

**The United Reformed Churches of North America**  
**Synod Wyoming 2016**  
**Press Release #1 Tuesday, June 14, 2016**

**Prayer Service**

According to the eternal plan of our God and His providential governance, the year of our Lord 2016 brings about the gathering of delegates, fraternal delegates and observers to the 10<sup>th</sup> Synod of the United Reformed Churches in North America. Meeting underneath the oversight of the convening consistory of Bethany United Reformed Church, Wyoming, Michigan, the facilities of Bethany United Reformed Church and the adjacent Adams Protestant Reformed School provide the venue for the week-long deliberations. On Monday evening, a prayer service was held including a biblical meditation for the work of Synod, prayers for the various aspects of the assembly, and songs of praise to our Almighty God.

**Convening of Synod**

Tuesday morning brought about the actual convening of Synod led by the chairman *pro tem*, Rev. Casey Freswick. After the routine calling of the roll, the delegates to the assembly of Synod expressed their assent to the historic Form of Subscription in a unity of faith. Thereafter, Synod Wyoming was declared constituted. In opening matters, the provisional agenda and time schedule for the week were adopted. With joy, one new church, Immanuel Fellowship Church of Kalamazoo, Mi. was welcomed into the federation by ratification in line with our Church Order Article 32. In addition, the election of Synodical officers seated Rev. Bradd Nymeyer as Chairman, Rev. John Bouwers as Vice-Chairman, Rev. Doug Barnes as First Clerk and Rev. Greg Lubbers as Second Clerk. With words of encouragement from the Chairman promoting orderliness and punctuality in their work, the delegates were recessed to begin their work as advisory committees.

**Initial Work**

The afternoon hours of the day found the delegates turning their attention to the fruit of some of the advisory committee's morning work. Such matters included the receiving of the financial reports from the Canadian treasurer and Board of Directors and the decision to include information regarding the status of ministers on our federation's Website (i.e. calls extended, accepted, declined, etc.). One item the body did definitively deal with in the afternoon was an overture asking for a study committee to review and propose changes to our current Church Order. In rejecting this overture, Synod encouraged the churches to facilitate the overture process for making amendments to our current Church Order. Through committee reports, Synod also encouraged the local churches to publish their ecumenical interactions and practical expressions of church unity in bulletins and newsletters. Prior to the evening of the day, Synod

designated two hours of Tuesday evening as a specific time to hear various URCNA missionaries speak giving updates on their work.

In conclusion, Synod Wyoming was blessed by the grace and mercy of the Lord God in completing one day of profitable work and looks with confidence in the faithful Lord for the anticipated labors of the remaining days.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Greg Lubbers

Second Clerk of Synod Wyoming