

(Released November 22, 2021)

Update from the Synod Planning Committee

As the planning committee continues to look for ways to proceed with an in-person Synod next June, we wish to thank all those who have offered feedback to the recent survey questions to the churches. We would also like to take the opportunity to update the churches on the feedback that we have received to date.

To this point, about 30% of the American churches that have responded have indicated that they could not likely send delegates to a Synod held in Canada. A lesser, though not insignificant number of Canadian churches would also be unlikely to be able to send delegates to Synod, should it be held in the U.S. This obviously creates a challenge of holding a Synod that can be attended by the vast majority of our churches, regardless of whether it is held in Canada or in the U.S. While one solution may be some sort of “virtual” Synod, several churches have also expressed concerns about going this route.

For the time being, the committee continues to plan under the assumption that we will be able to hold a June Synod at Redeemer University. However, it has become clear to us that we need to at least consider other options, should border restrictions remain the same going into the Spring. Because of this, the planning committee has given some thought to a possible “Plan B.” In the event that border restrictions remain the same as Synod approaches, we may consider moving the date for Synod to the fall of next year (2022), should there be some signs of border restrictions loosening towards the end of the summer. Committee work could be done over the summer months. This would allow for in-person meetings for some committees, and if necessary, other committees could meet virtually. This would also make for a more streamlined Synod, cutting down on the time needed to conduct Synod.

We want to re-iterate that this is only a “Plan B” at this point. It remains our hope to proceed with Synod next June. We continue to look to our Lord and trust that He will provide a way forward, to the edification of the church and the glory of His Name.

On behalf of the Synod Planning Committee
Dan Wassenaar