OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

The delegates gathered in The Pavilion at The Westin La Paloma for an opening worship celebration. The service began at 7:30 p.m.

The service was led by: the Rev. EJ de Waard, the Rev. Eddy Alemán, Lynne Stenberg, the Rev. Gary Hegstad, Kathy de Waard, Sebastian Gimenez, Ben Keller, and the Rev. Art Van Slageren

The word was preached by the Rev. EJ de Waard, President of General Synod. The sacrament of communion was shared with the President, the Rev. Eddy Alemán, general secretary, and Lynne Stenberg, regular delegate from Classis of Montgomery, serving as co-celebrants.

An offering was received, and will be distributed in equal shares to three ministries designated by the General Synod president – one in a Canadian context, one in a United States context, and one in a global context. The three ministries are Joy Hamilton in Hamilton, Ontario (a new church planting project in the Classis of Ontario), Highbridge Community Church in the Bronx, New York City, New York (a local church that has had a continuing ministry in the Highbridge section of the Bronx since 1860), and Anchor Church in Vulcan, Romania (a new church plant that has grown out of a climbing gym ministry run by RCA missionaries Felipe and Janelle deWaard-Silva in the Dallas neighborhood of Vulcan).

General Synod recessed at 8:46 p.m. following a closing prayer by the Rev. Gary Hegstad.