Christ standing on the foundation of apostles and prophets ... As soon as the synod of DGK has made the same decision with regard to the GKN, the churches of DGK and GKN will be in a state of union and will work towards one church body.”

4. Considerations

4.1 All impediments to ecclesiastical fellowship, identified by previous CanRC synods no longer exist. Namely:

4.1.1 The Reformed Churches (DGK) has discontinued the sister church relationship with Liberated Reformed Church at Abbotsford (LRCA);

4.1.2 The desired merger between the DGK and the Reformed Churches The Netherlands (GKN) to form the Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK) was confirmed on Oct 4, 2024.

4.2 The DGK agreed to honor the sister church relationships of the GKN (cf. GS 2024 DGK art. 3 C.7);

4.3 The relationship CanRC-GK is in essence a continuation of the relationships CanRC-DGK and CanRC-GKN and, as such, in many ways a continuation of the relationship CanRC-GKv.

5. Recommendations

That Synod decide:

5.1 To express thankfulness to the Lord for the merger of The Reformed Churches (DGK) and the Reformed Churches The Netherlands (GKN) into the Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK).

5.2 To establish Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) Category A [assuming Synod adopts the recommended new rules] with the Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK) under the adopted rules.

5.3 To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER):

5.3.1 To convey this decision to the Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK) as soon as possible;

5.3.2 As opportunity arises, to be available for discussions to promote ecclesiastical harmony and unity between faithful Reformed churches in The Netherlands;

5.3.3 To submit its report to the churches 6 months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

ADOPTED unanimously.

Article 14 – GK – Fraternal Delegate Address

Rev. Karlo Janssen introduced Rev. Rik Douma, credentialed delegate of the Reformed Churches [The Netherlands] (GK). Rev. Douma addressed Synod and provided an overview of the GK. He expressed gratitude for the newly established sister-church relationship. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response. Rev. Peter Holtvliwer led in a prayer of thanksgiving and the assembly sang Psalm 124.

Article 15 – FCC – Letter of Greetings

Rev. Karlo Janssen read a letter of greeting sent by the Free Church of Scotland Continuing (FCC), declaring gratitude for our relationship and expressing regret at being unable to attend Synod in person. The full text of the letter can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 16 – GGRCI – Fraternal Delegate Address

Rev. Carl Van Dam introduced Rev. Yonson Dethan, credentialed delegate of the Reformed Calvinist Churches in Indonesia (GGRCI). Rev. Dethan addressed Synod and provided an overview of the GGRCI. He expressed gratitude for our sister-church relationship but wondered if our relationship could be more fruitful with a view to the spread of the Gospel in Indonesia.

The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 17 – RCUS – Fraternal Delegate Address

Rev. Marc Jagt introduced Rev. Travis Grassmid, credentialed delegate of the Reformed Church of the United States (RCUS). Rev. Grassmid addressed Synod and provided an overview of the RCUS. He expressed gratitude for our sister-church relationship. He explained how the RCUS will be celebrating its 300th anniversary this summer. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 18 – RCNZ – Fraternal Delegate Address

Rev. Carl Van Dam introduced Rev. David Stares, credentialed delegate of the Reformed Churches in New Zealand (RCNZ). Rev. Stares addressed Synod and provided an overview of the RCNZ. He expressed gratitude for our sister-church relationship, noting how the RCNZ has received two graduates from CRTS in recent years, and the transfer of members. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 19 – OPC – Fraternal Delegate Address

Rev. Karlo Janssen introduced Rev. Robert Tarullo, credentialed delegate of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). Rev. Tarullo addressed Synod and provided an overview of the OPC. He expressed gratitude for our sister-church relationship, describing various ways in which we work together. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 20 – Closing Devotions

Rev. Rolf den Hollander read John 21:15-19, led in prayer, remembering the FCC, GGRCI, RCUS, RCNZ, and OPC. The day was closed with the singing of Hymn 56.

Synod was adjourned until 9:00am.

Day 2 — Morning Session

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Article 21 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session at 9:00am. The chairman observed all synod members were present. He read Psalm 87, spoke some devotional words, led in opening prayer, and had the meeting sing Psalm 87:1,2,4.

Article 22 – Final Agenda adopted

A rearranged and renumbered version of the agenda was adopted as the final agenda for GS 2025.

Article 23 – Appeals against GS 2022 art. 60 & 81

Synod went into closed session.

Committee 4 presented draft 1 of a report on the admissibility of an appeal by the Willoughby Heights CanRC against GS 2022 art. 60 and 81. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

At the request of Committee 4, a number of rounds of discussion regarding confidential appeals took place.

Synod returned to open session.

Article 24 – Ruling re Application of CO art. 32

Given the discussion reported in Article 23 foregoing, the Chairman made the following ruling, identical to that of GS 2019 art. 39 regarding the application of CO art. 32.

A delegate should abstain if:

1. a matter particularly involves his person or his church (CO article 32);
2. a matter pertains to the Board of Governors and he is a member of the Board (on account of his legal context);
3. a matter pertains to the Standing Committee for the *Book of Praise* and he is a member of the Committee (on account of his legal context);

A delegate has freedom to vote or abstain but is encouraged to keep the spirit of CO art. 32 in mind when:

4. he was a member of a minor assembly which previously decided regarding a matter being appealed;

A delegate has freedom to vote even though:

5. he was a member of a committee reporting to synod (e.g. CER).

A simple majority constitutes more than half of the votes cast, not counting the abstentions.

Following some comments from the chairman regarding housekeeping matters, Synod adjourned for committee work.

Day 2 — Afternoon Session

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Article 25 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session at 2:00pm. The chairman observed all synod members were present. He had the meeting sing Hymn 6:1,2.

Article 26 – Overtures RSE 2024 and RSW 2025 re CO art. 55 – admissibility

Committee 1 presented draft 1 of a report on the CO 55 overtures, seeking advice and direction regarding admissibility. The report was discussed. The committee took the matter back for further consideration.

Article 27 – Worship Service Songs – Procedure

Committee 1 presented an action plan, seeking advice and direction regarding the order in which various matters on Synod’s agenda regarding songs sung during worship services should be discussed. The action plan was discussed and agreed to.

Article 28 – Overtures RSE 2024 and RSW 2025 re CO art. 55 – substance

At the request of Committee 1, an orientational round on the overtures regarding CO art. 55 took place.

Following some comments regarding housekeeping matters, Synod adjourned for committee work.

Day 2 — Evening Session

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Article 29 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session at 7:00pm. The chairman extended a welcome to all present in the building and online via the livestream. He had the meeting sing Psalm 108:1. He observed all synod members were present.

Article 30 – URCNA – Fraternal Delegate Address

Rev. Karlo Janssen introduced Rev. Jason Vander Horst, credentialed delegate of the United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA). Rev. Vander Horst addressed Synod and provided an overview of the URCNA. He expressed gratitude for our sister-church relationship, expressed in so many ways, noting that our “Phase 2” relationship looks to what comes next. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 31 – ERQ – Fraternal Delegate Address

Rev. Marc Jagt introduced Rev. Blaise Tsabang, credentialed delegate of the Reformed Church in Quebec (ERQ). Rev. Tsabang addressed Synod and provided an overview of the ERQ, noting the challenges faced by the congregations. He expressed gratitude for our sister-church relationship. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 32 – ARPC – Fraternal Observer Address

Rev. Marc Jagt introduced Rev. Aaron De Boer, credentialed delegate of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC). Rev. De Boer addressed Synod and provided an overview of the ARPC. He expressed gratitude for our relationship. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 33 – FCS – Letter of Greetings

Rev. Karlo Janssen read a letter of greeting sent by the Free Church of Scotland (FCS), declaring gratitude for our relationship. The full text of the letter can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 34 – Address Church

1. Material

- 1.1 Report of the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC (8.2.11.1).

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The report was declared admissible as it was mandated by GS 2022 and received on time.

3. Observations

- 3.1 GS 2022 (art. 30) appointed the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC to serve as the Address Church and decided:

[3.3] To mandate the Address Church to report to the churches on its activities six months prior to the next general synod.

- 3.2 The Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC served as the Address Church of the CanRC during the inter-synodical period.

- 3.3 The Address Church submitted a brief report to GS 2025.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC has fulfilled its responsibilities as Address Church with appropriate diligence.

5. Recommendations

That Synod decide:

- 5.1 To receive with thankfulness the report from the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC;
- 5.2 To thank the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC for its willingness to continue serving as the Address Church of General Synod;
- 5.3 To mandate the Address Church to submit a report on its activities to the churches six (6) months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

ADOPTED

Article 35 – Archives

1. Material

- 1.1 Report of the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC re Archives (8.2.2.2)
- 1.2 Report of the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC re Inspection of the Archives (8.2.2.1)
- 1.3 Letter from the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC re appointment (9.12.1)

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The reports were declared admissible as they relate to matters mandated by GS 2022 and were received on time.

3. Observations

- 3.1 The Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC submitted a report confirming that the archives of GS 2022 have been properly filed and catalogued, and that it has fulfilled its role as the Archive Church for general synods.
- 3.2 The Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC submitted a report confirming that it has inspected the archives and found the original documents to be in good order.
- 3.3 Burlington (Rehoboth) has also communicated that due to an impending merger with Burlington (Ebenezer), it will no longer be able to serve as the Inspecting Church. It recommends that another church in the vicinity—specifically the Burlington (Fellowship) CanRC—be appointed to take on this task going forward.
- 3.4 Burlington (Ebenezer) notes a discrepancy in GS 2022 art. 29 regarding the deadline for archive reporting. One part of the article stipulates submission “six weeks” prior to Synod, while the mandate section calls for submission “six months” prior. The Archive Church asks Synod to update the mandate to reflect the decision.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The archive church and Inspecting Church have fulfilled their mandates with diligence and care.
- 4.2 The request to clarify the reporting deadline is appropriate but it is unclear if the error in GS 2022 art. 29 is found in the portion called “decision” (6 weeks prior to GS) or in “mandate” (6 months prior to GS). GS 2025 considers that since most other appointed committees (or churches) are mandated to report to GS six-months prior, and since there is no apparent reason for the archive church or the Inspecting Church to wait till six weeks prior to synod, a deadline of six months prior to synod is most appropriate.
- 4.3 With the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC no longer able to serve as Inspecting Church and in view of its recommendation, it is fitting to appoint the Burlington (Fellowship) CanRC to this role.
- 4.4 The Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC has completed its responsibilities with respect to the archival care of the Acts and documents of GS 2022 and should be formally discharged of that task.

5. Recommendations

That Synod decide:

- 5.1 To receive with thankfulness the reports from the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC (Archive Church) and the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC (Inspecting Church).
- 5.2 To thank the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC for its many years of faithful service in inspecting the archives.
- 5.3 To acknowledge that the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC has completed its responsibilities as Archive Church with respect to GS 2022, and to discharge it of that task with gratitude.

5.4 To mandate the Archive Church and the inspecting church to submit their respective reports six months prior to GS 2028.

The updated mandate can be found in **Appendix XXX.**

ADOPTED

Article 36 – CBT (Committee on Bible Translations)

1. Material

1.1 Report of the Committee on Bible Translations (CBT) (8.2.9.1);

1.2 Letter from the Calgary CanRC (8.3.9.1).

2. Admissibility

2.1 The materials were declared admissible as they relate to matters mandated by and were received on time.

3. Observations

3.1 GS 2022 (art. 158) mandated the CBT to:

- Solicit, receive, and evaluate comments from the churches on the ESV.
- Submit worthy translation suggestions to the ESV editorial committee.
- Serve as a resource for Bible translation matters.
- Validate and submit expenses to the treasurer of the General Fund.
- Submit a report to the churches six months prior to the next General Synod.

3.2 The CBT consists of Rev. Jeff Poort and Rev. Tyler Vandergaag. No new appointments are needed at this time.

3.3 The CBT sent a letter to all churches in August 2023, inviting feedback on the ESV and offering to serve as a translation resource.

3.4 Two churches responded:

- One raised general concerns about the readability of the ESV.
- Another submitted detailed comments on specific texts. The CBT appreciated the exegesis but did not find that the comments warranted forwarding to the ESV editorial team.

3.5 The ESV editorial committee reportedly met in July 2024, but no new edition or public update has been released as of the writing of this report.

3.6 The CBT has fulfilled its mandate without incurring any notable expenses.

3.7 The Calgary CanRC submitted a letter in response to the CBT report. While expressing appreciation for the CBT's work, Calgary questioned whether it remains beneficial to renew mandate items 1.1 and 1.2, given the February 11, 2025 update from Crossway. They also proposed adding a mandate to evaluate the World English Bible (WEB), a copyright-free translation available in the public domain.

4. Considerations

4.1 The CBT has faithfully carried out its mandate and remains available to serve the churches on matters of Bible translation.

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- 4.2 Although public updates to the ESV have been limited, the Crossway document referenced by the Calgary CanRC (February 2025) indicates that changes to the ESV are being implemented and does not preclude further revisions. Therefore, maintaining communication and a posture of readiness to engage remains appropriate.
 - 4.3 The churches have shown only limited engagement with the CBT. Renewing the current mandate continues to provide the churches with a structured channel for interaction and support.
 - 4.4 Calgary's proposal to evaluate the World English Bible has been noted. However, no compelling rationale has been provided for expanding the CBT's mandate in that direction at this time.
 - 4.5 The CBT has functioned efficiently without expense and continues to provide a stable and useful service to the churches.

5. Recommendations

That Synod decide:

- 5.1 To thank the Committee for Bible Translations (CBT) for its faithful service to the churches.
- 5.2 To mandate the CBT:
 - 5.2.1 To solicit, receive, and evaluate comments from the churches on the ESV;
 - 5.2.2 To submit worthy translation suggestions to the ESV editorial committee;
 - 5.2.3 To serve the churches as a resource for Bible translation matters;
 - 5.2.4 To appoint one of its members to validate and submit to the treasurer of the General Fund all expenses being submitted for committee work;
 - 5.2.5 To prepare and distribute a report to the churches six (6) months in advance of the next general synod.

ADOPTED

Article 37 – CWeb (Committee for the Official Website)

1. Material

- 1.1 Report of the Committee for the Official Website (CWeb) (8.2.5.1)

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The report was declared admissible as it was mandated by GS 2022 and received on time.

3. Observations

- 3.1 GS 2022 (art. 44) mandated the Committee for the Official Website (CWeb) to maintain and update the federation website and email infrastructure, provide English translations of historic Dutch Acts, and serve as administrators of the minister email list.
- 3.2 GS 2022 (art. 30 dec. 3.2) also instructed the CWeb to use the canrc.org website to direct appropriate correspondence to the Address Church.
- 3.3 The CWeb reported that:

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- 3.3.1 It has continued regular maintenance of the website, including content updates and posting of news items.
 - 3.3.2 Minor technical improvements have been made, including better formatting for press releases and background improvements for efficiency.
 - 3.3.3 It is testing a new control panel to allow churches to update their own information.
 - 3.3.4 Email forwarding via Mailgun is functioning well, though spam remains a challenge.
 - 3.3.5 The minister email list (via Gaggle Mail) is functioning effectively.
 - 3.3.6 Help desk software (Help Scout) has been adopted and is proving helpful for team-based correspondence.
 - 3.3.7 Translation work on the Acts of Synod 1954, 1958, 1962, and 1965 is ongoing, with the 1965 Acts near publication and the others in progress.
 - 3.3.8 A new committee member will be needed to replace br. Jonathan Reinink.

3.4 The CWeb requests:

- 3.4.1 Clarification regarding compensation for translation work.
- 3.4.2 Approval of a \$10,900 budget for 2025–2028, covering hosting, email, and help desk expenses.
- 3.4.3 Additional funding for translation work.
- 3.4.4 Renewal of its existing mandate.

3.5 There is no mention in the CWeb’s report of it directing appropriate correspondence to the Address Church.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The CWeb has faithfully and effectively executed its mandate, ensuring the continued functionality and improvement of the federation’s digital infrastructure.
- 4.2 The ongoing translation project is a valuable service to the churches and merits continued support.
- 4.3 While the CWeb requests additional funds for this translation work, it would have been helpful for the committee to propose a specific amount.
- 4.4 The proposed general budget and continuation of the current mandate are reasonable and appropriate.
- 4.5 Appointing a new member will ensure continued stability and effectiveness of the CWeb’s work.
- 4.6 Since Synod 2022 (art. 30, dec. 3.2) instructed the CWeb to use the canrc.org website to direct correspondence to the Address Church, it is appropriate to include in the CWeb’s mandate a corresponding responsibility to enable this functionality on the federation website.

5. Recommendations

That Synod decide:

- 5.1 To thank the Committee for the Official Website (CWeb) for its diligent work in maintaining and improving the federation’s digital and email infrastructure.
- 5.2 To approve the proposed budget of \$10,900 for the 2025–2028 period, to cover ongoing hosting, email forwarding, minister email list, and help desk software expenses.

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- 1174 5.3 To approve additional funds up to a maximum of \$7,500 from the General Fund for the
 1175 translation of the Acts of Synod 1954, 1958, 1962, and 1965, and to instruct the
 1176 committee to coordinate with the treasurer in establishing appropriate compensation
 1177 arrangements.
- 1178 5.4 To renew the CWeb’s mandate with the following tasks:
- 1179 5.4.1 To maintain the existing website and associated technical functions.
- 1180 5.4.2 To revise the content of the website as needed, including:
- 1181 5.4.2.1 Posting news items and official documents.
- 1182 5.4.2.2 Annual auditing of site content against the yearbook.
- 1183 5.4.2.3 Maintaining synodical committee pages with up-to-date information.
- 1184 5.4.2.4 Posting synod reports prior to the next general synod.
- 1185 5.4.3 To make available English translations of the Acts of Synod 1954, 1958, 1962, and
 1186 1965, and to submit related expenses to the General Fund.
- 1187 5.4.4 To provide email forwarding from @canrc.org addresses upon request.
- 1188 5.4.5 To administer the minister email list.
- 1189 5.4.6 To validate and submit all committee expenses to the treasurer of the General
 1190 Fund.
- 1191 5.4.7 To report to the churches six months prior to the next general synod.
- 1192 5.4.8 To use the canrc.org website to direct appropriate correspondence to the Address
 1193 Church, in accordance with the decision of GS 2022 (art. 30 dec.3.2).
- 1194 5.5 To appoint a new member to the CWeb to replace br. Jonathan Reinink and to receive
 1195 the nomination under separate cover.

1196

1197 **ADOPTED**

1198

1199 **Article 38 – Days of Prayer**

1200 **1. Material**

- 1201 1.1 Report from the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC and the Edmonton
 1202 (Providence) CanRC responsible for calling Days of Prayer (CO art. 54 (8.2.3.1)).
- 1203 1.2 Letter from: Grassie (Covenant) (8.3.3.1), Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) (9.8.1).

1204 **2. Admissibility**

- 1205 2.1 The materials were declared admissible as they relate to matters mandated by the GS
 1206 2022 and were received on time.

1207 **3. Observations**

- 1208 3.1 GS 2022 (art. 31) appointed the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC and the
 1209 Edmonton (Providence) CanRC to proclaim Days of Prayer as per CO art. 54.
- 1210 3.2 These appointed churches report that no Day of Prayer was proclaimed during their
 1211 term. They received three requests (from the Cloverdale CanRC, the Ancaster CanRC,
 1212 and the Grassie (Covenant) CanRC), all of which were declined on the grounds that the
 1213 matters raised did not meet the threshold of a “general calamity or other great affliction”
 1214 as outlined in CO art. 54 and interpreted in GS 2004 art. 40.

- 1215 3.3 The churches explained that a Day of Prayer is not intended for general ecclesiastical
1216 reflection or unity but is meant to be a response to acute and immediate crises with
1217 direct impact on the churches or nation.
- 1218 3.4 The Grassie (Covenant) CanRC submitted a letter to GS 2025 expressing concern that
1219 the current application of CO art. 54 may be too narrow. They argue that biblically, days
1220 of prayer often precede calamity and are acts of priestly intercession on behalf of the
1221 nation. They suggest that legislative changes (e.g., Bill C-4) are, in themselves, spiritual
1222 calamities that may warrant a Day of Prayer.
- 1223 3.5 The Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC reports that it is in the process of
1224 merging with the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC and suggests that the responsibility for
1225 proclaiming Days of Prayer be transferred to the merged entity, with the consent of
1226 Ebenezer's council.

1227 4. Considerations

- 1228 4.1 The churches appointed under CO art. 54 acted within the scope of their mandate, using
1229 precedent from previous synods and the clear language of CO art. 54 to guide their
1230 decisions.
- 1231 4.2 While letter of the Grassie (Covenant) CanRC reflects a commendable zeal for prayer
1232 and national repentance, it expands the intent of CO art. 54 beyond what the Church
1233 Order appears to contemplate. Nonetheless, Grassie raises a valid question regarding
1234 whether our current interpretation of "general calamities and other great afflictions"
1235 should remain as stringent as defined in 2004.
- 1236 4.3 Synod notes the good cooperation between the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth)
1237 CanRC and the Burlington (Ebenezer) CanRC councils in planning for the continuity of
1238 this task post-merger. There is no need to appoint a new church if Synod reaffirms the
1239 task to the Rehoboth church with the understanding that it will transfer seamlessly to the
1240 merged church.

1241 5. Recommendations

1242 That Synod decide:

- 1243 5.1 To thank the Burlington Waterdown (Rehoboth) CanRC and the Edmonton
1244 (Providence) CanRC for their faithful execution of their mandate under CO art. 54.

1246 **ADOPTED**

1248 **Article 39 – CER (Committee on Ecumenical Relations) General Mandate**

1249 Committee 2 presented draft 1 of a report on the Report 1: General Mandate of the Committee on
1250 Ecumenical Relations (CER). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for
1251 refinement.

1253 **Article 40 – CRTS (Board of Governors): sixth professor**

1254 Committee 3 presented draft 1 of a report on a letter from the Toronto (Bethel) CanRC re
1255 considering the appointment of a sixth professor at CRTS (Canadian Reformed Theological
1256 Seminary). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for refinement.

Article 41 – Closing Devotions

Rev. Hilmer Jagersma read Philippians 1:3-11, led in prayer, remembering URCNA, ERQ, ARPC, and FCS. The day was closed with the singing of Hymn 78.

Synod was adjourned until 9:00am.

Day 3 — Morning Session

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Article 42 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session. The chairman observed all synod members were present. He read Psalm 2, spoke some devotional words, led in opening prayer, and had the meeting sing Psalm 2.

Article 43 – Adoption of Acts; Publication of GS 2025 art. 10

The prepared articles of the *Acts* were corrected. It was determined that a second review of these acts would be done prior to adoption.

It was decided that the composition of the Advisory Committees (GS 2025 art. 10) would not be made public until after General Synod was ended.

Synod was adjourned for committee work.

Day 3 — Evening Session

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Article 44 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session at 7:00pm. The chairman extended a welcome to all present in the building and online via the livestream. He had the meeting sing Hymn 4. He observed all synod members were present.

Article 45 – RPCNA – Fraternal Observer Address

Rev. Marc Jagt introduced Rev. Johnathan Kruis, credentialed delegate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA). Rev. Kruis addressed Synod describing the RPCNA, explaining, among others, the functioning of *The Testimony* and the practice of female deacons. He expressed gratitude for our relationship. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

The chairman also spoke some words of farewell to a fraternal delegate who would be leaving during the course of this session.

Article 46 – CER General Mandate

1. Material

- 1.1 CER Report 1 – General Mandate (8.2.10.1), Nominations (9.3.1)
- 1.2 Submissions from the following churches: Ancaster (8.3.10.1), Grand Rapids (8.3.10.10)

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The report was declared admissible as it was mandated by GS 2022 and received on time.

3. Observations

- 3.1 GS 2022 (art. 121 dec. 3.5) mandated the CER:

- a) To continue contact with churches with whom we are in ecumenical relations;
- b) To send an appropriate number of delegates to represent the CanRC churches at the meetings of the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) and North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC);
- c) To work in consultation with individual CanRC churches and classes that maintain contact with churches for which the CER also has a mandate;
- d) Upon request, to advise CanRC churches regarding the identity of other churches and our relationship with them;
- e) To report on any contact with a church with whom we are not in an ecumenical relationship;
- f) To appoint one of its members to validate and submit to the treasurer of the General Fund all expenses being submitted for committee work;
- g) To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of general synod (a supplementary report can be submitted if necessary);
- h) To facilitate hospitality support for fraternal delegates and observers, in consultation with the Convening Church, at each general synod.

- 3.2 From the CER report, the following:

- 3.2.1 The CER completed its mandate with the involvement of Br. Bos (ERQ, GGRCI, GGRI, GGRI-T), Br. Bouwman (NAPARC, RPCNA, FCC, FCS), Br. De Boer (DGK, FRCA, GKN), Br. Gortemaker (IRB, RCUS), Br. Schouten (URCNA, IRB, RCNZ), Rev. Bruintjes (ARPC, FRCSA, KPCA, KPCK), Rev. Jagt (KPCA, KPCK, FRCNA, HRCNA, NAPARC), Rev. Janssen (FRCNA, HRCNA, ICRC, DGK, GKN), Rev. Pol (ERQ, GGRCI, GGRI, GGRI-T), Rev. Temple (FRCSA, ARPC, ICRC, OPC), Rev. Van Dam (FCC, FCS, OPC, FRCA), Rev. Vandeveld (RCNZ, RCUS, RPCNA, URCNA);
- 3.2.2 The terms of Br. G. Bos and Br. O. Bouwman end with GS 2025. Also retiring from the CER is Rev. S.C. Van Dam;
- 3.2.3 The CER met 14 times noting that the merging of the Committee for Contact with Churches in North America (of the CanRC) (CCCNA) and the Committee for Relations with Churches Abroad (of the CanRC) (CRCA) has worked very profitably;
- 3.2.4 In the execution of their mandate there has been interaction with churches outside their mandate, notably the Sudanese Reformed Churches (SRC), the Evangelical

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- 1338 Presbyterian Church in England and Wales (EPCEW), and the Reformed
 1339 Presbyterian Church in Central and Eastern Europe (RPCCEE);
 1340 3.2.5 Br. Schouten was appointed to validate and submit expenses to the treasurer of the
 1341 General Fund;
 1342 3.2.6 The CER should ideally consist of 6 ministers and 6 non-ministers;
 1343 3.2.7 Half the members are due to retire in 2028.
- 1344 3.3 The CER recommends:
- 1345 3.3.1 Synod decide to give the CER the following general mandate:
- 1346 3.3.1.1 To continue contact with churches with whom we are in ecumenical relations
 1347 according to the adopted rules;
 1348 3.3.1.2 To convey the relevant decisions of general synods to churches with whom
 1349 we have an ecumenical relation;
 1350 3.3.1.3 To work in consultation with individual CanRC churches and classes that
 1351 maintain contact with churches for which the CER also has a mandate;
 1352 3.3.1.4 Upon request, to advise CanRC churches regarding the identity of other
 1353 churches and our relationship with them;
 1354 3.3.1.5 To report on any contact with a church with whom we are not in an
 1355 ecumenical relationship;
 1356 3.3.1.6 To appoint one of its members to validate and submit to the treasurer of the
 1357 General Fund all expenses being submitted for committee work;
 1358 3.3.1.7 To submit its report on the general mandate to the churches 6 months prior to
 1359 the convening of general synod (a supplementary report can be submitted if
 1360 necessary);
 1361 3.3.1.8 To facilitate hospitality support for fraternal delegates and observers, in
 1362 consultation with the convening church, at the next general synod.
- 1363 3.4 The Grand Rapids ARC states that almost all the contacts and discussions took place in
 1364 the context of either NAPARC and ICRC meetings and wonders if the sort of
 1365 substantive discussions that on-going ecumenical contact requires can be held in that
 1366 context.
- 1367 3.5 The Ancaster CanRC asks what precisely the standing is of theological students from
 1368 outside the CanRC who study at CRTS and are thus members of the CanRC, and who
 1369 are licensed to preach among the churches of their federation of origin. Ancaster
 1370 requests that this matter be included in some appropriate place in the mandate of the
 1371 CER, work then be made of it and then reported to the churches ahead of GS 2028.
 1372 They provide a proposal for implementing this.

1374 4. Considerations

- 1375 4.1 The CER has fulfilled their mandate.
- 1376 4.2 The Grand Rapids ARC misunderstands the work of the CER delegates. At NAPARC
 1377 and ICRC meetings, delegates of the various interchurch relationship committees will
 1378 hold bi-lateral meetings, in addition to the plenary sessions. Further, fraternal delegates
 1379 are regularly sent to the various assemblies.
- 1380 4.3 The Ancaster CanRC correctly notes that theological students are not included in the
 1381 current rules for Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF).

5. Recommendations

That Synod decide:

- 5.1 To thank Br. G. Bos, Br. O. Bouwman and Rev. S.C. Van Dam for their years of service to the churches;
- 5.2 To give the CER the following general mandate:
 - 5.2.1 To continue contact with churches with whom we are in ecumenical relations according to the adopted rules;
 - 5.2.2 To convey the relevant decisions of general synods to churches with whom we have an ecumenical relation;
 - 5.2.3 To work in consultation with individual CanRC churches and classes that maintain contact with churches for which the CER also has a mandate;
 - 5.2.4 Upon request, to advise CanRC churches regarding the identity of other churches and our relationship with them;
 - 5.2.5 To report on any contact with a church with whom we are not in an ecumenical relationship;
 - 5.2.6 To appoint one of its members to validate and submit to the treasurer of the General Fund all expenses being submitted for committee work;
 - 5.2.7 To submit its report on the general mandate to the churches 6 months prior to the convening of general synod (a supplementary report can be submitted if necessary);
 - 5.2.8 To facilitate hospitality support for fraternal delegates and observers, in consultation with the Convening Church, at the next general synod;
 - 5.2.9 To pursue the proposal provided by the Ancaster CanRC (included in Appendix XXX) and come with recommendations to the next general synod for how theological students may be included in the rules for Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF).

ADOPTED

During proceedings, the following motion to amend was duly made and seconded:

In 5.2.9 to replace the words
“how theological students are to be included”

With
“how theological students may be included”

This motion was adopted.

Article 47 – CER Study Report

Committee 2 presented draft 1 of a report on Report 2: Study Mandate of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Article 48 – RPCNA (Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America)

Committee 2 presented draft 1 of a report on Report 10: RPCNA of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Article 49 – CER - OPC

1. Material

- 1.1 Committee for Ecumenical Relations (CER) Report 8: Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) – Agenda Item (8.2.10.8)

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The report was declared admissible as it was requested by synod and received on time.

3. Observations

- 3.1 GS 2022 (art. 164) mandated the CER:

- [3.1] To continue the relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) under the adopted rules;
- [3.2] To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER) to submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

- 3.2 From the CER report, the following:

- 3.2.1 Continued engagement with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), including attendance at its General Assembly;
- 3.2.2 “At this time, there has been a long and fruitful relationship between the CanRC and the OPC;”
- 3.2.3 “Over the past number of years, our delegates have worked very closely within the context of the ICRC. This was particularly the case as the CanRC and OPC stood together, and worked together, in navigating the challenge of terminating the GKv’s membership in the ICRC.”

- 3.3 The CER recommends:

- 3.3.1 To express our thankfulness for the blessing of enjoying a lengthy and fruitful relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC);
- 3.3.2 To continue EF category A with the OPC according to the adopted rules;
- 3.3.3 To mandate the CER to:
 - 3.3.3.1 To send delegates to meetings of the OPC GA at least once every two years;
 - 3.3.3.2 To submit its report on its activities with respect to the OPC to the churches 6 months prior the convening of the next general synod.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) remains a confessionally Reformed church with which the CanRC shares a long-standing relationship.
- 4.2 The CER has diligently maintained contact and reported faithfully.

5. Recommendations

That Synod decide:

- 5.1 To express our thankfulness for the blessing of enjoying a lengthy and fruitful relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC);
- 5.2 To continue Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) category A with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) [assuming Synod adopts the recommended new rules] according to the adopted rules;
- 5.3 To mandate the CER to:
 - 5.3.1 To send delegates to meetings of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) General Assembly at least once every two years;
 - 5.3.2 To submit its report on its activities with respect to the OPC to the churches 6 months prior the convening of the next general synod.

ADOPTED

Article 50 – Overture: Adding a Footnote to the Apostles’ Creed

Committee 3 presented draft 1 of a report on RSE 2024 Overture on Adding a Footnote to the Apostles’ Creed. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Article 51 – Appeal: Length of Committee Terms

Committee 5 presented draft 1 of a report on an appeal and an “overture” re the length of Synod Committee Terms. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Article 52 – CPTPF (Committee for Pastoral Training Program Funding)

Committee 3 presented draft 1 of a report on an appeal and an “overture” re the length of Synod Committee Terms. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Article 53 – Closing Devotions

Rev. Marc Jagt read Philippians 2:12-18 and led in prayer, remembering the RPCNA. The day was closed with the singing of Hymn 28:1,3,5.

Synod was adjourned until 9:00am.

Day 4 — Morning Session

Friday, May 9, 2025

Article 54 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session. The Chairman read Psalm 122, spoke some devotional words, led in opening prayer, and had the meeting sing Psalm 122. He observed all synod members were present and made some housekeeping comments regarding pictures and this evening’s dinner. He welcomed two newly arrived fraternal observers and said a farewell to some others who would be leaving soon.

Article 55 – Adoption of Acts

The prepared articles of the *Acts* were corrected. It was determined that the process for further corrections to the *Acts* would be decided to by the clerks.

Article 56 – FRCNA Fraternal Observer Address

Rev. Marc Jagt introduced Rev. John Koopman and Rev. Jack Schoeman, credentialed delegates of the Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCNA). Rev. Schoeman addressed Synod describing the FRCNA. He expressed gratitude for our relationship, tracing its history and spending some time on the topic of the nature of preaching in the CanRC and FRCNA. The full text of his address can be found in **Appendix XXX**. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 57 – Appeal against RSW 2022 art. 12 (*In-person Worship*)

Committee 5 presented draft 1 of a report on an appeal against RSW 2022 art. 12 (*In-person Worship*). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Article 58 – Appeal against GS 2022 art. 143 dec. 3.2 (*Preparatory Examinations*)

1. Material

- 1.1 Appeal from Coaldale re Preparatory Examination (8.6.4.1).

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The appeal was declared admissible.

3. Observations

- 3.1 The Coaldale CanRC appeals GS 2022 art. 143 dec. 3.2 which changed the Regulations for Ecclesiastical Exams to read:

The preparatory examination is to occur in the classis where the church that sent the student’s original attestation to the federational seminary belongs. The preparatory examination for a student not originating within the Canadian & American Reformed Churches is to occur in the classis where he lives.

- 3.2 Coaldale proposes to delete the word “federational”, claiming that by specifying a federational seminary, the amendment closes any pathway for classical examination if a man were to study at a non-federational seminary.

3.3 Coaldale proposes that the Regulation Ecclesiastical Exams, GS 1958 art. 188 part I.1 (GS 2022, Appendix 23) be amended to read:

To be eligible for call in one of the churches, one must have successfully sustained the preparatory examination. The preparatory examination will take place in the classis where the church that sent the student's original attestation to the seminary belongs. The preparatory examination for a student not originating within the Canadian & American Reformed Churches is to occur in the classis where the student resides.

3.4 Coaldale appeals GS 2022 art. 143 dec. 3.4 which amended CO art. 4B to read:

Only those shall be declared eligible for call within the churches who (1) have passed a preparatory examination by classis....

3.5 Coaldale claims that this article is not clear with respect to which classis ought to examine the student, and is open to abuse, allowing for a student to select the classis he wishes to be examined by.

3.6 Coaldale proposes CO art. 4B to be amended to:

Only those shall be declared eligible for call within the churches who (1) have passed a preparatory examination by classis where the church that sent the student's original attestation to the seminary belongs . . .

4. Considerations

4.1 The Coaldale CanRC is incorrect that the wording adopted by GS 2022 art. 143 dec. 3.2 closes any pathway for classical examination if a man were to study at a non-federational seminary. GS 1968 art. 171 indicates that a student from another seminary needs a certificate from the teaching staff of the CRTS as a condition of requesting a preparatory examination by classis:

To be admitted to the ecclesiastical examinations candidates shall submit proof that they have completed their studies at our own Theological College. Candidates who took their theological training at other institutions shall present a Certificate issued by the Staff of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches stating that they have followed and/or complemented a course of studies conforming with the training provided by the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

4.2 The Coaldale CanRC is incorrect when it claims that CO art. 4B requires more clarity as to which classis examines a student requesting preparatory examination. CO art. 4B gives the general principles while the details are specified in the Regulations for Ecclesiastical Exams (GS 2022 Appendix 23 [I.1]).

5. Recommendations

That Synod decide:

5.1 To deny the Coaldale CanRC appeal against GS 2022 art. 143 dec. 3.2 (*Preparatory Examinations*).

ADOPTED

Article 59 – Appeal against GS 2022 art. 142 (*Days of Commemoration*)

Committee 5 presented draft 1 of a report on an appeal against GS 2022 art. 142 (*Days of Commemoration*). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Article 60 – Report: General Fund

Committee 5 presented draft 1 of a report on the General Fund. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Synod was adjourned for committee work.

Day 4 — Evening Session

Friday, May 9, 2025

Article 61 – Closing Devotions

Synod reopened in plenary session at 8:50pm. The Chairman made some housekeeping comments.

Rev. Jake Torenvliet spoke some devotional words, read Acts 11:19-26, had the meeting sing Psalm 107:1,4,12, and led in prayer.

Synod was adjourned until 9:00am.

Day 5 — Morning Session
Saturday, May 10, 2025

Article 62 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session. The Chairman read Psalm 48, spoke some devotional words, led in opening prayer, and had the meeting sing Psalm 48. He observed all synod members were present and made some housekeeping comments regarding the day's proceedings.

Article 63 – Extra Housekeeping Matter

Presence on the Internet: Only plenary sessions in which individuals address General Synod and the churches as a whole, will be live streamed publicly (cf. GS 2025 art. 6)

Article 64 – Adoption of Acts

The prepared articles of the *Acts* were corrected. It was noted that the clerks had decided to a procedure for adopting the acts and had communicated that to all the delegates.

Article 65 – Appeal against GS 2022 art. 60 & 81

Synod went into closed session.

This act is not published.

Article 66 – CONFIDENTIAL – Personal Appeal 8.6.8.4

Synod continued in closed session.

This act is not published.

Article 67 – CONFIDENTIAL – Personal Appeal 8.6.8.2

Synod continued in closed session.

This act is not published.

Synod returned to open session.

Article 68 – Overtures RSE 2024 and RSW 2024 re CO art. 55

Committee 1 presented draft 1 of a report on CO art. 55. The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Article 69 – CER Study Report

Committee 2 presented draft 1 of a report on Report 2: Study Mandate of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER). The report was discussed. The committee took the report back for further consideration.

Synod decided to provisionally adopt new rules for ecumenical relations. This provisional adoption took place with a view to decisions to be taken on Monday, May 12, regarding various churches with whom the CanRC have ecumenical relations.

Synod was adjourned for committee work.

Article 70 – Closing Devotions

Synod reopened in plenary session at 1:00pm. The Chairman made some housekeeping comments.

Rev. Hendrik Alkema read Isaiah 6:1-8, spoke some devotional words, had the meeting sing Psalm 133, and led in prayer.

Synod was adjourned until Monday 9:00am.