GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2026 Journal of Actions
Meeting 5
Saturday morning - June 13, 2026
Hermitage Ballroom

WORSHIP

The same musicians who led the opening worship service in meeting one led the Synod in worship along with the Rev. Albert Plat, the Rev. D'Vante Rolle, the Rev. Maudelin Willock, and Gerri Yoshida.

The president called to order the fifth meeting of the General Synod at 8:28 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

REPORT FROM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BLACK COUNCIL

The president called upon Tony Davis, representative of the African American Black Council, to present the council's report (GS Workbook, pp. 69-76). Mr. Davis addressed the Synod.

REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL FOR PACIFIC AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES

The president called upon the Rev. Tiffany Fan, representative of the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries, to present the council's report (GS Workbook, pp. 77-79). Rev. Fan addressed the Synod.

REPORT FROM THE GLOBAL COUNCIL FOR HISPANIC MINISTRIES

The president called upon the Rev. Maria Luz Vera, president of the Global Council for Hispanic Ministries, to present the council's report (GS Workbook, pp. 80-82). Rev. Vera addressed the Synod.

REPORT FROM THE NATIVE AMERICAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES COUNCIL

The president called upon Rainey Enjady, representative of the Native American Indigenous Ministries Council, along with its president, Clara Rice and its secretary, Jessica LaTray, to present the council's report (GS Workbook, pp. 83-84). Ms. Enjady addressed the Synod.

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 (GS Workbook pp. 38-56), and the Rev. Susan Converse, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to provide the advisory committee's advice regarding recommendations in the report.

Rev. Scheid addressed the Synod.

EC 26-13 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Rev. Converse to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the Advisory Committee was to vote in favor of EC 26-13 (Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, p. 1).

A motion was made and supported from the floor to amend EC 26-13 as follows (additions double underlined):

> To adopt the following amendment to the *Book of Church Order*, Chapter 3, Part I, Article 9, for recommendation to the 2027 General Synod for approval (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):
>
> *Article 9. Corresponding Delegates*
>
> *Sec. 4. ~~Retained for future use.~~ Racial/Ethnic Councils*
>
> Each racial/ethnic council of the GSC shall appoint two corresponding delegates.
>
> And further, to instruct the Commission on Church Order to study the concept of making these corresponding delegates voting delegates, to report back to General Synod 2027 with a report and recommendation.

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

> **VOTED:** To cease debate (yes 119; no 44).
>
> **VOTED:** To adopt the amendment to EC 26-13 (yes 134; no 29).

EC 26-13 as amended was before the house.

A motion was made and supported from the floor to substitute the amendment to EC 26-13 with the following (deletions are stricken):

> …
>
> Each racial/ethnic council of the GSC shall appoint two ~~corresponding~~ delegates.
>
> ~~And further, to instruct the Commission on Church Order to study the concept of making these corresponding delegates voting~~

~~delegates, to report back to General Synod 2027 with a report and recommendation.~~

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

VOTED: To cease debate (yes 154; no 7).

VOTED: To reject the substitute amendment to EC 26-13 (yes 36; no 128).

EC 26-13 as amended was again before the house.

VOTED: To adopt EC 26-13 as amended (yes 144; no 20).

The president called upon the Rev. Dr. Liz Testa to offer prayer.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL ON THE CENTER FOR CHURCH MULTIPLICATION AND MINISTRY

The president called upon Rev. Hanoi Avila, chief ministry officer, along with staff members from the Center, Rev. Dr. Pedro Agudelo, Annika Bangma, Juliann Bullock, Karla Camacho, Ruth Langkamp, Rev. Dr. Laura Osborne, Rev. Anna Radcliffe, Rev. Andres Serrano, Rev. Tom Smith, and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Testa, to present the report on the Center for Church Multiplication and Ministry (GS Workbook, pp. 117-125). Rev. Avila, Rev. Radcliffe, Rev. Smith, and Rev. Dr. Testa addressed the Synod.

The president described the format whereby delegates were to select breakout sessions that will be conducted for the purpose of engaging with others on practical ways to grow in discipleship and church innovation, mission, a Revelation 7:9 community, and church multiplication. The delegates will have two opportunities to attend breakout sessions; the first being immediately following the conclusion of this meeting.

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 10:57 a.m., following a closing prayer by June Denny, regular delegate from Classis of the Southwest.