

The United Reformed Churches in North America
Synod Niagara 2022
Press Release #2
Tuesday, October 18, 2022

At 8 A.M. on Tuesday morning, Synod was called back to order. Rev. Al Bezuyen led in opening devotions by reading Psalm 1, leading in prayer, and calling the assembly to sing #42A from the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*.

Delegates who arrived after the roll call from last evening's session were welcomed and stood to indicate their assent to the *Form of Subscription*. Jody Luth, the Statistician of the URCNA, was also welcomed. The Chairman then dismissed the delegates to their Advisory Committees to begin their review of their assigned material from the agenda.

Following the lunchtime meal, Rev. Iain Wright, a fraternal delegate from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, addressed the Synod and brought its attention to 2 Chronicles 27:6. He spoke about the developments even within the churches of situations once considered unthinkable, including the prospect of the preaching of the gospel being labeled as hate speech. He brought greetings from the brothers and sisters of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church who share with the URCNA in the challenges brought upon us by this age and charged the delegates to remain firm in the light of our Redeemer. Rev. Robert Godfrey led the assembly in prayer for the OPC.

The delegates moved swiftly into deliberating the first several Advisory Committee reports. The report from the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* Venture Board was received and the Synod thanked Revs. Derrick Vander Meulen and Chris Folkerts for their service on the Board. The responsibility for the *formsandprayers.com* and *threeforms.org* websites was handed over to the Website Oversight Committee, and the Canadian Corporation of the URCNA was given the responsibility for reprinting the *Forms and Prayers* books should the need arise. Rev. Joel Dykstra and Rev. Dr. Brian Lee were dismissed from these responsibilities and Synod extended their gratitude to the brothers.

Synod decided not to accede to an overture seeking to clarify Article 31 of the Church Order, "Appeals by Church Members." The report of the Committee for Ecumenical Relations and Church Unity was presented, and Revs. Bill Boekestein, Daniel Ventura, and Calvin Tuininga were appointed to terms as members-at-large of the committee. The Synod reminds the churches of our mutual responsibility to engage one another in our ecumenical task through prayer, classical dialogue, local efforts, and expressions of concerns.

Synod received the financial report from Synod Wheaton 2018 and the annual reports from the US, Canadian, and Joint Venture Agreement Treasurers, to whom Synod expressed gratitude for their steady work. The wording of Appendix 8.4 was amended to closer reflect Art. 64 of the Church Order, "Departure of Members."

To assist the churches in their witness and in their pastoral care, Synod established a study committee to address the biblical teaching concerning human sexuality, focusing particularly on the nature of sin, temptation, and repentance especially as it concerns sexual sins.

By the wonderful blessing of the Lord, much progress had been made by the time the delegates were dismissed for their supper. When they returned, Rev. Phil Vos read Psalm 98, led in prayer, and called the assembly to sing TPH #98C. The delegates continued the work of their Advisory Committees and will reconvene, the Lord willing, at 8 A.M. on Wednesday.