GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2026 Journal of Actions
Meeting 10
Monday afternoon - June 15, 2026
Hermitage Ballroom

CALL TO ORDER

The president called to order the tenth meeting of the General Synod at 1:36 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026. The Rev. Jebasingh Jebamony, regular delegate from the Classis of Chicago, offered prayer.

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video highlighting the work of Rev. Deb Rensink, pastor at Shop Church, in Sioux Center, Iowa.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CA 26-1

The president called upon the vice president, along with members of the small committee appointed in connection with the postponement of CA 26-1, to present the work of the committee (Report on Postponed CA 26-1, supplemental report, p. 1). The vice president addressed the Synod.

CA 26-1 (substitute) was presented to the house. It reads as follows:

> We, the delegates to the 219th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, acknowledge the truth that every person is made in the image of God (Genesis 1). We are called and commanded to love the stranger (Deuteronomy 10) and show hospitality to foreigners and prisoners (Hebrews 13). Therefore, we denounce the immigration policies of any government that treats people as less than human.
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> As followers of Jesus Christ, we cannot remain silent when the U.S. government:
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> - utilizes racial profiling,
> - detains without proper judicial warrants,
> - arrests and deports without due process,
> - practices cruel and inhumane treatment (including, but not limited to, deprivation of adequate food, sanitary facilities, and medical care),
> - subjects anyone to physical, emotional, or mental assault,
> - separates children from families,
> - engages in third country deportations,

- operates mass detention centers,
- and transfers individuals as a means of inhibiting legal counsel and preventing family contact.

We confess and lament our role in supporting such a system and recognize any and all such actions as sin. "The church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged…. in following Christ, the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others" (Belhar, Art. 4).

Reason
This reflects:

- our commitment not just to speaking, but living into the priorities of Rev. 7:9.
- the biblical call to justice and care for the "least of these."
- the priority of following Christ into difficult places, as described by the Belhar Confession.
- well-known and unquestionable situations of injustice currently happening in the United States.
- the urgency that the RCA speak loudly and clearly at "such a time as this."

A motion was made and supported from the floor to substitute the foregoing in place of CA 26-1 as originally submitted.

VOTED: To substitute CA 26-1 (yes 157; no 5).

CA 26-1 (substitute) was before the house.

VOTED: To adopt CA 26-1 (substitute) (yes 151; no 7).

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION, CONTINUED

The president called upon Janet Paduano Cardillo, corresponding delegate from the Commission on Christian Action, to continue its report (GS Workbook pp. 146-156), and the Rev. Christopher Poest, moderator of the advisory committee on Overtures and New Business, to present the advisory committee's advice regarding recommendations in the report. Ms. Cardillo addressed the Synod.

CA 26-3 was presented to the house (GS Workbook p. 152).

The president called upon Rev. Poest to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the advisory committee was to vote against CA 26-3 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business,

p. 3) for the following reasons:

Reasons:
1. The committee believes that a letter from the general secretary would be better directed to the U.S. and Canadian heads of state.
2. The committee acknowledges that there are a diversity of opinions and perspectives in the RCA in regard to this very challenging issue.
3. Discernment and dialogue are needed before taking action on a significant decision such as divestment.
4. The committee believes there are ways to intentionally care for and support our Palestinian siblings in Christ, and would like to see that reflected in a recommendation of this nature.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend CA 26-3 as follows (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

To instruct the general secretary to write to Prime Minister Netanyahu, expressing our concerns about expansionism and the lack of equal treatment for Palestinians and urging him to adhere to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 and withdraw from the seized land; and further,

To call upon every member of the Reformed Church in America to contact their ~~senators and representatives to demand that funding for Israel be stopped~~ elected officials to urge their governments to enact a full arms embargo on Israel until ~~Israel stops its expansionism;~~ the United Nations determines the following conditions are met:
(a) the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territory has ended,
(b) Israel's apartheid policies are abolished,
(c) Israel's illegal separation barrier is demolished, and
(d) Palestinian refugees are granted the right to return to their homeland.

To instruct the General Synod Council to analyze the General investments in ~~Israeli companies,~~ companies that are involved in supporting and enforcing the occupation/war in Gaza and if so, to begin a plan of divestment from those companies.

To commend for study and discussion the document recently authored by Christian Palestinian leaders, *Kairos Palestine II: A Moment of Truth after Genocide* and the study guide, available as a free digital download developed for congregations.

To reaffirm the Reformed Church in America's commitment to the work of antiracism, including working to combat antisemitism and islamophobia, but to reject attempts to conflate antisemitism with criticism of the government of Israel.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to cease debate.

VOTED: To cease debate (yes 140; no 23).

VOTED: To reject the amendment to CA 26-3 (yes 56; no 110).

CA 26-3 in its original form was again before the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend CA 26-3 as follows (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

To instruct the general secretary to write to Prime Minister Netanyahu, expressing our concerns about expansionism and the lack of equal treatment for Palestinians and urging him to adhere to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 and withdraw from the seized land; and further,

To call upon every member of the Reformed Church in America to contact their senators and representatives to demand that funding for Israel be stopped until Israel stops its expansionism; and further,

To instruct the General Synod Council Office of Finance to study potential divestment strategies and policies and to analyze existing fixed income and equity investment exposure to Israeli-domiciled companies, in collaboration with GSC's Investment Committee and with its investment advisors and managers; and further, ~~the General Synod's finances to determine whether the General Synod has investments in Israeli companies, and if so, to begin a plan of divestment from those companies.~~

To limit the scope of this study and analysis to investments held by the GSC's Perpetual Endowment Fund; and further,

To direct the GSC Office of Finance to report back to General Synod 2027 on its findings.

VOTED: To amend CA 26-3 (yes 117; no 46).

VOTED: To adopt CA 26-3 as amended (yes 107; no 57).

CA 26-4 was presented to the house (GS Workbook pp. 153-154).

The president called upon Rev. Poest to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the advisory committee was to amend CA 26-4 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business, p. 4) as follows (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

> To instruct the general secretary to ~~establish a unified~~ ensure that our Disability Concerns ministry ~~consisting of two coordinated branches~~ includes both ~~M~~mental ~~H~~health ~~M~~ministry and ~~A~~accessibility and ~~M~~mobility ~~M~~ministry to ensure that every person, regardless of mental, emotional, physical, sensory, or cognitive ability, can fully participate in the worship, fellowship, leadership, and mission of the church.
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> Reasons:
> 1. We already have a Disability Concerns ministry, so we do not need to establish a new one.
> 2. The committee does not wish to prescribe structural specifics, but trusts the creativity of the general secretary to ensure it fits within the context of the mission and vision while still addressing the need.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to cease debate.

VOTED: To cease debate (yes 155; no 5).

VOTED: To amend CA 26-4 (yes 142; no 20).

VOTED: To adopt CA 26-4 as amended (yes 148; no 13).

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video highlighting the work of Interfaith-RISE at the Reformed Church of Highland Park, in Highland Park, New Jersey.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION, CONTINUED

The president called upon Janet Paduano Cardillo, corresponding delegate from the Commission on Christian Action, to continue its report (GS Workbook pp. 146-156), and the Rev. Christopher Poest, moderator of the advisory committee on Overtures and New Business, to present the advisory committee's advice regarding recommendations in the report. Ms. Cardillo addressed the Synod.

CA 26-5 was presented to the house (GS Workbook p. 154).

The president called upon Rev. Poest to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the advisory committee was to vote against CA 26-5 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business, p. 4) for the following reasons:

> Reasons:
> 1. The committee was made aware of a newly developing partnership with Western Theological Seminary around disability ministry, and would like to allow time for this partnership to be explored. What other creative partnerships exist within our current resources?
> 2. The committee is not comfortable recommending a permanent covenant shares increase from 2.5% to 2.8%, particularly when other partnership and consulting options have not been fully explored.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend CA 26-5 as follows (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

> To instruct the general secretary to explore the creation of a Commission on Disability ~~appoint or designate leadership~~ for both the mental health ministry and the and the Accessibility and Mobility Ministry~~, ensuring that these leaders work collaboratively under the oversight of the overarching disability concerns ministry~~. This ~~leadership~~ Commission will be responsible for developing resources, training, and support systems that equip congregations in both mental health inclusion and universal accessibility~~. and will report regularly to the coordinator for Disability Concerns to ensure coordination, alignment, and shared ministry goals;~~ and further,
>
> To ~~approve the 0.3% covenant shares increase needed to fund this proposal.~~assess the financial implications of creating this Commission.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to further amend the amendment to CA 26-5 as follows (additions are double underlined, deletions are double stricken):

> To instruct the general secretary to explore the creation of an Advisory Committee~~Commission~~ on Disability ~~appoint or designate leadership~~ for both the mental health ministry and the and the Accessibility and Mobility Ministry,~~ ensuring that these leaders work collaboratively under the oversight of the overarching~~

~~disability concerns ministry.~~ This ~~leadership~~ ~~Commission~~ Committee will be responsible for developing resources, training, and support systems that equip congregations in both mental health inclusion and universal accessibility~~. and will report regularly to the coordinator for Disability Concerns to ensure coordination, alignment, and shared ministry goals~~; and further,

To ~~approve the 0.3% covenant shares increase needed to fund this proposal.~~assess the financial implications of creating this ~~commission~~Committee.

VOTED: To reject the amendment to the amendment to CA 26-5 (yes 21; no 140).

The amendment to CA 26-5 was again before the house.

VOTED: To amend CA 26-5 (yes 114; no 51).

A motion was made and supported from the floor to further amend CA 26-5 as follows (addition is underlined, deletion is stricken):

To instruct the ~~general secretary~~General Synod Council to explore the creation of a Commission on Disability for both the mental health ministry and the and the Accessibility and Mobility Ministry. This Commission will be responsible for developing resources, training, and support systems that equip congregations in both mental health inclusion and universal accessibility, and further,

To assess the financial implications of creating this commission.

VOTED: To adopt the further amendment to CA 26-5 (yes 159; no 7).

VOTED: To adopt CA 26-5 as twice amended (yes 146; no 20).

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president invited the Rev. Joshua Scheid, member of the Commission on Nominations, and the following vice-presidential candidates to the platform:

- Mr. Cal Brouwer, regular delegate from the Classis of Minnesota
- Rev. Kristen Brouwer, regular delegate from the Classis of East Sioux
- Rev. Marisol Ferrer Malloy, regular delegate from the Classis of Delaware-Raritan

- Rev. Edie Lenz, regular delegate from the Classis of Chicago
- Rev. Al Plat, regular delegate from the Classis of the Canadian Prairies
- Rev. Grace Rim, regular delegate from the Classis of Rockland-Westchester
- Rev. Jael Serrano-Altamirano, regular delegate from the Classis of the Americas

Rev. Scheid introduced each candidate. Each candidate addressed the Synod.

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 4:44 p.m., following a closing prayer by Alissa Ferreira, corresponding youth delegate from the Regional Synod of Canada.