

## ARTICLE 20

Synod recesses at 7:57 p.m. Rev. Andrew T. Hanson (California South) leads in closing prayer. Synod will reconvene on Monday, June 17, 2019, at 8:15 a.m.

## MONDAY MORNING, June 17, 2019 Fourth Session

### ARTICLE 21

The synod praise team welcomes delegates to worship by singing "You Know My Name" and "I Am Not My Own."

Mr. Caleb N. Dickson leads in the call to worship, greeting, and singing of "Father, Long before Creation." Rev. Lora A. Copley leads in a responsive confession and assurance followed by singing "I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew" and "You Know My Name."

Mr. Dickson reads Ephesians 1:3-6, emphasizing the "A" of *FAITH* and our being "Adopted by God." Mr. Dickson and Rev. Copley share a story about a young Korean girl, a war orphan who had been abandoned and was found by a Korean Christian woman, who heard the Spirit of God saying to her, "She's mine." The woman brought the child to an orphanage, and she was eventually adopted into a loving missionary family. Her name is Stephanie Fast, and today she has taken on the mission of fighting for "the 150 million war orphans throughout our world." This child adopted by God reminds us that we too are all adopted by God and called to be his children, as the Canons explain. Everything that we receive is from God, and we need to give all praise and glory to him. Our work at synod is not so much about us and what we say. The most important voice on the floor of synod is God's voice. We do all for the glory of God.

Pastor K. Gary Foster leads in closing prayer, and Rev. Copley and Mr. Dickson give the blessing. Worship concludes with singing "We Are Called."

The roll call indicates that all eligible delegates are present. The clerks announce that Ms. Elaine Smith (Chatham) is not able to attend and participate at synod.

### ARTICLE 22

Advisory Committee 9, Study Committees/Task Forces, Rev. Greg Janke reporting, presents the following:

#### **I. Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality**

A. *Materials*: Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality Report, including Appendix, pp. 403-44

#### *B. Recommendation*

1. That synod receive as information the interim report of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality.

—*Adopted*

2. That synod, in receiving the report, recognize that this is an *interim* report and therefore, by definition, unfinished. Please take special note of section IV within the report (*Agenda for Synod 2019*, p. 437), which lays out the committee's future plans.

— *Adopted*

3. That members of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality be given the privilege of the floor to present the interim report to synod, and to lead a 90-minute table discussion in order to receive feedback from synod.

— *Adopted*

## II. Response to Overture 24: Commend the Great Lakes Catechism on Marriage and Sexuality to the Classes and Churches for Reflection and Study

### A. *Materials*: Overture 24, Agenda Supplement

### B. *Recommendation*

That synod not accede to Overture 24.

#### *Grounds*:

1. Although the Great Lakes Catechism on Marriage and Sexuality is a valuable document, it is premature to commend it to the churches prior to the completion of the work of the current synodical Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality.
2. The interim report from the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality provides a valuable resource to the churches and already encourages study of the Great Lakes Catechism on Marriage and Sexuality.

— *Adopted*

(The report of Advisory Committee 9 is continued in Article 58.)

## ARTICLE 23

Advisory Committee 2, Church Order and Appeals, Rev. Chelsey L. Harmon reporting, presents the following:

### I. Council of Delegates

A. *Materials*: Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 9, 13, b-c, including Appendices B, D-E), pp. 31-32, 34-35, 59-72

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Rev. Paul R. De Vries, chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Andy de Ruyter, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed

### C. *Recommendations*

1. That synod adopt the following modification to Church Order Supplement, Article 30-c, Section 8, b, in response to the instruction by Synod 2018, as indicated in **bold text** (II, A, 13, b):