

Supplementary Report of the Convening Consistory  
Synod Escondido, 2024

April-June 2024:

Review of Planning Sections

Facility room changes: the Council Room and the Fireside Room were determined to become breakout rooms; Cry Room will be for officers, and the Volunteers will be in Little Lambs room.

Due to increased number of delegates per breakout room, we will need to use smaller tables. Discussed rental vs. purchase cost. Authorized purchase option.

Finance: Reviewed budget vs. actual for posted entries; additional income due to increased registration covering additional expenses from increased registration. A few receipts were mislabeled as Synod expense but have been corrected.

Food: Caterer has adjusted for increased attendance 300. Already arranged with coffee service team that the Social Hall will not be available for coffee time on the Sunday prior to Synod

Hospitality: Schedule prepared for fraternal delegates needing transportation. Will be releasing unreserved hotel rooms soon. Volunteer drivers secured for spouse outing.

Operations: No issues reported with securing volunteer assistance. Young Peoples volunteered to help custodian set up and clean up tables and chairs.

Registration: Considered signage options for reminding drop-in guests that food is for registered attendees only. Working on printing nametags.

Tech: Roger: TVs were delivered, half have been installed. Discussed how best to communicate IT support availability to delegates. Zoom testing in the works (to be used for Missionary Night on Wednesday. All sessions will be livestreamed. Confirmed that all devotions will take place in the sanctuary. 4 mics on stage, 2 mics and stands at the front of two aisles. Discussed display of side monitors where song selections appear during services.

Other: Approved provisional agenda. Approved the devotional schedule presented by Rev. Gordon. Approved supplemental reports of convening consistory and stated clerk. Offered 15-minute time slot during Thursday lunch to Christopher Yuan to address the delegates regarding his Human Sexuality project. Offered 15-minute time slot during Wednesday lunch to Dr. Kortenhoeven (new president of Providence Christian College) to address the delegates. Musicians secured for meeting times.

Planned Actions: Site map to be updated and included in welcome materials. Signs made regarding no food or beverages in the sanctuary and about meals for registered attendees only.

Custodian consulted regarding purchase of seminar tables. Master schedule created for volunteer purposes.

Will use email correspondence for future matters and will schedule an in-person meeting only if needed.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Consistory of Escondido United Reformed Church,  
Chair of the Synod Planning Committee,  
Rev. Christopher Gordon

**Appendix**  
**Stated Clerk's Supplemental Report to Synod Escondido**

June 16, 2024

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

1. The Provisional Agenda was distributed to the churches on April 6, 2024, 10 weeks before synod and two weeks ahead of schedule. The advisory committee assignments were distributed to the churches and delegates on May 2, 2024, four and a half weeks ahead of schedule. A more effective use of a spread sheet greatly facilitated making the assignments compared with previous years.
2. Overture 2  
On March 6, 2024, I sent a note to all who write committee reports for the agenda, advising them on format and style. In addition, I alerted them to the existence of Overture 2 which requests that all synodical committees begin their reports to synod with a verbatim copy of their synodical mandate. All the committees voluntarily did what the overture asks even though the overture has not yet been acted on. However, one committee still does not (in my opinion) have a well-defined, synodically approved mandate.
3. After the advisory committees were announced, at the request of Treasurer Pam Hessels, and with consent of Elder Delegate Charlie Fluit (a member of the Canadian Corporation Board of Directors), Mr. Fluit was moved to Advisory Committee 2 Finance, to be a resource to them regarding BOD matters since Mrs. Hessels will not arrive until Wednesday.
4. On May 10, 2024, Rev. Charles Van Hoffen informed me that since Redeemer Reformation Church in Chilliwack, BC is planning to dissolve on June 16, he would not be attending synod as a delegate. He does hope to attend as a guest/observer. I have removed that church from the roll call and his name from Advisory Committee 3.

5. On June 4, 2024, I was informed that the designated alternate delegate, Elder Andy Cammenga, will replace Rev. Mark Stromberg for the URC of Lynden, WA. Elder Cammenga will also replace Rev. Stromberg on Advisory Committee 8.
6. On June 12, 2024, Elder Mike Menendez of Hudson Valley URC informed me that because of the tragic death of the pastor's son, no delegates would be coming from their church.
7. As of the date of this report, there are 122 organized churches (five of which are not sending any delegate) and 220 registered delegates (not including fraternal delegates and observers). There are 117 ministers registered and 103 elders planning to come. The numbers may yet change.
8. Agenda Errata
  - a. In compiling the agenda and creating a uniform format, part of the first page of the Webmaster's report was inadvertently deleted. A revised agenda, "Revision 1" was sent to all the churches and delegates on April 15 and posted on the website.
  - b. A few weeks later, it was discovered that the same thing happened to Overture 17 – a few lines were inadvertently deleted. A corrected Overture 17 was sent to all the churches and delegates on May 22, and a revised agenda, "Revision 2" was posted on the synod website on June 1 with a notice to all the churches and delegates. I attempted to send it by email but it failed, perhaps because of size limits.
9. Revision 2 of the Agenda

For ease of navigation, Revision 2 of the agenda has internal links between the table of contents and the titles of the reports and overtures. Click on any report or overture in the table of contents and you are taken to the first page of that item. Click on the title of any report or overture and you are taken back to the table of contents where that item is listed. Thanks go to Rev. Nick Smith for alerting me to the existence of such a feature and motivating me to learn how to do it.
10. Copies of Old Acts of Synod

An item that should have been in my first report but was forgotten: The secretary of the Bethel URC, Calgary, AB informed me that she found 4 full boxes of extra Acts of Synod: 3 boxes of the first edition of our Acts of Synod (containing 3 synods in one volume – 1996/1997/1999), 1 box of the 2001 synod, as well as 4 single books from 2007. We determined that they belong to the federation and are left over from Mr. Bill Konynenbelt's time as Stated Clerk since he was based in Calgary. Perhaps they could be sold, inexpensively, to synod attendees if Calgary should host a future synod or sold to anyone willing to cover the cost of shipping.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ralph A. Pontier  
Stated Clerk