

**Day 3 — Evening Session****Thursday, May 12, 2022****Article 39 – Reopening**

Synod reopened in plenary session. The chairman had the meeting sing Psalm 136:1,2,3. He observed that all synod members were present.

Article 40 – RCNZ – Fraternal Delegate Address

Rev. Janssen introduced Rev. David Stares, credentialed delegate of the Reformed Churches in New Zealand (RCNZ). Rev. Stares addressed Synod via video conferencing, describing how the RCNZ live in the New Zealand context and speaking appreciatively of the relationship between the RCNZ and CanRC. The full text of his address can be found in Appendix 13. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 41 – ARPC – Fraternal Observer Address

Rev. Temple introduced Rev. Jeff Kingswood and Rev. Tim Collins, credentialed delegates of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) to observe our synod. Rev. Kingswood addressed Synod, describing the ARPC, noting some of the issues before it, and speaking with gratitude of the growing relationship between the ARPC and CanRC. The full text of his address can be found in Appendix 14. The chairman spoke some words in response.

Article 42 – General Synod Expenses**1. Material**

- 1.1 Letter from the Guelph-Emmanuel CanRC with regards to General Synod expenses. (8.1.5).

2. Admissibility

The letter was declared admissible.

3. Decisions**Synod decided:**

- 3.1 To adopt the following guidelines for general synod expenses for the convening of synod and add them as an appendix to the *Acts*.

Guidelines for the Convening Church of a General Synod Regarding Synod Expenses

1. Funding: The convening church shall set up a General Synod Account and appoint a treasurer. The treasurer shall contact the treasurers of the Regional Synods for funding to cover all expenses pertaining to the General Synod. Expenses will be shared between the two Regional Synods on a 50/50 basis. (See Yearbook for treasurers of each Regional Synod).
2. Operational Expenses: Operational expenses incurred as a direct result of hosting the General Synod which do not have a net benefit post-synod to the convening church will



1 be reimbursed at cost. This includes but is not limited to IT, facilities, and
2 correspondence.

3 3. Travel for fraternal delegates and invited observers as invited by the inter-church relations
4 committee(s):

5 a. Travel to Synod: Cost for travel is the responsibility of the delegating body.

6 b. Transportation during Synod: The convening church will arrange transportation to and
7 from the airport, train station, or bus depot and provide transportation to General
8 Synod and incidental travel during the Synod. Submission for costs incurred in
9 providing transportation in connection with General Synod are to be reimbursed at the
10 CRA rate.

11 4. Accommodations: For delegates, fraternal delegates and invited observers as invited by
12 the inter-church relation committee(s):

13 a. Accommodations are arranged by the convening church via rental and/or billeting.
14 Accommodations can include support for the spouse of a delegate.

15 b. Submissions for reimbursement of the rentals are administered via the General Synod
16 budget administered by the convening church.

17 5. Meals:

18 a. Meals are exclusively for the members of synod and invited guests via the venue of
19 the General Synod or arranged by the convening church via billeting.

20 b. Reimbursements for meal expenses are administered via the General Synod budget
21 administered by the convening church.

22 6. At the conclusion of Synod, the books will be reviewed by the church appointed for that
23 purpose. A financial report is to be submitted to the next Synod.

24 4. Grounds

25 4.1 It is helpful for a convening church to have such a guideline.

26 4.2 There is no need to make travel guidelines for delegates to and from Synod, or
27 reimbursement for loss of income, as this is the responsibility of the Regional Synod.
28

29 Article 43 – Overture RSE 2020 to remove the bracketed qualifier “For the Second 30 Service” from the Abbreviated Form for the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

31 1. Material

32 1.1. RSE Overture to Remove the Bracketed Qualifier from the Abbreviated Lord’s Supper
33 Form (8.4.2).

34 1.2 Letters from the following churches: Ancaster (8.5.2.1), Brampton-Grace (8.5.2.2),
35 Niagara-South (8.5.2.3), Guelph-Emmanuel (8.5.2.4), Smithville (8.5.2.5), Cloverdale
36 (8.5.2.6), Vernon (8.5.2.7), Coaldale (8.5.2.8), Flamborough-Redemption (8.5.2.9),
37 Fergus-Maranatha (8.5.2.10), Glanbrook-Trinity (8.5.2.11), Winnipeg-Redeemer
38 (8.5.2.12), Edmonton-Immanuel (8.5.2.13), Langley (8.5.2.14), Carman-West
39 (8.5.2.15).

40 2. Admissibility

41 2.1 The submissions were declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

- 3.1 To remove the bracketed qualifier “For the Second Service” from the Abbreviated Form for the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

4. Grounds

- 4.1 In their correspondence to GS 2022, a number of churches suggested that the removal of the bracketed qualifier would facilitate the more frequent celebration of the Lord’s Supper, while simultaneously maintaining the priority of the preaching. While neither the length of the liturgical forms nor of the service as a whole necessarily is an insurmountable barrier to more frequent communion it cannot be denied that the adoption of a shorter form *could* facilitate more frequent celebration of the sacrament.
- 4.2 The Acts of GS 1977 do not indicate that any limitation/restriction would be placed on the use of the desired abbreviated form. (GS 1977 Art. 60 esp. Cons. 10 and Rec. 4).
- 4.3 GS 1980 provides no grounds, or rationale, for the decision to limit the use of the Abbreviated Form to the second service (GS 1980 Art. 136).
- 4.4 In their correspondence to GS 2022, some churches expressed their concern that eliminating the bracketed qualifier would cause the longer form to be neglected or ignored altogether. No principal or substantive objection was raised against the sufficiency of the content of the Abbreviated Form.
- 4.5 In their correspondence to GS 2022, several churches expressed concern about the absence of the list of transgressions that is found in the longer form. This concern treats the longer form as the norm. Scripture is the norm. Both forms are expressions of the norm. Further, this concern is mitigated by the fact that the Lord’s Supper is most often celebrated in the morning service, in which the Law is read. Finally, the Abbreviated Form maintains the call for self-examination and the admonition to repentance.

Article 44 – CWeb (Committee for the Website)

1. Material

- 1.1 Report of the Committee for the Federation Website (CWeb) (8.2.7).
- 1.2 Letter from Ancaster (8.3.7.1) requesting that GS 2022 mandate the CWeb to make available English translations of all Dutch materials in the *Acts* of general synods of 1954, 1958, 1962 and 1965.

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The report was declared admissible.
- 2.2 The letter from Ancaster was declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

- 3.1 That the Committee for the Website (CWeb) has fulfilled its mandate;
- 3.2 To thank the members of the committee for their work, and in particular, sr. Christie Hoeksema, br. Jeremy Koopman and Rev. Anthony Roukema, as they have completed their terms;



- 1 3.3 To appoint three new members to the committee;
- 2 3.4 To approve the budget of \$7,050.00 for the period 2022-2025, for ongoing costs related
- 3 to the website, email forwarding, and the minister email list;
- 4 3.5 To give the CWeb the following mandate:
- 5 3.5.1 To maintain the existing website and associated technical functions;
- 6 3.5.2 To revise the content of the website whenever necessary, including:
- 7 3.5.2.1 Posting news items and documents upon submission by ministers and clerks
- 8 of church councils, and by officers of ecclesiastical assemblies who are
- 9 authorized to post press releases or news items related to classes, regional or
- 10 general synods,
- 11 3.5.2.2 Annually auditing the site's information against the yearbook,
- 12 3.5.2.3 Maintaining pages for synodical committees with their current mandates and
- 13 contact information,
- 14 3.5.2.4 Making synod reports available on the web before the next synod;
- 15 3.5.3 To make available English translations of all Dutch materials in the *Acts* of general
- 16 synods of the Canadian Reformed Churches of 1954, 1958, 1962 and 1965, and
- 17 submit expenses for this work to the General Fund;
- 18 3.5.4 To provide email forwarding from “@canrc.org” email addresses to personal email
- 19 accounts for ministers, clerks, and others when requested by clerks of church
- 20 councils;
- 21 3.5.5 To submit a report on its activities to the churches 6 months prior to the convening
- 22 of next general synod;
- 23 3.5.6 To function as the administrators of the minister email list;
- 24 3.5.7 To appoint one of its members to validate and submit to the treasurer of the
- 25 General Fund all expenses being submitted for committee work.

26 4. Grounds

- 27 4.1 CWeb fulfils a vital function in maintaining the presence of the Canadian Reformed
- 28 Churches on the internet.
- 29 4.2 Re 3.5.3: It is important to preserve the Acts of the general synods of the Canadian
- 30 Reformed Churches in their early years in English.
- 31

32 Article 45 – Housekeeping Matter

33 Some further discussion took place on the format of decisions of synod and an approach was

34 decided upon.

35

36 Article 46 – Closing Devotions

37 The chairman made some announcements regarding agenda items and housekeeping matters.

38 Rev. VanderVelde had those present sing Hymn 42:1,2,3, read Hebrews 6:13-20, spoke some

39 words on the ascension of Christ and his present rule, and led in closing prayer, among others

40 expressing thanks for our relationships and bringing the needs of the RCNZ and ARPC before

41 the Lord.

42



- 1 *Synod was adjourned until 9:00am the next day.*