

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA CONVENED
IN ITS TWO HUNDRED AND THIRD REGULAR SESSION ON THE CAMPUSES OF
HOPE COLLEGE AND WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN HOLLAND,
MICHIGAN, ON THURSDAY, THE FOURTH OF JUNE, A.D. TWO THOUSAND
NINE, AT 7:28 P.M., EASTERN TIME.

I. FORMATION OF THE SYNOD

OPENING OF SYNOD

The General Synod was opened by president Carol Bechtel on Thursday evening, June 4, 2009, with a worship service held in Dimnent Chapel, Hope College, Holland, Michigan. Participants in the service included the Rev. Janelle Koolhaas, pastor of the Emmaus Christian Fellowship, Langley, British Columbia, who preached the Word; the Rev. Marlin Vis and the Rev. Jhonny Alicea-Báez, liturgists; the Rev. Clara Woodson, celebrant.

WORSHIP

General Synod worship was coordinated by the planning committee consisting of the Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel, the Rev. Janelle Koolhaas, the Rev. Jamie Schmeling, the Rev. Timothy Ten Clay, the Rev. Adrienne Thorn, the Rev. James Van Zetten, and the Rev. Marlin Vis.

Thursday Evening

Opening Worship Service—The Rev. Janelle Koolhaas

Friday Morning

Opening Worship— The Rev. Janelle Koolhaas

Session Closing Prayer—The Rev. Marianne Lin, General Synod Council

Friday Afternoon

Opening Prayer—The Rev. Madeline Fuentez, Wisconsin Classis

Friday Evening

Opening Prayer— The Rev. Carol Faas, North Grand Rapids Classis

Saturday Morning

Opening Worship — The Rev. Marlin Vis

Saturday Evening

Opening Prayer— The Rev. Julie VanDerVeen VanTil, Classis of North Grand Rapids

Sunday Morning

General Synod participants worshiped in area churches

Sunday Afternoon

Opening Prayer— The Rev. Dr. John Coakley, General Synod Professor of Theology
Closing Prayer—The Rev. Mark Kellar, Commission on Race and Ethnicity

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer—The Rev. Kerri Weldon, Classis of Albany
Evening Prayers—The Rev. James Van Zetten, and seminarians Elder John Chen and Nancy Claus

Monday Morning

Opening Worship— The Rev. Janelle Koolhaas
Closing Prayer— The Rev. Benjamin Byong Park, Rocky Mountain Classis

Monday Afternoon

Opening Prayer— The Rev. John Koedyker, Muskegon Classis
Closing Prayer— Elder Gus Wybenga, California Classis

Monday Evening

Opening Prayer—Elder Arlene Meerdink, Rocky Mountain Classis
Evening Prayers—the Rev. Timothy Ten Clay, and seminarians Dawn Alpaugh and Marcus Roskamp

Tuesday Morning

Opening Worship— The Rev. Marlin Vis
Closing Prayer—Kendra Van Houten, seminarian

Tuesday Afternoon

Opening Prayer—The Rev. Charles Bigelow, Passaic Valley Classis
Installation Service for New Officers

An installation service for the new officers of General Synod and a Communion service were held on Tuesday, June 9. Participants in the service included the Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel, president of General Synod; the Rev. Dr. James Seawood, vice president of General Synod; the Rev. Donald Poest, vice president elect of General Synod; the Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary; the Rev. Marlin Vis, preacher, and the Rev. Janelle Koolhaas, liturgist.