Report on Postponed CA 26-1

The president appointed a small committee to work on a substitute motion to offer the body regarding CA 26-1: Brad Prince, vice president of General Synod (chair); James Brumm, General Synod professor; Tony Davis, Classis of California; Donna Field, Classis of Nassau Suffolk; Edwin Gil, Classis de las Naciones; Tim TenClay, General Synod Council; and Barbara Van Hassel, Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics.

Substitute Motion for CA 26-1
We, the delegates to the 219th General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, acknowledge the truth that every person is made in the image of God (Genesis 1). We are called and commanded to love the stranger (Deuteronomy 10) and show hospitality to foreigners and prisoners (Hebrews 13). Therefore, we denounce the immigration policies of any government that treats people as less than human.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we cannot remain silent when the U.S. government:

- **utilizes racial profiling,**
- **detains without proper judicial warrants,**
- **arrests and deports without due process,**
- **practices cruel and inhumane treatment (including, but not limited to, deprivation of adequate food, sanitary facilities, and medical care),**
- **subjects anyone to physical, emotional, or mental assault,**
- **separates children from families,**
- **engages in third country deportations,**
- **operates mass detention centers,**
- **and transfers individuals as a means of inhibiting legal counsel and preventing family contact.**

We confess and lament our role in supporting such a system and recognize any and all such actions as sin. "The church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged…. in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others" (Belhar, Art. 4).

Reason
This reflects:

- our commitment not just to speaking, but living into the priorities of Rev. 7:9.
- the biblical call to justice and care for the "least of these."
- the priority of following Christ into difficult places, as described by the Belhar Confession.
- well-known and unquestionable situations of injustice currently happening in the United States.
- the urgency that the RCA speak loudly and clearly at "such a time as this."