



Day 10 — Morning Session
Saturday, May 21, 2022

Article 152 – Reopening

Synod reopened in plenary session. The chairman observed all synod members were present. After welcoming everyone he had those present sing Hymn 44:1,5, read Philippians 4:1-9 and led in opening prayer.

Article 153 – Acts

The prepared articles of the *Acts* were corrected and adopted.

Article 154 – Archiving

1. Material

- 1.1 Agenda item 8.6.2: Appendix 2 in hard copy and digital copy.
- 1.2 Agenda item 8.6.7: Appendix 2 in digital copy.

2. Decision

Synod decided:

- 2.1 To destroy the hard copy of 8.6.2 Appendix 2.
- 2.2 To destroy the digital copy of 8.6.2 and 8.6.7 Appendix 2.

3. Grounds

- 3.1 These appendices, which are identical, contain very sensitive material which should not be viewed by any more people. We have the responsibility to uphold the honour and reputation of our brothers and sisters as much as possible.

Article 155 – Appeals against RSE 2019 Art. 11

1. Material

- 1.1 The appeals of the Ottawa-Jubilee CanRC dd. Feb 7, 2022 (8.6.5.1), the Toronto-Bethel CanRC dd. Nov 20, 2021 (8.6.5.2) and the Hamilton-Blessings CanRC dd. March 25, 2022 (8.6.5.3) against the decision of Regional Synod East (RSE) 2019 Art. 11 which judged that “Classis Central Ontario (CCO) of Sept 13/Oct 10, 2019 erred when it did not accept [Burlington Waterdown]-Rehoboth's request to make a judgment against the developing practice of Hamilton-Blessings and Ottawa-Jubilee to allow ministers from non-sister-churches to preach on their pulpit.”

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The appeal from the Ottawa-Jubilee CanRC was declared admissible.
- 2.2 The appeal from the Toronto-Bethel CanRC was declared admissible.
- 2.3 The appeal from the Hamilton-Blessings CanRC was declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:



- 1 3.1 To consider all three appeals together as they deal with the same decision of RSE 2019;
2 3.2 To deny the appeals of the Ottawa-Jubilee CanRC, the Toronto-Bethel CanRC, and the
3 Hamilton-Blessings CanRC against RSE 2019 Art. 11.

4 4. Grounds

- 5 4.1 Re 3.2: According to the Church Order Classis has a role in giving advice concerning
6 requests that have to do with temporary pulpit access. While the appellants consider that
7 anything not expressly governed in the Church Order should be left in the freedom of
8 churches, this consideration ignores the relevant principle of classical involvement in
9 granting access to the pulpit (e.g. CO Art. 4.B.1&2) that can give guidance concerning
10 the matter of giving pastors of non-sister churches temporary access to the pulpit.
11 Furthermore, there are also relevant principles in CO Art. 44 and 76 where the churches
12 agree to honour the decisions of the major assemblies. This includes synodical decisions
13 concerning Rules for Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF).
- 14 4.2 Re 3.2: Our current practice that pulpit access has been determined collectively by the
15 churches is based on synodical decisions as expressed in the rules for EF (GS 1992 Art.
16 50). While Hamilton-Blessings contends that the provisions for EF do not prevent their
17 practice, one cannot ignore that the existence of collectively agreed upon rules for pulpit
18 fellowship at the federative level also have an impact at the local level. The local
19 church, and the federation it belongs to, are not mutually exclusive.
- 20 4.3 Re 3.2: The practices of our sister churches in the exercise of their ecclesiastical
21 relationships differ from ours in that they are also accompanied by specific regulations
22 concerning local pulpit access. While Hamilton-Blessings is correct that the practice of
23 sister churches which embrace Dort polity could prove to be a valuable resource of
24 possible application of that same polity in the Canadian Reformed context, they fail to
25 reckon with the fact that the United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)
26 have made explicit that local churches have the freedom to engage in occasional pulpit
27 exchanges: “Fraternal activities between congregations which need not be reported to
28 classis may include occasional pulpit exchanges, table fellowship, as well as other
29 means of manifesting unity.” (CO-URC Art. 34 – *Ecumenical Relations on a Church
30 Level*) Likewise, in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), occasional pulpit
31 fellowship belongs in the province of the local session as it is their task to “oversee all
32 matters concerning the conduct of public worship” (OPC Book of Church Order,
33 Chapter XIII, 7). The OPC explicitly affirms the autonomy of the local church in access
34 to the pulpit. Therefore, their rules for EF specify ‘occasional pulpit fellowship (by local
35 option)’.
- 36 4.4 Re 3.2: Our current Church Order does not have a specific provision regarding pulpit
37 access for guest ministers from non-sister churches. Toronto-Bethel acknowledges this
38 in consideration 6, speaking of this as a “gap.” At the same time it argues in
39 Consideration 7 that the onus for closing that “gap” lies with those who desire to ensure
40 that present practice is codified. The other appellants make similar statements about
41 where the onus lies, while RSE 2019 in turn places the onus on those who wish to
42 change current practices. In line with the practices of our sister-churches (see 4.3
43 above), the Churches could decide to adopt an article or provision in the church order
44 specifically regulating local pulpit access. In this way our practices will explicitly
45 reflect our church order.



1
2 The following synod member requested that his abstention from voting be recorded:
3 C.J. VanderVelde.
4

5 **Article 156 – Overture RSE 2021 re: Shorter Lord’s Supper Forms**

6 **1. Material**

- 7 1.1 RSE Overture to GS 2022 to Provisionally Adopt, for Immediate Use and Testing in the
8 Churches, Shorter Liturgical Forms for the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper (8.4.5.1)
9 1.2 Letters from: Carman West (8.5.5.1); Brampton-Grace (8.5.5.2); Niagara South
10 (8.5.5.3); Sardis (8.5.5.4); Lynden (8.5.5.5); Nooksack Valley (8.5.5.6); Winnipeg-
11 Grace (8.5.5.7); Guelph-Emmanuel (8.5.5.8); Willoughby Heights (8.5.5.9); Smithville
12 (8.5.5.10); Owen Sound (8.5.5.11); Vernon (8.5.5.12); Coaldale (8.5.5.13); Carman East
13 (8.5.5.14); Fergus-Maranatha (8.5.5.15); Calgary (8.5.5.16); Glanbrook-Trinity
14 (8.5.5.17); Winnipeg-Redeemer (8.5.5.18); Neerlandia (North) (8.5.5.19); Edmonton-
15 Immanuel (8.5.5.20); Lincoln-Vineyard (8.5.5.21); Edmonton-Providence (8.5.5.22);
16 Langley-Refuge (8.5.5.23).

17 **2. Admissibility**

- 18 2.1 The submissions were declared admissible.

19 **3. Decisions**

20 **Synod decided:**

- 21 3.1 To deny the request in the overture from RSE 2021 for provisional approval for
22 immediate use and testing of shorter forms for the celebration of Lord’s Supper;
23 3.2 To accept the request in the overture to mandate a committee to provide shorter forms
24 for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper;
25 3.3 To mandate the Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise* (SCBP)
26 to review forms in use by our sister churches, or to draft new forms, and to present GS
27 2025 with one or more shorter forms for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper which are:
28 (a) of Reformed character; (b) comparable in content to the current forms; (c) shorter
29 than the current Abbreviated Form.

30 **4. Grounds**

- 31 4.1 Re 3.1: Neither the overture nor the Acts of RSE 2021 provides any grounds to show
32 why shorter liturgical forms ought to be provisionally adopted for immediate use and
33 testing in the churches.
34 4.2 Re 3.2: Both the overture and the Acts of RSE 2021 provide compelling grounds which
35 show that having additional shorter liturgical forms would be of benefit to churches
36 desiring to celebrate communion on a more frequent basis.
37 4.3 Re 3.2, 3.3: The majority of churches which favoured adopting the overture were also in
38 favour of establishing a committee to review forms in use by sister churches, or to draft
39 new forms, for recommendation to GS 2025.
40

Article 157 – CNSF (Committee for the Needy Students’ Fund)

1. Material

- 1.1 Report from the Committee for the Needy Students’ Fund (8.2.8.1).
- 1.2 Letters from: Willoughby Heights (8.3.8.1); Calgary (8.3.8.2).

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The submissions were declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

- 3.1 To thank the Grassie-Covenant CanRC for its work as the Committee for the Needy Students’ Fund (CNSF);
- 3.2 To discharge the CNSF for the duties completed during the period 1 January 2018 through 31 December 2020;
- 3.3 To reappoint Grassie-Covenant as the CNSF to look after extending financial aid to those students of theology who are in need of it; If Grassie-Covenant should decide to not take on the charitable activity of the CNSF, to direct Grassie-Covenant to find an alternate church to take on these activities;
- 3.4 To instruct the CNSF to seek advice, to determine what is required to ensure that they remain in compliance with the Income Tax Act (ITA) and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) (cf. GS 2019 Art. 100 Rec. 4.3);
- 3.5 To instruct the CNSF to determine if in “owning the activity of the CNSF” it remains in compliance with CO Art. 20 & 75 (cf. GS 2019 Art. 100 Cons. 3.6);
- 3.6 To forward the letters from Willoughby Heights and Calgary to the CNSF for its consideration (8.3.8.1 & 8.3.8.2);
- 3.7 To provide GS 2025 with recommendations, supported by clear grounds, for any changes to the bylaws of the CNSF, which must be made in order to be in compliance with the ITA and the CRA, as well as with CO Art. 20 & 75;
- 3.8 Not to adopt either of the optional recommendations made by the CNSF in its report;
- 3.9 To mandate the CNSF:
 - 3.9.1 To assess the churches annually as per the number of communicant members in the current Yearbook based on the anticipated funding for the new year ahead;
 - 3.9.2 To report annually to each church of the federation on its activities, and to report triennially to each General Synod on the same and to include appropriate recommendations in its report to General Synod.

4. Grounds

- 4.1 Re 3.4 & 3.5: GS 2022 does not have the legal and accounting competence to judge Grassie-Covenant’s opinion that to be in compliance with the ITA and the CRA, Grassie-Covenant must own the activity of the CNSF.
- 4.2 Re 3.5: CO Art. 20 states that “the churches...[shall] extend financial aid to [students of theology] who are in need of it.” As the churches have decided to do this via the route of general synod, CO Art. 75 becomes relevant. When a general synod passes property of the churches in common into the hands of an individual church serving as a committee to general synod, it [i.e. general synod] still retains “ownership of the



1 activity.” Clarity is needed about whether this causes the CNSF to fall out of
2 compliance with the ITA & the CRA.

3 4.3 Re 3.6: The letters from Willoughby Heights and Calgary raise concerns which ought to
4 be interacted with. Those concerns are best expressed in their own words.

5 4.4 Re 3.7: In order to make decisions about legal matters a general synod requires clarity.

6 4.5 Re 3.8: GS 2022 was unclear about what was being recommended, and what the
7 purpose of the recommendations was.

8 9 **Article 158 – CBT (Committee on Bible Translations)**

10 **1. Material**

11 1.1 Report of the Committee on Bible Translations (CBT) (8.2.6.1).

12 **2. Admissibility**

13 2.1 The report was declared admissible.

14 **3. Decisions**

15 **Synod decided:**

16 3.1 To thank the committee for its work;

17 3.2 To acknowledge that the Committee on Bible Translations (CBT) fulfilled the mandate
18 given to it by GS 2019;

19 3.3 To thank Rev. Rodney Vermeulen who has completed nine years on the committee and
20 to release him from the CBT;

21 3.4 To appoint two members to the CBT;

22 3.5 To mandate the CBT:

23 3.5.1 To solicit, receive and evaluate comments from the churches on the ESV;

24 3.5.2 To submit worthy translation suggestions to the ESV editorial committee;

25 3.5.3 To serve the churches as a resource for Bible translation matters;

26 3.5.4 To appoint one of its members to validate and submit to the treasurer of the
27 General Fund all expenses being submitted for committee work.

28 3.5.5 To prepare and distribute a report to the churches six months in advance of the
29 next General Synod.

30 31 **Article 159 – NAPARC (North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council)**

32 **1. Material**

33 1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on NAPARC.

34 1.2 Submissions from the following churches: Willoughby Heights (8.3.11.2).

35 1.2.1 Willoughby Heights recommends that Synod encourages the CER to make more
36 information on ecumenical conferences available to the churches via the reports to
37 general synod.

38 **2. Admissibility**

39 2.1 The report was declared admissible.

40 2.2 The submissions were declared admissible.



3. Decisions

Synod decided:

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

3.1.1 To represent the CanRC at the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) and to continue active involvement in it;

3.1.2 To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next general synod;

3.1.3 To consider including relevant information about ecumenical conferences in the report to general synod.

4. Grounds

4.1 Re 3.1.1:

4.1.1 There is benefit of ongoing involvement in NAPARC, both to derive insights from and to contribute to the Reformed witness it offers on the North American scene. It is an excellent venue to experience the richness we share as Reformed and Presbyterian brothers. As member churches, we live in a North American society that is increasingly secular and hostile. It is good to support one another and maintain a united front on the major challenges we face. Reports from member churches are often relevant to developments in or projects of the CanRC, and it is useful to discuss these matters of shared interest.

4.1.2 NAPARC is an excellent, efficient and economical venue for holding meetings with many inter-church relations committees in the same week (ERQ, KPCA (Kosin), OPC, RCUS, RPCNA, HRC, FRCNA, ARP, and the URCNA).

4.2 Re 3.1.3: Such relevant material is good for the churches to receive.

Article 160 – ERQ (Reformed Churches in Quebec)

1. Material

1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the ERQ.

2. Admissibility

2.1 The report was declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

3.1 To continue the relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the Reformed Churches in Quebec (ERQ) under the adopted rules;

3.2 To encourage the churches to support the ERQ prayerfully and financially in their missionary endeavours and special projects;

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

3.3.1 To maintain contact with the ERQ according to the adopted rules;

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



4. Grounds

4.1 Re 3.1: the relationship with the ERQ continues to be mutually encouraging.

4.2 Re 3.2: the ERQ appreciates the ongoing contributions from the CanRC both in terms of human as well as financial resources.

Article 161 – FRCNA (Free Reformed Churches in North America)

1. Material

1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the FRCNA.

1.2 Submissions from the following churches: St. Albert (8.3.11.1), Willoughby Heights (8.3.11.2), London-Pilgrim (8.3.11.3).

2. Admissibility

2.1 The report was declared admissible.

2.2 The submissions were declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

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

3.1.1 To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the Free Reformed Churches in North America (FRCNA);

3.1.2 To meet simultaneously with the Heritage Reformed churches in North America (HRCNA) and FRCNA ecumenicity committees;

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

4. Grounds

4.1 Re 3.1.1: The members of CCCNA at GS 2022 spoke very appreciatively of growing dialogue, understanding and mutual appreciation in the last number of years.

4.2 Re 3.2.2: The FRCNA and HRCNA are working towards organic unity.

Article 162 – HRCNA (Heritage Reformed Churches in North America)

1. Material

1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the HRCNA.

1.2 Submissions from the following churches: St Albert (8.3.11.1), Willoughby Heights (8.3.11.2), London-Pilgrim (8.3.11.3).

2. Admissibility

2.1 The report was declared admissible.

2.2 The submissions were declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

3.1 To accept the Heritage Reformed Churches in North America (HRCNA) Level 2 relationship of “Formal Correspondence”;



1 3.2 To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER):

2 3.2.1 To continue discussions with the HRCNA in an effort to work towards
3 Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF).

4 3.2.2 To meet simultaneously with the HRCNA and Free Reformed Churches in North
5 America (FRCNA) ecumenicity committees.

6 3.2.3 To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next
7 general synod.

8 **4. Grounds**

9 4.1 Re 3.1: The offer to advance the relationship is a positive development.

10 4.2 Re 3.2.2: The FRCNA and HRCNA are working towards organic unity.

11 4.3 The HRCNA has expressed appreciation for the individual and institutional
12 collaboration between the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (PRTS) and
13 Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS).

14 **Article 163 – KPCA-K (Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin))**

15 **1. Material**

16 1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the KPCA-K.

17 **2. Admissibility**

18 2.1 The report was declared admissible.

19 **3. Decisions**

20 **Synod decided:**

21 3.1 To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER):

22 3.1.1 To continue dialogue with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin)
23 (KPCA-K) where feasible, with a view to getting to know the KPCA-K better over
24 time.

25 3.1.2 To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next
26 general synod.
27

28 **4. Grounds**

29 4.1 Re 3.1.1: There has been no contact the KPCA-K since 2019 due to the Covid-19
30 pandemic.

31 **Article 164 – OPC (Orthodox Presbyterian Church)**

32 **1. Material**

33 1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the OPC.

34 **2. Admissibility**

35 2.1 The report was declared admissible.

36 **3. Decisions**

37 **Synod decided:**



- 1 3.1 To continue the relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the Orthodox
- 2 Presbyterian Church (OPC) under the adopted rules;
- 3 3.2 To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER) to submit its report to the
- 4 churches six months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

5 **4. Grounds**

- 6 4.1 Re 3.1: Though the Covid-19 pandemic hindered contact since 2019, the relationship
- 7 with the OPC remains very beneficial.
- 8 4.2 There has been good cooperation with the OPC in regards to the Reformed Churches in
- 9 The Netherlands (GKv).
- 10 4.3 The inter-church relations committees were able to make use of the OPC model of inter-
- 11 church relations in their Study Report (Majority and Minority) to GS 2022.
- 12 4.4 The OPC has expressed the need for help in its many mission projects.

14 **Article 165 – RCUS (Reformed Church in the United States)**

15 **1. Material**

- 16 1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the RCUS.

17 **2. Admissibility**

- 18 2.1 The report was declared admissible.

19 **3. Decisions**

20 **Synod decided:**

- 21 3.1 To continue Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the Reformed Church in the United
- 22 States (RCUS) under the adopted rules;
- 23 3.2 To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER) to submit its report to the
- 24 churches six months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

25 **4. Grounds**

- 26 4.1 The relationship with the RCUS continues to be mutually encouraging.
- 27 4.2 The RCUS very much appreciates the developing relationship with the CanRC. They
- 28 especially appreciate having fraternal delegates attend major assemblies.
- 29 4.3. Opportunities exist to work together on foreign mission projects, especially in the
- 30 Philippines.
- 31 4.4 The CanRC and the RCUS can effectively assist each other via pulpit exchanges,
- 32 visiting each other's churches, participating in youth camps/conferences held by the
- 33 various churches, and the exchange of articles in magazines supported by church
- 34 members.

36 **Article 166 – RPCNA (Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America)**

37 **1. Material**

- 38 1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the RPCNA.
- 39 1.2 Submissions from the following churches: St. Albert (8.3.11.1), Willoughby Heights
- 40 (8.3.11.2), London-Pilgrim (8.3.11.3).



2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The report was declared admissible.
- 2.2 The submissions were declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

- 3.1 To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER):
 - 3.1.1 To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA), particularly at meetings of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC), and, when appropriate, to discuss the matters that hinder Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF);
 - 3.1.2 To take up dialogue and contact with the new Reformed Presbyterian Church of Canada (RPCC) once it is formed.
 - 3.1.3 To not be a sponsoring church for the RPCC if it applies for membership in NAPARC;
 - 3.1.4 To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next general synod.

4. Grounds

- 4.1 Re 3.1.1:
 - 4.1.1 While GS 2016 (Art. 90) acknowledged that the RPCNA can be recognized for their faithfulness to the Word of God and their strong Reformed convictions, it also noted that their practice and exegetical defense of ordaining female deacons, as well as GS 2016's reservations about the place and function of *The Testimony*, hinders the establishment of EF;
 - 4.1.2 The RPCNA have congregations or preaching points geographically close to the CanRC churches in Ottawa, Elora, Fergus, Guelph, and Denver, and several of these churches have expressed a desire for progression towards unity;
- 4.2 Re 3.1.2: The RPCNA confirmed a special resolution presented by six Canadian congregations petitioning to become a distinct Reformed Presbyterian Church denomination in Canada, which is expected to take place in the summer of 2022;
- 4.3 Re 3.1.3: Past synods have determined that for the CanRC to sponsor a federation of churches to become members of an organization like the ICRC, that federation must be in EF with the CanRC (GS 1998 Art. 52; GS 2007 Art. 27).

Article 167 – URCNA (United Reformed Churches in North America)

1. Material

- 1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the URCNA.

2. Admissibility

- 2.1 The report was declared admissible.
- 2.2 The submissions were declared admissible.



3. Decisions

Synod decided:

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

3.1.1 To continue Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA) according to the adopted rules;

3.1.2 To encourage the churches to continue to foster relationships with local URCNA churches; These activities could include, but are not limited to, pulpit exchanges, joint community and mission projects, and study opportunities;

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

4. Grounds

4.1 Re. 3.1.1. and 3.1.2:

4.1.1 Geographical and cultural challenges continue to be something of a hindrance as many URCNA churches (especially in the USA) have little contact or familiarity with the CanRC. However, we give thanks that:

4.1.2.1 The URCNA Committee for Ecumenical Relations and Church Unity (CERCU) reiterated their commitment to working towards greater unity and expressing that unity in concrete ways;

4.1.2.2 In view of the phase 2 relationship between the URCNA and the CanRC, the CERCU continues to follow its mandate;

4.1.2.3 The “hold” adopted by Synod Wyoming 2016 of the URCNA is not the end of moving forward in federative unity, but during this time (of at least six years) there remains opportunity for one or more of the URCNA churches to suggest ways to move forward in our relationship;

4.1.2.4 The CERCU is sending a survey to their churches seeking a response to concerns (theological, church-political, historical-cultural) they may have regarding unity;

4.1.2.5 At the grassroots level, unity is frequently expressed by marriage among each other’s members and by attendance of students at each other’s schools.

Article 168 – ARPC (Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church)

1. Material

1.1 Report of the CCCNA (8.2.11.1) on the ARPC.

1.2 Submissions from the following churches: St Albert (8.3.11.1), Willoughby Heights (8.3.11.2), London-Pilgrim (8.3.11.3).

2. Admissibility

2.1 The report was declared admissible.

2.2 The submissions were declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

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



- 1 3.1.1 To engage in continued dialogue and contact with the ARPC;
2 3.2.1 To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next
3 general synod.

4. Grounds

- 4 4.1 There is good fraternal dialogue with the ARPC
5 4.2 There are currently twelve ARPC churches/works in Canada with some ongoing contact
6 with local CanRC congregations.
7

Article 169 – FRCA (Free Reformed Churches of Australia)

1. Material

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11 1.1 Report of the CRCA on the FRCA (8.2.1.2).

2. Admissibility

- 12
13 2.1 The report was declared admissible.

3. Decisions

Synod decided:

- 14
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16 3.1 To continue the relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship (EF) with the Free Reformed
17 Churches of Australia (FRCA) under the adopted rules;
18 3.2 To express thankfulness and appreciation for the FRCA's ongoing support for and
19 interest in the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS), including financial
20 support;
21 3.3 To encourage the Board of Governors and Senate of the CRTS to continue contact with
22 the deputyship for theological education in the FRCA to explore the feasibility and
23 benefits of delivering theological education in Australia;
24 3.4 To mandate the Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER):
25 3.4.1 To maintain close contact with the deputyship of the FRCA in matters of relations
26 with sister churches abroad and informing the FRCA of changes or developments
27 in third party relationships;
28 3.4.2 To invite the various deputyships of the FRCA to seek direct contact with the
29 corresponding CanRC committees (e.g., our Standing Committee for the
30 Publication of the *Book of Praise*, Committee on Bible Translations) in areas of
31 mutual interest where the CER's mandate does not reach;
32 3.4.3 To communicate to the FRCA the value of the International Conference of
33 Reformed Churches (ICRC) and encourage them to consider membership;
34 3.4.4 To send a delegation to the next FRCA synod in 2024;
35 3.4.5 To submit its report to the churches six months prior to the convening of the next
36 general synod.

4. Grounds

- 37
38 4.1 As far as can be determined from the Acts of GS-FRCA 2021, the FRCA demonstrate
39 that they remain faithful churches. They abide by the Word of God as the only rule for
40 faith and life and adhere to the adopted confessions and church order.



- 1 4.2 The value of our relationship with the FRCA is evident particularly in the ongoing
2 cooperation in theological education, interchurch relations, the *Book of Praise*, and
3 mission projects.
- 4 4.3 Through planning, robust discussions and financial commitment, GS-FRCA 2021
5 demonstrates the vital importance the FRCA place on training for the ministry.
- 6 4.4 Through the CRTS the CanRC may be able to assist the FRCA in providing training for
7 the ministry in Australia.
- 8 4.5 The FRCA demonstrate that they are active in maintaining their current sister-church
9 relationships and seek to establish relationships with other faithful churches.
- 10 4.6 Membership in the ICRC has been beneficial for the CanRC, and Australia's
11 participation would assist in providing an opportunity to support Christ's church
12 worldwide and promote unity among faithful churches.

14 **Article 170 – Appointments**

15 This matter was dealt with by Synod in closed session.

16 **1. Material**

- 17 1.1 Submissions from: RSW 2021 (8.1.1), RSE 2021 (8.1.2), the Board of Governors of
18 CRTS (8.2.4.4), the CWeb (8.2.7.2), the CBT (8.2.6.1), the CRCA & CCCNA
19 (8.2.12.3.), the SCBP (8.2.2.4.).
- 20 1.2 Submission from Willoughby Heights (8.1.6).

21 **2. Synod made the following appointments:**

22 1. Board of Governors (BoG) of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS):

23 1.1 Academic Committee

- 24 1.1.1 From Eastern Canada: Rev. John Louwse (2025), Rev. Jeff Temple (2031),
25 Rev. Clarence VanderVelde (2028)
26 Alternates: Rev. Bill DeJong, Rev. Theo Wierenga (in that order)
- 27 1.1.2 From Western Canada: Rev. Joe Poppe (2025), Rev. James Slaa (2025),
28 Rev. Julius VanSpronsen (2031)
29 Alternates: Rev. Doug Vandeburgt, Rev. Dave deBoer (in that order).

30 1.2 Finance and Property Committee

- 31 1.2.1 Adrian Bartels (2031), Alan Datema (2028), Herman Post (2031), Peter
32 VanderSluis (2025), Kasper VanVeen (2025)
33 Substitute: Mike Bork; Paul Broekema (in that order)

34 2. Committee for Pastoral Training Program Fund (CPTPF):

35 2.1 The Guelph-Emmanuel CanRC

36 3. Committee on Ecumenical Relations (CER):

- 37 3.1 Gerrit Bos (2025), Otto Bouwman (2025), Rev. Gerrit Brintjes (2034), Harry de Boer
38 (2031), William Gortemaker (2034), Rev. Marc Jagt (2028), Rev. Karlo Janssen (2028)
39 (Convenor), Rev. Andrew Pol (2031), Henry Schouten (2028), Rev. Jeff Temple (2028),
40 Rev. Carl Van Dam (2028), Rev. Steve Vandeveld (2028)

41 4. Standing Committee for the Publication of the *Book of Praise* (SCBP):



1 4.1 Rev. Douwe Agema (2031) (Convenor), Chris de Boer (2025), Martin Jongsma (2025),
2 Rev. Ryan Kampen (2031), Brian VanderHout (2028), Carl Oosterhoff (2025); and to
3 leave the appointment of a last individual to the SCBP (2025)

4 5. Committee on Bible Translations (CBT):

5 5.1 Rev. Jeff Poort (2028), Rev. Tyler VanderGaag (2031)

6 6. Committee for the Official Website (CWeb):

7 6.1 Al Gortemaker (2031), Rev. Jeff Poort (2031), Rosalyn Poort (2031), Jonathan Reinink
8 (2025)

9 7. Churches for Days of Prayer ad CO Art. 54:

10 7.1 The Burlington Waterdown-Rehoboth CanRC and the Edmonton-Providence CanRC

11 8. General Fund:

12 8.1 The Carman East CanRC

13 9. Financial Review of the General Fund:

14 9.1 The Carman West CanRC

15 10. Committee for the Needy Students' Fund (CNSF):

16 10.1 The Grassie-Covenant CanRC

17 11. Archive Church:

18 11.1 The Burlington-Ebenezer CanRC

19 12. The Church for inspecting the Archives:

20 12.1 The Burlington Waterdown-Rehoboth CanRC

21 13. Financial Review of GS 2022:

22 13.1 The Guelph-Living Word CanRC.

23 14. Address Church:

24 14.1 The Burlington-Ebenezer CanRC

25 15. Committee for Publication of the Acts:

26 15.1 The first and second clerk of GS 2022

27 16. Convening Church for the next General Synod:

28 16.1 The Aldergrove CanRC in British Columbia

29
30 **Article 171 – Reporting of the Convening Church and the Review Church**

31 **1. Decision**

32 **Synod decided:**

33 1.1 To mandate the Guelph-Emmanuel CanRC and the Guelph-Living Word CanRC to
34 report to the next General Synod on the finances of GS 2022 six weeks prior to the next
35 General Synod.
36



Article 172 – Submission of Committee Reports to the Churches and Synod

1. Decision

Synod decided:

- 1.1 That reports to the next general synod are to be sent to the churches in electronic format. Churches are free to make their own arrangements for printing if so desired. There will be no printed edition of the reports.
- 1.2 To express gratitude to Premier Printing for serving the churches for many years by printing reports.

2. Grounds:

- 2.1 Requiring printed copies to be sent six months before the start of the next Synod takes away at least one month for committees to prepare reports, as they need to be sent to the printer at least one month before the deadline.
- 2.2 Many elders read reports electronically. It will be more economical for churches to print only as many copies as needed.

Article 173 – Confidential Acts

This matter was dealt with by Synod in closed session.

Motion by the first and second clerks of GS 2022:

That the following decisions of GS 2022 be declared confidential Acts: Articles 60 (Dunnville and Lincoln appeals – 8.6.2), and 81 (Lincoln Appeal – 8.6.7)

Ground: Each of these deals with matters involving sensitive personal information that has never been made public and which, in view of the 9th commandment, ought not to be made public.

Article 174 – Concluding Matters

Censure as per CO 34

The chairman stated, with deep thankfulness to the Lord, that censure as per CO Art. 34 was not needed. He gave thanks for the fact that a good spirit of brotherly cooperation was evidenced throughout Synod, even when opinions differed.

Adoption of the Final Articles of the Acts

Members of Synod were requested to review the Acts received and to forward any further corrections to the clerk. The executive members of Synod will review and adopt the final articles of the Acts.

Publication of the Acts

It was noted that the first and second clerks had been appointed to prepare the Acts of GS 2022 for publication. Synod allowed an official version of the acts to be made available on the website as soon as available. Two hard copies of the confidential Acts will be sent to each church.

Financial Matters

Synod members were reminded to use the internal synod website to claim reimbursements.



1 **Preparation of next General Synod**

2 The Aldergrove CanRC had already been appointed as convening church for GS 2025 (GS 2022
3 Art. 170). GS 2025 will be convened in the month of May.

4 **Approval of Press Release**

5 The press release will be prepared by the vice-chairman and approved by the executive members
6 of Synod for publication.

8 **Article 175 – Chairman’s words**

9 The chairman, Rev. Ludwig, spoke some words in closing. (See **appendix 22** for his speech.)
10 A gift for the convening church, the Guelph-Emmanuel CanRC, was then presented by the
11 chairman to the chair of council, Elder Kevin Hutchinson. **(See below)**

13 **Article 176 – Closing**

14 Rev. Ludwig had those present sing Hymn 85:1,3. Rev. Kampen, as vice chairman, spoke some
15 words of gratitude for the chairman’s leadership and presented him with a gift. Rev. Kampen
16 then led in closing prayer.

17
18 *Then, as the voice of the LORD was heard in the storm (Psalm 29),*
19 *Synod was closed,*
20 *for the agenda had become acta.¹*

¹ Jackie, “agenda” is Latin for “things that need doing” and “acta” is Latin for “things that have been done”.