



The Fifth General Assembly of the World Reformed Fellowship Full Meeting Schedule

[Details about speakers, registration forms, and other information available at <https://wrf.global/assembly>]

Thursday, August 8

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **OLD** WRF Board Meeting

On the original schedule, this was from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon but nothing was scheduled for this afternoon and it is possible that some Board members might not arrive until this morning.

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Official General Assembly Registration

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Presentation: Rob Norris and Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong Message:

The Cultural Mandate: The Church as the Moral Compass of Society

Friday, August 9

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Ligon Duncan Plenary Presentation:

Combating Biblical Anemia: Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Kathleen Nielson Plenary Presentation:

Wisdom Calling: How Her Voice Speaks into the Church Today

The voice of wisdom in Proverbs is living and active—and needed among believers today. Never before have so many voices had continual access to our minds and hearts. How does wisdom’s voice stand out? How does biblical wisdom light up the life-and-death issues at stake? Most important, how does wisdom point us to Jesus, the One “who became to us wisdom from God” (1 Cor 1:30)?

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Seminars

Kathleen Nielson:

Bible Study among Women: What Kind of a Thing Is This?

A group of women gathers for “Bible Study” . . . Why? What are we after? What benefits can grow for women and for the church? What is the relationship between such study and overall church ministry? What issues and challenges might arise? We’ll consider such questions, acknowledging the increasing importance of biblical answers in a world full of questions about identities and roles of women and men.

Peter Jones:

A God-Honoring View of Sexuality

This seminar will show how the love of God requires a view of sexual distinctions in order to honor the nature of the image of God in human beings and to honor God in his own being. According to Jesus, love of the neighbor is important but love of God is first (Matt 22:37-39).

Tandean Rustandy:

Doing Business in an Indonesian Context: A Christian Perspective

“Mission Impossible.” That is the thought that might occur to most Indonesians as they attempt to integrate Christian values into their business. In the midst of a corrupted system and culture that often normalizes greediness and selfishness, how could one hope to build their business with Christian integrity? In this session, through his commitment to Reformed theology, expertise in commerce, and experience in facing the challenges of building a successful Indonesian company, Tandean will share a business model that is not only faithful to God, but becomes blessings to others as well.

Andrew McGowan and Pierre Berthoud:

Responding to the Spiritual Condition of Europe

How should European Christians engage in witness, evangelism and apologetics in the midst of a broken culture that is severed from its Christian roots? Most Europeans have abandoned Christianity. Indeed, even Humanism has been abandoned by many. Scepticism as to the meaning of life, the significance of truth and the possibility of adopting moral/ethical standards prevails. Within this ultra-modern, multi-religious and multi-cultural environment, ‘everyone does what is right in his own eyes’. How should we respond?

Part One: Challenge to the Culture (Pierre Berthoud)

How did Europe become what it is today, intellectually and

spiritually?

What are the prevailing worldviews which drive the current anti-Christian bias?

How can we facilitate spiritual and intellectual transformation?

How can we show the relevance of divine truth for every aspect of life and culture?

Part Two: Challenge to the Church (Andrew McGowan)

Why have many European Christians lost confidence in God's Word?

Why do Christians so easily capitulate to the consensus of opinion within society?

Has the disunity of the church and the failure to speak with one voice been a factor?

How should Reformed Christians respond to the situation?

Sam Logan:

"The Good Name: Words That Hurt and Words That Heal"

This seminar will explore what a wide variety of Christian Catechisms have said about the Ninth Commandment's teaching regarding "the good names" of our Christian neighbors and how we must avoid disparaging "the good name" of Him whose name we share with them, especially when disagreeing with those neighbors about such important topics as abortion.

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Satellite activities

1. Tour of Universitas Pelita Harapan (www.uph.edu), Sekolah Pelita Harapan (www.sph.edu), and Siloam Hospital (www.siloamhospitals.com)

Arranged by Ric Cannada, WRF Board Member and Senior Advisor to UPH and SPH

We will leave the WRF GA for UPH/SPH/Siloam by 12:45 PM after lunch at GRIL. We will return to the WRF GA by 6:30 PM for dinner before the worship at 7:30 PM. There is no charge but we do need reservations in order to arrange for the transportation.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN July 1, 2019, BY COMMUNICATING WITH WRF BOARD MEMBER DR. RIC CANNADA AT RCANNADA@RTS.EDU

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Free time.

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Worship and Peter Jensen Plenary Presentation:

Shaping the Heart for Ministry: Getting Theological Education Right

While the need for appropriate theological education of pastors has never been greater world-wide, the challenges - from funding to technology - have rarely been as formidable. What is the essence of the matter? Are there principles which give guidance across the different cultures and institutions?

Saturday, August 10

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Ligon Duncan Plenary Presentation:

Combating Biblical Anemia: Preaching (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Peter Jones Plenary Presentation:

“The Big Picture: A Global Message for the Global Challenge”

This lecture will seek to show the fundamental difference between the biblical worldview and the essential commonalities between the other religious worldviews that appear to be many but ultimately are variations on just one theme. It seeks to promote a common witness among all those associated with WRF to strengthen our corporate witness.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Seminars

Mauro Meister, Ric Cannada, and Ben Intan:

“Anemia in Academia: The Need for ‘Full-Blooded’ Theological Education”

Among other problems, contemporary theological education faces the following:

- the lack of Biblical knowledge for students entering seminary and the challenge of filling that illiteracy gap during seminary with more complete Bible content.
- the lack of practical ministry experience in the church for students entering seminary and the need during seminary for more classroom instruction in pastoral ministry as well as for more practical ministry experience outside the classroom.
- a lack of confessional awareness for students beginning theological studies and the challenge of teaching them robust confessional doctrine coming from a culture that resists “doctrine”.
- the matter of seminaries drastically shortening the number of required credit hours for theological programs (Master of Divinity or Bachelors of Theology) and the

challenge to other seminaries in enrollment and finances who want to maintain a robust theological curriculum.

- the lack of contact of sending churches/presbyteries with their students during seminary time increasing the problem of discipleship and relationship with local circumstances.

Basuki T. Purnama (Ahok)

The Significant Role of Christians in Indonesian Politics

Who should be involved in Politics? Considering the fact that Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world, and its history of racial discrimination toward the minority such as Chinese descendants, an Indonesian would be tempted to answer: “Not a Christian, and definitely not a Chinese Christian.” Ahok is a Chinese Reformed Christian, who was elected as the Governor of Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia. Despite of his hard work and positive contributions, he was sentenced to two years of prison for the charge of blasphemy. This, however, does not prove the answer to the question earlier is correct. Regardless of the price he needed to pay, Ahok will speak of why Christians involvement in Indonesian Politics is not only desirable, but also crucial.

John McClean and Jack Whytock

Global Challenges Facing Christianity

Part One: Will provide an overview and framework for Culturally Rooted Challenges facing the Christian community today (John McClean)

Part Two: Will deal specifically with a case study of the Health and Wealth or Prosperity “Gospel” (Jack Whytock)

Susan Logan:

“Women in the Word: A Ministry of The WRF”

Martin Luther said, “The true treasure of the church is the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God.” Treasure hunting in God’s Word can be a delight! It is also hard work. Learn how women can, in a workshop format, practice reading Scripture contextually, heighten their awareness of the “Big Picture” of God’s redemptive plan, and ground implications and worship in what God reveals about Himself in the text. The Word is worth the work and the Author is worthy of our worship!

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. WRF General Assembly Business Meeting

[There was no General Assembly Business Meeting on the original schedule]

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Sacred Concert

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Worship and Richard Pratt Plenary Presentation:

“Engaging the World without Becoming like the World” (Proverbs 26: 4,5)

To be Christ's faithful witness to the world today, the Reformed Church faces two temptations. All too often, we either fail to engage the false religions and philosophies that surround us or we engage them in ways that lead to our own corruption. Is it possible to minister to the world and remain faithful to Christ? The wisdom of Proverbs provides crucial guidance as we face these questions.

Sunday, August 11:

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Ligon Duncan Plenary Presentation:

“Combating Biblical Anemia: Discipleship” (Matthew 28:16-20)

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Worship at GRII

Stephen Tong’s Message:

The Gospel Mandate: A Blessing for ALL Nations

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Satellite activities (yet to be scheduled)

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Free Time

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Worship and Richard Pratt Plenary Presentation:

“Good News When the Church Fails” (Isaiah 52: 3-10)

What expectations should we have as we see the Reformed Church struggle where it once was strong? Is there any Good News? The words of Isaiah to Israel help us grasp not only what has happened. They also provide us with wondrous expectations for the future.

Monday, August 12:

8:30 – 9:45 Ligon Duncan Plenary Presentation:

“Combating Biblical Anemia: Worship” (John 4:1-26)

9:45 – 10:00 Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Closing Worship Service

Dr. Davi Charles Gomes and Dr. Robert Norris:

“The Apostolic Warning” (Acts 20)

12:00 noon – 1:00 Lunch

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. NEW WRF Board Meeting