

The United Reformed Churches in North America
Synod Niagara 2022
Press Release #1
Monday, October 17, 2022

Though delayed in God's providence for more than two years, the delegates to the 12th Synod of the United Reformed Churches in North America were blessed to gather in Buffalo, NY. There were joyful opportunities for renewed fellowship as the delegates began to arrive and shared a meal together at the Buffalo Convention Center.

The convening Consistory and many volunteers from the Wellandport United Reformed Church of Wellandport, Ontario, Canada had worked relentlessly in making arrangements, adjusting those arrangements, communicating with the churches, and finally organizing the details of the Synod that was originally scheduled to meet in June of 2020. The service and wisdom of the Stated Clerk, Rev. Ralph Pontier, was of great assistance to the convening Consistory.

A prayer service was held on Monday evening, which included prayers for the federation, for Synod Niagara, and for the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. Rev. Joel Dykstra of Wellandport URC gave a meditation on Psalm 96 and several songs of praise were offered by the delegates and visitors to the glorious LORD of the nations.

The Chairman *pro tem*, Rev. Joel Dykstra, called the meeting to order following the prayer service and led the assembly in opening devotions. The roll of the delegates was called, and all delegates stood to indicate their assent to the *Form of Subscription*. Synod Niagara was then declared constituted.

Fraternal delegates and other visitors were welcomed by the Chairman *pro tem*, and Synod proceeded to elect the officers who would serve for the week. Rev. Bradd Nymeyer was elected as Chairman, Rev. Mark Vander Pol as Vice-Chairman, Rev. Doug Barnes as First Clerk, and Rev. James Sinke as Second Clerk. Five churches had been provisionally received into the United Reformed Churches in North America and Synod joyfully ratified their reception, welcoming Cornerstone Christian Church of Medford, OR; Anchor of Hope Reformed Church of Silverdale, WA; Redeemer United Reformed Church of Anchorage, AK; Redemption Reformed Church of Chilliwack, BC; and Christ the Redeemer Reformed Church of Eureka, CA.

The provisional agenda, the advisory committee assignments, and the time schedule were adopted, and the newly elected officers were seated. After noting that it had been 1583 days since Synod Wheaton in 2018 had been adjourned, the Chairman expressed the gratitude of the delegates to the convening Consistory and the many volunteers. He encouraged the delegates to be diligent in their labors and requested their prayers for the officers, that God may be glorified through the work of the Synod. The Synod was then recessed until 8 A.M. on Tuesday.