

The United Reformed Churches in North America
Synod Wyoming 2016
Press Release #4 Friday, June 17, 2016

Final Day

Friday marked the final day of Synod Wyoming and began with much work awaiting the body's deliberation and decision. Numerous matters from former days needed to be finalized and there were weighty items that had not yet been dealt with on the docket.

Creeds and Forms

In connection with action taken previously within the week, Synod adopted an official text for the ecumenical creeds for inclusion in the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* and authorized "the printing of a stand-alone book suitable for use in catechetical instruction that includes the versions of the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed, the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort adopted for inclusion in the Trinity Psalter Hymnal." This book is to be a separate book in addition to that of the liturgical forms that Synod has previously authorized to be printed.

Appeals

One area that generated extensive discussion throughout the day was the matter of two personal appeals. One of these appeals dealt with a difference of opinion between an individual and his consistory on who may be admitted to the Lord's Supper within our churches. Synod carefully deliberated the procedure for processing these appeals, the content within the appeals, and the practices connected with this issue. After deliberation, Synod ruled the appeal out of order.

It was with most heavy heart and solemn spirit that Synod addressed the appeal of a brother who has been suspended and deposed from the office of Minister of the Word and Sacraments. Throughout the week, Synod's Advisory Committee worked diligently through the materials, presenting recommendations to the full body of Synod on Friday afternoon. In executive session, the body of Synod deliberated very extensively before determining to not sustain the appeal.

Membership Departure

Synod Wyoming also received a report from a study committee mandated by Synod Visalia 2014 to study and address the issue of members who seek to depart from our churches in irregular manners (ex. resignation). Synod gave pastoral advice to the consistories on how to

handle these issues, while also encouraging the consistories to submit future overtures for amending the Church Order in these areas if necessary.

Testimony Regarding Marriage

On Friday afternoon, Synod considered a testimony entitled “Appeal and Gospel Testimony to Governing Authorities.” While Synod was unified concerning the truth within the document regarding biblical marriage and human sexuality, there was discussion about what and how to speak to our decaying culture. After consideration, Synod determined the manner that was proposed within the presented document was not ideal to address these matters.

Closing Matters

Synod Wyoming set a tentative location and date for the next Synod in June 11-15, 2018 at Wheaton College in Illinois, with Oak Glen URC as the calling consistory, D.V. Before adjourning, the vice-chairman thanked the chairman for his wisdom, humility and graciousness in facilitating the work of Synod. Finally, the chairman gave words of thanks to various individuals who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to assist the meetings of Synod and issued words of encouragement to the weary delegates as they began their journey home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Greg Lubbers

Second Clerk of Synod Wyoming