GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2026 Journal of Actions
Meeting 4
Friday afternoon - June 12, 2026
Hermitage Ballroom

CALL TO ORDER

Brad Prince, General Synod vice president, called to order the fourth meeting of the General Synod at 1:33 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2026. Beverly Robinson, regular delegate from the Classis of Rochester, offered prayer.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The vice president called upon the Rev. Sarah Palsma, General Synod president, to present her report to the General Synod. The president addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA CHURCH GROWTH FUND, INC.

The president resumed the chair and called upon Joel Bouwens, president of the Church Growth Fund (CGF) board to present the CGF's report (GS Workbook, pp. 134-139). Mr. Bouwens addressed the Synod.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF BENEFITS SERVICES

The president called upon TJ (Tim) Cumings, president of the Board of Benefits Services (BOBS), and Sarah Derige, executive director of BOBS, to present its report (GS Workbook pp. 140-145). Mr. Cumings and Mrs. Derige addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL ON ADVANCEMENT

The president called upon Daniel DeCook, Director of Advancement, to present the Office of Advancement report (GS Workbook, pp. 67-68). Mr. DeCook addressed the Synod. His presentation included a description of the Van Bunschooten Bequest.

Mr. DeCook recognized the following Missional Impact Partner ("MIP") churches for 2025, which are churches that gave annual gifts of at least $40,000 or a minimum of 10 percent of their income to carry out GSC initiatives locally and globally:

- The Bridge – Johnston, Iowa
- New Hope Reformed Church – Powell, Ohio
- Fifth Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan
- First Reformed Church – Grandville, Michigan

- Christ Memorial Reformed Church – Holland, Michigan
- Fellowship Reformed Church – Holland, Michigan
- Third Reformed Church – Holland, Michigan
- First Reformed Church – Holland, Michigan
- Trinity Reformed Church – Orange City, Iowa
- North Holland Reformed Church – Holland, Michigan
- Second Reformed Church – Pella, Iowa
- Pella Reformed Church – Adams, Nebraska
- Harbor Churches – Hudsonville, Michigan
- Faith Reformed Church – Zeeland, Michigan
- First Reformed Church – Melvin, Iowa
- Raritan Reformed Church – Raritan, Illinois
- Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church – Dulce, New Mexico
- Oak Springs Community Church – Murrieta, California

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Delegates watched a brief video about the work of Rev. Dr. James Steward, Director of Pastoral Care at Christian Health in Wyckoff, New Jersey.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY

The president called upon Rev. Nathan Longfield, corresponding delegate from Commission on Theology, to present the commission's report, and Rev. Susan Converse, moderator of the Special Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance to present the advisory committee's advice regarding the report (GS Workbook pp. 188-208). Rev. Longfield and Rev. Converse addressed the Synod.

TH 26-1 was presented to the house.

The advice of the advisory committee was to vote in favor of TH 26-1 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 1).

VOTED: To adopt TH 26-1 (GS Workbook p. 197-198) (yes 141; no 16).

Thereafter the delegates engaged in a 10-minute discussion on the topic of creation care/stewardship.

TH 26-2 was presented to the house.

The advice of the advisory committee was to vote in favor of TH 26-2 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 1).

VOTED: To adopt TH 26-2 (GS Workbook p. 207-208)

(yes 142; no 19).

REPORT OF THE PROFESSORATE

The president called upon Rev. Dr. James Brumm, Rev. Dr. Micah McCreary, and Rev. Dr. Chad Pierce, all of whom are members of the General Synod professorate. Rev. Dr. Brumm, moderator of the professorate, presented its report (GS Workbook, pp. 215-217). Thereafter Rev. Dr. Pierce addressed the Synod.

TE 26-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt TE 26-1 (GS Workbook p. 216-217) (yes 150; no 6).

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 4:14 following a closing prayer by Chloe Roberts, Seminarian Seminar Participant.