GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2026 Journal of Actions
Meeting 3
Friday morning - June 12, 2026
Hermitage Ballroom

WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by Claudia Flores, Claudette Reid, Clara Rice, and Rev. Andrew Yamamoto, who shared opening prayers. The same musicians who led the opening worship service in meeting one led the Synod in worship.

The president called to order the third meeting of the General Synod at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 12, 2026.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The president acknowledged that the land the Synod was currently gathered on in the state of Tennessee was historically part of the traditional land of the Chickasaw and Cherokee people, among others, and lamented any role the Reformed Church in America or her members may have played in the displacement of those peoples.

OVERVIEW AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

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

The president called upon Russell Paarlberg, parliamentarian, to provide an overview of parliamentary procedure. Mr. Paarlberg addressed the Synod.

The president explained how voting would work, including the use of the electronic voting keypads.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The president called upon the general secretary to review certain procedural matters. The general secretary informed the Synod that the journal for each meeting would be uploaded to the RCA website at www.rca.org/journals by 1:00 p.m. local time the next day. Any questions or corrections are to be directed to staff at the back table.

The president invited a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Synod.

A motion was made and supported from the floor:

To approve the minutes of the 2025 General Synod – "The Acts and Proceedings of the 218th Regular Session of the General Synod—2025"

VOTED: To adopt the motion
(yes 157, no 2).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The president called upon the general secretary to present his report. The general secretary addressed the Synod.

VIDEO

Delegates viewed a brief video highlighting the "why" behind the work that is done in the RCA. The video featured the Rev. Sara Appleyard-Pekich, Associate Pastor of Odyssey at Hopewell Reformed Church.

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 give its report (GS Workbook pp. 39-56).

The president asked the general secretary to explain the process for amending the Constitution. The general secretary addressed the Synod.

The president explained how reports are presented to the General Synod, how delegates may access the workbook, and where any new reports will be found.

The president invited Rev. Joshua Scheid, moderator of the General Synod Council serving as the Executive Committee of General Synod, to continue presentation of the Executive Committee's report. Rev. Scheid addressed the Synod.

EC 26-2 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-2 (GS Workbook p. 40)
(yes 150, no 3).

EC 26-3 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-3 (GS Workbook p. 40)
(yes 148, no 6).

EC 26-4 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-4 (GS Workbook p. 40)

(yes 136, no 21).

EC 26-5 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-5 (GS Workbook p.40) (yes 146, no 13).

EC 26-6 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-6 (GS Workbook p. 41) (yes 142, no 23).

EC 26-7 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-7 (Appointment of the General Synod Treasurer Supplemental Report) (yes 163, no 1).

NEW BUSINESS

The second opportunity for the presentation of new business was given.

The first item of new business presented was as follows:

> In regards to church parsonages: "home assignments should only be made available to Clergy and not made available for any other purposes. The reason behind this new business petition is to avoid future legal issues when requesting premises to be vacated parties refuse to vacate hence accruing legal fees for proper eviction."

The second item of new business presented was as follows:

> "Development of an Alternative Proposal for More Equitable Constitutional Voting
>
> **Rationale**:
>
> 1. The current process for ratifying amendments to the Book of Church Order gives each classis one vote regardless of the number of churches, members, or delegates represented.
>
> 2. Significant disparities exist among the classes and emerging middle assemblies in the number of congregations and members they represent.
>
> 3. A previous proposal to address those disparities through proportional voting was rejected by the classes.

4. The rejection of that proposal did not resolve the underlying question of how voting power should be distributed among classes and emerging middle assemblies of significantly different sizes.

5. A healthy and credible governance system should seek both broad participation *and* a reasonable relationship between representation and voting authority.

6. Classes that opposed the previous proposal are well positioned to help develop an alternative approach that addresses representational disparities while preserving meaningful participation by smaller classes and emerging middle assemblies.

Reason for New Business:

Final classis votes on the previous proposal were not completed and communicated in sufficient time to allow this matter to proceed through the normal channels for bringing business to General Synod.

Recommendation:

That General Synod requests that the General Secretary appoint a task force composed substantially of representatives from classes that opposed the previous proportional voting proposal, together with representatives from classes that supported it, and charge the task force with proposing one or more models that it believes more fairly address disparities in representation among classes while maintaining broad denominational support. The taskforce shall consult with the Commission on Church Order as needed and report its findings and recommendation(s) to the next regular meeting of General Synod."

Both items of new business will be considered by the General Synod Council serving as the Committee of Reference, and the committee will report back at a later time.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

The president called upon Rev. Young Na, vice moderator for the Commission on Race and Ethnicity, to present its report (GS Workbook, pp. 184-187). Rev. Na addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

The president called upon the Rev. Rosalyn De Koster, moderator of the Commission on Christian Worship, to present its report (GS Workbook pp. 170-172). Rev. De Koster addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION

The president called upon the Rev. LaCosta Van Dyk, moderator of the Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education, to present its report, and Christopher Poest, moderator of the advisory committee on Overtures and New Business, to present the advice of the advisory committee (GS Workbook, pp. 157-158). Rev. Van Dyk addressed the Synod.

DE 26-1 was presented to the house.

The advice of the advisory committee was to amend DE 26-1as follows:

> DE 26-1 (amendment)
> To urge each middle assembly to identify and appoint an individual or individuals to serve as a pastoral support to leadership (ministers of Word and sacrament, specialized ministers, commissioned pastors, elders, and consistories) within the middle assembly and to be a resource for discipleship; and further,
>
> To urge that some compensation be provided ~~for this individual or individuals, with a goal of funding a full-time position in the next five years~~. This individual or individuals ~~will~~ <u>are encouraged to</u> work closely with a representative from the Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education to share ideas, resources, and problem-solving.
>
> **VOTED:** To amend DE 26-1 (GS Workbook p. 158) (yes 150, no 12).

DE 26-1 as amended was presented to the house

> **VOTED:** To adopt DE 26-1 as amended (GS Workbook p. 158) (yes 149, no 17).

DE 26-2 was presented to the house.

The advice of the advisory committee was to vote against DE 26-2.

Reason: Due to the amendments that the committee is recommending to DE 26-1, we believe the responsibility for determining the scope of the position should remain with the middle assembly.

> **VOTED:** To adopt DE 26-2 (GS Workbook p. 158) (yes 97, no 64).

The meeting was recessed following a closing prayer by vice president Brad Prince.