GENERAL SYNOD
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

2026 Journal of Actions
Meeting 9
Monday morning - June 15, 2026
Hermitage Ballroom

WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by Mario Vargas, Rev. Vivian Campbell, Rev. Sharon Atkins, and Rev. Savitri Mark, 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 ninth meeting of the General Synod at 8:32 a.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The president called upon the general secretary to review the procedures for electing the president of General Synod (GS Workbook, pp. 33-34). The general secretary addressed the General Synod. The tellers distributed and collected the ballots for the election of the president.

REPORT OF NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The president called upon Rev. Dr. Micah McCreary, corresponding delegate from and president of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and Michael Morris, representing the New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, to present the seminary's report (GS Workbook, pp. 225-245), and Rev. Susan Converse, moderator of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, to present the advice of the advisory committee regarding a recommendation in the seminary's report. Rev. McCreary and Mr. Morris address the Synod.

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TE 26-2 was presented to the house.

The president called upon Rev. Susan Converse to provide the advice of the advisory committee. The advice of the Advisory Committee was to amend TE 26-2 (Amendment to the Report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order and Governance, pp. 1-2) as follows (deletions are double struck and its additions are double underlined; the originally proposed deletions are struck through a single time and the original additions underlined once):

TE 26-2 (amendment)

Sec. 2 The Board of Trustees shall consist of a minimum of twelve and a maximum of ~~twenty-four~~ eighteen members. Unless otherwise approved by General Synod, ~~members~~ Trustees shall be elected for a term of three years beginning the first day of July following their election by the General Synod and continuing until their term expires, except in the cases of death, resignation, or declaration of incompetence by the Board of Trustees as described in Article VI, Sec. 2. Ex officio members shall not be considered when determining the number of members of the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 4 ~~A majority~~ A majority ~~At least one-third~~ of all ~~trustees~~ Trustees must be members of the Reformed Church in America. At least half of ~~these trustees~~ all Trustees shall be either women or ethnic ~~minority persons~~ from historically marginalized or underrepresented groups. The disciplinary suspension or termination of the membership of a Reformed Church in America ~~trustee~~ Trustee in his/her church or ~~classis~~ Middle Assembly shall create a vacancy.

Reasons:
1. The New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board has requested that Article V, Sec. 2 be amended to change the maximum number of board seats to 18 members rather than 24.
2. In order to preserve the historical relationship between the seminary and the denomination, the board has requested that the original amendments the board had proposed to Article V, Sec. 4, be reversed to continue the requirement that a majority of board seats be filled by RCA members.

The following motion was made and supported from the floor:

To refer TE 26-2 to the New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.

Reason:
Since the Advisory Committee feels that further work needs to be done on the proposed Bylaws, the seminary Board of Trustees should be given the opportunity to do that.

VOTED: To reject the motion (yes 12; no 147).

VOTED: To amend TE 26-2 (yes 154; no 7).

TE 26-2 as amended was before the house.

VOTED: To adopt TE 26-2 as amended (yes 153; no 6).

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL FORMATION CERTIFICATION AGENCY

The president called upon Tony Davis, representing the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency Board of Trustees, and Kelly Talsma, executive director of the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency, to present the agency's report (GS Workbook pp. 221-224). Mr. Davis and Ms. Talsma addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The president called upon Rev. Dr. Felix Theonugraha, corresponding delegate from and president of Western Theological Seminary, to present the seminary's report (GS Workbook, pp. 246-256). Rev. Dr. Theonugraha addressed the Synod.

TE 26-3 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt TE 26-3 (voice vote).

The president invited all General Synod professors to the platform for the installation of Rev. Dr. Ron Rienstra as a General Synod professor. Rev. Dr. Rienstra was installed.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL ON GLOBAL MISSION

The president called upon Scott Engelsman, chief missions officer, along with Global Mission staff – Luis Ruiz, Derrick Jones, Stephanie Soderstrom, and Chuck and Jean Van Engen – and Janet Paduano Cardillo, to present the Global Mission report (GS Workbook, pp. 126-131). Mr. Engelsman addressed the Synod.

GM 26-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt GM 26-1 (GS Workbook, p. 129) (yes 152; no 5).

GM 26-2 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt GM 26-2 (GS Workbook, p. 129) (yes 160; no 2).

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Delegates watched a brief video about the work of Mario Vargas, an Elder at Suydam Street Reformed Church in New Brunswick, NJ.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, CONTINUED

As a result of the electing ballot cast for president, the president declared Brad Prince president-elect of the General Synod. All past General Synod presidents in attendance were invited to the platform. The president offered prayer. Mr. Prince addressed the Synod.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS

The president called upon Rev. Larry Dove, interim moderator of the Commission on Nominations, to present the commission's report. Rev. Dove addressed the Synod.

N 26-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt N 26-1 (Supplemental Report of the Commission on Nominations, p. 6) (yes 159, no 3).

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH PLANTING TASK FORCE

The president called upon Rev. Dan Beyer, representative of the International Church Planting Task Force, to present the task force's report (GS Workbook, pp. 94-105). Rev. Beyer addressed the Synod.

RF 26-4 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt RF 26-4 (GS Workbook, p. 100) (yes 154, no 9).

RF 26-5 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt RF 26-5 (GS Workbook, p. 100) (yes 157, no 5).

RF 26-6 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt RF 26-6 (GS Workbook, p. 100) (yes 158, no 5).

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON RACE BASED MIDDLE ASSEMBLIES

The president called upon Vivian Campbell, Rev. Corinne Ellis, Rev. Dr. Carlos Rivera, and Rev. Drew Yamamoto, representatives of the Task Force on Race Based Middle Assemblies, to present the task force's report (GS Workbook, pp. 89-93). Rev. Dr. Rivera addressed the Synod.

RF 26-1 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt RF 26-1 (GS Workbook, p. 92) (yes 155, no 3).

RF 26-2 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt RF 26-2 (GS Workbook, pp. 92-93) (yes 154, no 3).

RF 26-3 was presented to the house.

VOTED: To adopt RF 26-3 (GS Workbook, p. 93) (yes 155, no 6).

RECESS

The president declared the General Synod recessed at 12:00 p.m. following a closing prayer by Rev. Katie Alley, regular delegate from Classis of Central Iowa.