GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2026 Journal of Actions
Meeting 11
Monday evening - June 15, 2026
Hermitage Ballroom

CALL TO ORDER

The Rev. Sarah Palsma, General Synod president, called to order the eleventh meeting of the General Synod at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026. The Rev. Dr. Armando Vera, regular delegate from the International Classis of Texas offered prayer.

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video highlighting the "why" behind the work that is done in the RCA. The video featured Rev. Blaine Newhouse, from the National Evangelical Church of Bahrain, English Language Congregation.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president announced that vice presidential nominee, Rev. Edie Lenz, is not eligible to serve due to the fact that an employee of a Regional Synod may not hold membership on the General Synod Council (BCO Ch. 3, Pt. I, Art. 3, Sec. 3).

The president called upon the general secretary to review the process for electing the vice president of General Synod (GS Workbook, pp. 33-34). The delegates cast an electing ballot.

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 26-6 was presented to the house (GS Workbook p. 155).

The advice of the advisory committee was to vote in favor CA 26-6.

VOTED: To adopt CA 26-6

(yes 152, no 12).

CA 26-7 was presented to the house (GS Workbook p. 156)

The advice of the advisory committee was to vote against CA 26-7 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business, p. 3) for the following reason:

> The existence of CA 26-6 suggests to the committee that the administration of the Access for All Fund needs to be further developed before promotion begins. How will funds be acquired and disbursed? Who will oversee the process? etc.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend CA 26-7 as follows:

> CA 26-7
> To instruct the general secretary to issue a denomination-wide communication ~~in the coming year~~ by General Synod 2027 to all middle assemblies and congregations, clearly explaining the purpose, urgency, and vision of the Access for All Fund, and encouraging middle assemblies and congregations to engage with and promote the accessibility and inclusion
>
> **VOTED:** To reject amendment to CA 26-7 (GS Workbook p. 155)
> (yes 74, no 92).
>
> **VOTED:** To reject CA 26-7 as originally presented (GS Workbook p. 155)
> (yes 62, no 105).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

The president called upon the Rev. Joshua Scheid, moderator of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to continue its report, and Rev. Susan Converse, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to present the advice of the advisory committee regarding recommendations in the report (GS Workbook pp. 42-56). Rev. Scheid addressed the Synod.

Rev. Scheid began by giving an update, as requested, on ONB 26-1 regarding the GSC's work toward re-examining the scope of General Synod work.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president announced that no vice-presidential candidate was elected as a result of the first ballots cast, and therefore the Synod will proceed to a second election ballot with the nominees being, Rev. Dr. Kristin Brouwer and Rev. Al Plat. The delegates cast a second electing ballot.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

The president again called upon the Rev. Joshua Scheid, moderator of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to resume its report, and Rev. Susan Converse, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to present the advice of the advisory committee regarding recommendations in the report (GS Workbook pp. 42-56). Rev. Scheid addressed the Synod.

EC 26-8 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-8 (GS Workbook p. 45) (yes 157, no 6).

EC 26-9 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-9 (GS Workbook p. 49) (yes 157, no 10).

EC 26-10 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-10 (GS Workbook p. 49) (yes 154, no 8).

EC 26-11 was presented to the house.

The advice of the advisory committee was to vote in favor EC 26-11.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-11 (GS Workbook p. 52) (yes 163, no 3).

EC 26-12 was presented to the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend EC 26-12 as follows:

> The complete list of middle assemblies formed as of December 31, 2026, shall be randomly sorted, using either an independent technological tool or a transparent process of drawing lots. <u>The list will be reviewed by the officers of the General Synod to assure the equitable rotation reflects a balance across the RCA.</u>

VOTED: To amend EC 26-12 (GS Workbook p. 52-53)
(yes 148, no 19).

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-12 as amended (GS Workbook p. 52-53)
(yes 146, no 21).

RF 26-7 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt RF 26-7 (GS Workbook p. 101)
(yes 155, no 8).

RF 26-8 was presented to the house.

The advice of the advisory committee was to vote in favor of RF 26-8.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend RF 26-8 by increasing the number of ecumenical members from one to two on both the Commission on Christian Action and the Commission on Theology.

VOTED: To reject the amendment as presented
(yes 32, no 133).

VOTED: To adopt RF 26-8 (GS Workbook p. 101)
(yes 166, no 4).

CHURCH ORDER EDITORIAL REPORT

The president invited Rev. Chris Jacobsen, moderator of the Commission on Church Order, to give its editorial report. Rev. Jacobsen announced that there were no editorial changes to report to the General Synod.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

The president called upon the Rev. Joshua Scheid, moderator of the General Synod Council, to conclude its report.

Rev. Scheid addressed the Synod regarding RCA ministers of Word and sacrament who retired from active service in 2025.

EC 26-14 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-14 (GS Workbook pp. 106-108) (voice vote).

Gratitude was expressed for the leaders, volunteers, staff who made the 2026 General Synod possible.

NECROLOGY

The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Katlyn DeVries, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Commission on History, and the Rev. Dr. James Brumm, corresponding delegate from and moderator of the Commission on Theology, to present the 2025 Necrology (GS Workbook, p. 109). Rev. Dr. DeVries and Rev. Dr. Brumm addressed the Synod.

ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL SYNOD, CONTINUED

The president declared Rev. Dr. Kristin Brouwer the newly elected vice president and invited her to the platform. Rev. Dr. Brouwer addressed the Synod. The president invited past General Synod presidents to the platform. The president offered prayer.

PRESENTATION OF BELL

The president presented a General Synod bell to the president-elect.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

The president declared the meeting of the 219th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America adjourned following the closing worship service (including installation of officers and communion) on Tuesday morning (June 16, 2026).

A motion was made and supported to adjourn following closing worship.

VOTED: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

A closing prayer was offered by Rose Admiraal, regular delegate from the Classis of Rochester.