The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America convened in its two hundred eleventh regular session on the campus of Hope College in Holland, Michigan, on Thursday, the eighth of June, A.D. two thousand seventeen, at 3:00 p.m., Eastern time.

FORMATION OF THE SYNOD

OPENING OF SYNOD

The General Synod was opened by president Daniel Gillett on Thursday afternoon, June 8, 2017. The president introduced the vice president, parliamentarian, general secretary, and meeting recorders, and recognized others in attendance as corresponding delegates or seminar attendees. The president presented a brief orientation regarding how the General Synod will conduct its business. The parliamentarian explained parliamentary procedures to the General Synod. The president explained how reports are presented to the General Synod. The general secretary explained certain procedural matters, including ways to access the General Synod workbook electronically and the method of reviewing the journal of actions. The mayor of Holland, Michigan, welcomed the delegates and other General Synod attendees.

WORSHIP

Thursday evening (June 8, 2017) the delegates gathered at 7:00 p.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel for an opening worship celebration. The service was led by a worship team composed of Kristin Baron, Steph Gillett, Lydia Nykamp, Amy VanderStoep, Rita Bojorquez, Ross Hoekstra, Louis Ford, Maxwell Nkansah, and a choir that included participants from Christ Memorial Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan, and First Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan, as well as General Synod delegates and friends.

The Word was preached by Pete Watts, pastor of The R.O.C.K. Church in Los Angeles, California. The sacrament of communion was shared, with general secretary Tom De Vries and president Daniel Gillett serving as co-celebrants. An offering was given for Casa delle Culture in Scicli, Italy.

In addition to the opening worship celebration:

- On Friday morning (June 9, 2017) the Word was preached by Tanner Smith, and the worship leaders included Max Blummer, Heather Flokstra, Jared Heddens, Moses Mares, Travis Radaz, Mackenzie Seagard, and Ben Snoek.
- On Saturday morning (June 10, 2017) the Word was preached by Jessica Shults, and the worship leaders included Jess Barz, Lauren Blunt, Tanner Huizenga, John Kalthoff, Mary Landrigan, Josh Rumery, and the summer staff of Camp Geneva.
- On Monday morning (June 12, 2017) the Word was preached by Stephanie Smith, and worship was led by a worship team from Western Theological Seminary.
- On Tuesday morning (June 13, 2017) worship was led by members of the Hope College Awakening Institute.
On Sunday morning (June 11, 2017) delegates worshipped in area churches.

Meetings of the General Synod were opened and closed with prayer by the following persons:

**Thursday, June 8**
- Afternoon Opening Prayer — Daniel Gillett, General Synod president
- Afternoon Closing Prayer — Tara Woodward, Seminarian Seminar participant

**Friday, June 9**
- Morning Closing Prayer — Pam Otten, Regional Synod of Mid-America
- Afternoon Opening Prayer — Rodrigo Cano, Commission on Race and Ethnicity
- Afternoon Closing Prayer — Olivia DuPont, Classis of Northern Michigan
- Evening Opening Prayer — Cindi Veldheer DeYoung, General Synod Council
- Evening Closing Prayer — Todd Norris, Classis of the Southwest

**Saturday, June 10**
- Morning Closing Prayer — Ricardo Gouvea, Regional Synod of Canada
- Afternoon Opening Prayer — Young Aie Na, Classis of Queens
- Afternoon Closing Prayer — F. Peter Ford, Classis of Rochester
- Evening Closing Prayer — Ina Montoya, Classis of Rocky Mountains

**Sunday, June 11**
- Evening Closing Prayer — Eddy Alemán, RCA director of strategic leadership development and coordinator of Hispanic ministries

**Monday, June 12**
- Morning Closing Prayer — Kenneth Sampson, General Synod chaplain
- Afternoon Opening Prayer — Cora Taitt, General Synod Council
- Afternoon Closing Prayer — Patricia Sealy, Commission on Christian Action
- Evening Opening Prayer — Carl Boersma, Commission on Nominations
- Evening Closing Prayer — Benjamin Lin, General Synod Council