

## **Summary of 2022 PRCA Synod - Day 1 (June 14, 2022)**

On Monday evening the pre-synodical service was held at Zion Protestant Reformed Church. Rev. Rodney Kleyn, the president of synod 2021, led the worship service. In the congregational prayer He beseeched our heavenly Father for His blessing upon all of the work that synod will take up in the coming days. He preached an appropriate and convicting sermon on 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 under the theme "The Priority of Love."

The 2022 Synod of the PRC officially convened at Zion Protestant Reformed Church at 8:00 AM Tuesday morning. The meeting began with devotions, the delegates of Synod singing Psalter 134 and Rev. Kleyn reading Psalm 48 and opening with prayer. It is appropriate to note what Article 32 of our Church Order says: "The proceedings of all assemblies shall begin by calling upon the name of God and be closed with thanksgiving." The sessions of synod today and throughout the week will be filled with the delegates consciously seeking God for His wisdom and strength to carry out the work faithfully, with thanksgiving, to the glory of His name.

The first order of business was to accept the credentials of Classis East and Classis West. The delegates from Classis West are Keith Bruinsma (Peace PRC), Loren Gritters (Hull PRC), Chester Hunter (Edgerton PRC), Peter Smit (Hope PRC, Redlands), Phil VanBaren (Crete PRC), Rev. Ryan Barnhill (Heritage PRC), Rev. Allen Brummel (Calvary PRC), Rev. Josh Engelsma (Crete PRC), Rev. Steve Key (Loveland PRC) and Rev. Jim Lanning (Hull PRC). The delegates from Classis East are Mike Gritters (Zion PRC), Jim Lanting (Cornerstone PRC), Sid Miedema (Unity PRC), John VanBaren (Hudsonville PRC), Dan VanUffelen (Hope PRC, GR), Rev. Nathan Decker (Grandville PRC), Prof. Russ Dykstra (Byron Center PRC), Rev. Garry Eriks (Unity PRC), Rev. Rodney Kleyn (First PRC, GR) and Rev. Bill Langerak (Trinity PRC).

With Synod officially constituted, the election of offices took place with the following results: President, Rev. Key; Vice-President, Prof. Dykstra; First Clerk, Rev. Engelsma; Second Clerk, Rev. Decker.

According to the rules of synod the faculty of the seminary (Prof. Cammenga, Prof. Griess, Prof. Gritters, Prof. Huizinga, and Prof. Kuiper) were seated and given advisory vote. Synod took the decision also to seat and give advisory vote to both Rev. Vernon Ibe from the Protestant Reformed Church in the Philippines and Elder Wee Ghem Theng from the Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church in Singapore.

As they do at the beginning of every meeting of synod, the delegate stood and gave assent to the Public Declaration of Agreement with the Forms of Unity, which was read by Rev. Key. If any are interested, this declaration can be found in the little green Church Order book.

The president appointed the Committee on Committees tasked with dividing the work of synod into five committees. A picture of their report (along with other pictures) as adopted can be found under the news tab of our denominational website.

The highlight of the morning was listening to the specimen sermon of Mr. Marcus Wee. Mr. Wee preached on Jeremiah 33:15,16 under the theme "The Branch of Righteousness," an edifying sermon delivered with conviction. Synod adopted the report of the sermon critics to approve Mr. Wee's sermon and proceed to his oral examination, which will begin Wednesday morning. Mr. Wee will be examined in the six loci of dogmatics, knowledge of Scripture, knowledge of the confessions, church history, church polity, and practica. These parts of the exam are open to the public and will also be live-streamed through Zion PRC's website, in part for the benefit of his family, friends, and fellow saints in Singapore.

Synod recessed for the day around 11:00 AM to allow the pre-advice committees to do their work, and will begin again Wednesday morning at 8:00 AM.

Psalm 48:18, "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

In Christ's service  
Rev. N. Decker  
Second Clerk of Synod 2022