GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2026 Journal of Actions
**Meeting 2**
**Thursday evening - June 11, 2026**
**Hermitage Ballroom**

## CALL TO ORDER

Following an opening worship celebration held earlier in the day, the Rev. Sarah Palsma, president, called the 219th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at the Sheraton Music City, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The general secretary reported that there were no delegates who could not be seated due to irregularities, and that a quorum was present.

The president offered prayer.

## INTRODUCTIONS

The president introduced the following:

- Brad Prince, vice president
- The Rev. Eddy Alemán, general secretary and stated clerk of the Synod
- Russell Paarlberg, parliamentarian
- The meeting recorders, Terri Boven, Gael Uwera, and Katy Steenwyk, who were recording remotely via videostream

The president explained that the vice president of Synod and the general secretary have privilege of the floor.

The president recognized the staff team in the back of the meeting room and the Rev. Dr. Fredy Aviles and the Rev. Luis Negron, who were serving as Spanish language interpreters.

The president asked the following corresponding delegates to stand:

- Members of the General Synod Council, who serve as the General Synod's Committee of Reference
- Commission representatives
- Official institutional representatives
- Regional Synod executives
- Regional Synod women representatives
- Regional Synod youth representatives

The president explained that corresponding delegates have privilege of the floor but do not have voting privileges or the right to make motions.

The president also introduced:

- The Rev. Timothy TenClay and the Seminarian Seminar participants
- The Rev. Jim Knol, who was serving as the chaplain for the Synod

The president announced that a bias response team comprised of Synod participants was prepared to assist with pastoral care and to facilitate any further action and resolution in the event of an incident of racism, sexism, or ableism during Synod. Incidents could be reported in-person to Patricia Johnson, the Rev. Jim Knol, Brad Prince, the Rev. Dr. Liz Testa, or by email to biasresponse@rca.org.

The president announced that a hospitality team comprised of Synod participants was prepared to assist with any questions and engaging with others while at Synod.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The president called upon the Rev. Joshua Scheid, moderator of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod, to begin to present its report (GS Workbook pp. 38-56). Rev. Scheid addressed the Synod.

EC 26-1 was presented to the house.

**VOTED**: To adopt EC 26-1 (GS Workbook p. 39)(voice vote)

NEW BUSINESS

The general secretary explained the procedures regarding the presentation and referral of new business.

The first opportunity for the presentation of new business was given. No new business was presented.

OVERVIEW AND PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

The president presented a brief overview of the Synod's role as a decision-making body.

The president invited a motion to grant privilege of the floor to the parliamentarian, invited presenters, and RCA staff who are asked to speak.

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To grant privilege of the floor to the parliamentarian, invited presenters, and RCA staff who are asked to speak.

**VOTED**: To adopt the motion (voice vote).

EQUITY-BASED HOSPITALITY

The president invited the Rev. Dr. Liz Testa, Director of Equity-Based Hospitality & Women's Transformation and Leadership, to join her on the platform. The president described equity-based hospitality as embracing the biblical practice of welcoming both friends and strangers in generous, kind, respectful, flexible, barrier-free ways. Rev. Dr. Testa led the Synod in an hour of education and guided table discussion.

Rev. Dr. Testa invited the Synod to sing "They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love".

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 8:27 p.m., following a closing prayer by the Rev. Jim Knol.