

UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA
SYNOD ESCONDIDO 2024
PRESS RELEASE – MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

Scripture, prayer, singing, and warm fellowship marked the start of the 13th Synod of the United Reformed Churches in North America.

Convening on Monday evening, June 17, delegates gathered at the Escondido United Reformed Church in Escondido California.

Prior to the official start of Synod Escondido, Rev. Chris Gordon led delegates and guests in a prayer service that included the reading of Scripture, the singing of several Psalms and hymns, and corporate prayer for the work of Synod. Rev. Gordon offered encouragement to the brothers by preaching on Hebrews 10:32-39.

Following the prayer service, Rev. Gordon called the assembly to order on behalf of the Consistory of Escondido URC, which served as the Convening Consistory for Synod. He was ably assisted in these opening exercises by the URCNA Stated Clerk, Rev. Ralph Pontier.

Following opening devotions, a roll call of delegates, and the affirmation by synodical delegates of their commitment to the Reformed confessions, the assembly addressed several important preliminary matters. These included the adoption of the provisional agenda, approval of advisory committee assignments, and the adoption of the proposed time schedule.

To lead the assembly, delegates elected Rev. Bradd Nymeyer (First Chino URC in Chino, CA) as Chairman; Rev. John Bouwers (Hope Reformed Church in Brampton, ON) as Vice Chairman; Rev. James Sinke (Bethel URC in Woodstock, ON) as First Clerk; and Rev. Doug Barnes (Grace URC in Alto, MI) as Second Clerk.

After the officers were seated, the Chairman expressed appreciation for the leadership of Rev. Gordon as Chairman *pro tem* and offered instruction and encouragement for the delegates as they prepared to get some rest prior to tackling the work of the churches in the week ahead. He urged delegates and guests alike to pray fervently for God's blessing upon the chairmen and reporters of Synod's advisory committees, the executive committee, and the delegates.

The assembly was recessed after a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession, acknowledging the sovereign care of our gracious God, whom this assembly of the churches will strive to serve.