

The United Reformed Churches in North America
Synod Niagara 2022
Press Release #5
Friday, October 21, 2022

To begin the final day of Synod Niagara's deliberations, Rev. Chris Gordon read Psalm 91, led in prayer, and called the Synod to sing TPH #91B.

Rev. Steve Vandavelde, a fraternal delegate from the Canadian and American Reformed Churches addressed the Synod and then the delegates entered upon the weighty business of the morning.

Two appeals were presented for adjudication by the Synod. Synod sustained the appeal of the Consistory of Covenant Reformed Church of Pella, IA against the decision of Classis Eastern US. To address an appeal brought by two individuals in the federation, Synod decided to withhold action so that the appeal can first be adjudicated by Classis Eastern US.

Rev. Richard Bout, the newly-appointed Foreign Missions Coordinator, reminded the delegates that the new missions prayer maps were available. The Chairman noted that Rev. Bout is both the first and the last Missions Coordinator of the URCNA because of his new appointment, and the assembly stood to express its gratitude to Rev. Bout for his years of counsel, service, and love for the work of missions in the URCNA.

Synod decided not to adopt two overtures that sought to add references within the Church Order to other Synodical decisions and resources. It also decided not to adopt an overture that sought to establish national synods in addition to a general (international) synod where delegates to a synod are chosen by each classis. Budgetary items were then reviewed and approved. The next Synod will be convened by the Consistory of the Escondido United Reformed Church in Escondido, CA on June 17-21, 2024.

The Chairman led the delegates in expressing gratitude to the convening Consistory and its organizing committee; to Mr. Leo Joewono, the accompanist for the week; to Rev. Ralph Pontier, the Stated Clerk of the URCNA; to the officers of Synod; to the chairman and reporters of the advisory committees; and to the delegates for their humble spirit and diligent work. The vice-Chairman then led the delegates in expressing gratitude to the Chairman, Rev. Bradd Nymeyer. The Chairman exhorted the delegates to remember how the Lord has heard and answered the many prayers offered on behalf of the Synod. He led the assembly in prayer and called for Synod to sing the Doxology. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!