Evening Opening Prayer — R. Scott Greenway, president, Christian Reformed Church in North America
Evening Closing Prayer — Carol Bechtel, General Synod professor

Saturday, June 9
Afternoon Opening Prayer — Bradley Lewis, Ministerial Formation Certification Agency
Afternoon Closing Prayer — Marjorie Vander Wagen, Classis of Chicago
Evening Opening Prayer — Stephen VanderWoude, Classis of Muskegon
Evening Closing Prayer — Donald Bruggink, general editor, RCA Historical Series

Sunday, June 10
General Synod participants worshipped in area churches
Evening Closing Prayer — Ruth Boven, pastor, LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church

Monday, June 11
Morning Closing Prayer — Thomas Smith, Regional Synod of the Heartland
Afternoon Opening Prayer — Suzanne Katerberg, Commission for Women
Afternoon Closing Prayer — Juan Rivera, Classis of the Americas
Evening Opening Prayer — Laurel Pals, seminarian seminar participant
Evening Closing Prayer — Karla Camacho, Commission on Race and Ethnicity

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

So that the parliamentarian, speakers who have received official invitations from the General Synod Council, and General Synod Council executive staff may respond to questions for clarification and participate as requested by the General Synod president in presentations to the General Synod and in other activities that appear on the agenda, the General Synod:

VOTED: To grant privilege of the floor to the parliamentarian, speakers who have received official invitations from the General Synod Council, and General Synod Council executive staff.

SEATING OF DELEGATES/DECLARATION REGARDING QUORUM

The general secretary informed the synod that there were no irregularities and all delegates could be seated. The possible membership of General Synod was 240, with enrolled membership at 234, therefore, a quorum was declared present.

MINUTES AND JOURNAL/TELLERS

The Acts and Proceedings of the 211th regular session of the General Synod were read by title.

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the meeting of June 8–13, 2017, the procedure for approving the journal of actions.
The Rules of Order were read by title, and it was indicated that copies were available online.

Cora Taitt and Clare VanDis (Committee of Reference members), Carl Boersma (corresponding delegate from the Commission on Nominations), and all Seminarian Seminar participants were appointed as tellers.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND SCHEDULE**


In addition to the prescribed agenda, the schedule provided for the following presentations, forums, programs, or activities:

- On the evening of Friday, June 9, the General Synod heard brief remarks from Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, RCA general secretary emeritus, regarding the recent deaths of the Rev. Peter Borgdorff, executive director emeritus of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and the Rev. Edwin Mulder, general secretary emeritus of the Reformed Church in America.
- On the evening of Friday, June 9, the General Synod also heard presentations regarding joint ventures between the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church in North America regarding joint endeavors in the areas of church multiplication, refugee assistance, disaster relief, and women’s ministries. Leaders, presenters and other participants included Carol Bremer-Bennett, Emily Brink, Scott Engelsman, Rev. Kate Kooyman, Rev. Denise Posie, Kellie Scholma, Rev. Kevin Schutte, Stephanie Soderstrom, Rev. Liz Testa, Rev. Randy Weener, and Keith Young.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The following delegates were designated by the president to serve on advisory committees that considered specific business on church order and governance as well as overtures and new business.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH ORDER AND GOVERNANCE**

*Moderator:* Travis Else (Classis of West Sioux)  
*Vice Moderator:* Jim Poit (Classis of the Southwest)  
*Ministers:*  
Carol Bechtel (General Synod professor)  
Dennis Colton (Classis of New Thing)  
Elizabeth Brown Hardeman (Classis of East Sioux)  
Patricia Singletary (Classis of New York)  
David Tsai (Classis of British Columbia)  
*Elders:*  
Sung Su Lee (Classis of Queens)  
Lorena Serrano (Classis of the Americas)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND NEW BUSINESS

Moderator: Philip Assink (Regional Synod of the Far West)
Vice Moderator: Sheila Moses (Classis of New York)

Ministers:
Timothy Breen (Classis of East Sioux)
Nancy Claus (Classis of North Grand Rapids)
Robert Hoffman (Classis of Schoharie)
Chad Pierce (General Synod Professor)

Elders:
Eric Moreno (Classis of California)
Robert Wierenga (Regional Synod of Mid-America)
June Denny (Classis of Southwest)

MODERATORS OF THE ALL-SYNOD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The following delegates to the General Synod served as moderators of the all-synod advisory committees that met jointly with delegates to the synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Twelve individuals from the Christian Reformed Church in North America delegation also served as moderators.

Tuck Bartholomew
Ned Beadel
Regina Brannock
Norma Coleman-James
EJ de Waard
Andrea DeWard
Audrey Edewaard
Michael Hardeman
Susan Hetrick
Dustyn Keepers
Noah Livingston
Sarah Palsma
Bethany Popkes
Marcus Roskamp
Glenn Spyksma
Sally Tapley

DISPOSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Office of the General Synod received no communications that were directed to or intended for the General Synod.

PRESENTATION AND REFERRAL OF NEW BUSINESS

One item of new business was presented to and received by the General Synod and then referred to the Committee of Reference for further referral or disposition as appropriate. The new business was as follows:

The City Classis requests the General Synod to transfer City Classis, including its eight organized churches, two church plants and all ministers and candidates under care from the Regional Synod of the Far West to the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics by a date suitable to all parties but no later than December 31, 2018.
Reasons given for submission of the foregoing as new business were:

1. This matter arises from very recent actions of the Regional Synod of the Far West (RSFW) in April and May of 2018 that attempt to disband City Classis.
2. The reason for the RSFW’s actions against City Classis lie solely in the RSFW’s disagreement with a “Framework for Life Together” statement City Classis adopted by a large consensus on March 1, 2018, wherein the Classis stated its intention to continue to live and minister together in unity despite significant differences in pastoral approach to ministry among LGBT persons.
3. The RSFW has placed City Classis on a trajectory to be disbanded by the fall of 2018 and has been notified by several City Classis churches that such action would likely force many churches to leave the RCA—indeed, forcing churches to leave the RCA appears to be the very intent of the RSFW plan.
4. The RSFW Executive Team has rebuffed any attempt to discuss supporting the transfer of City Classis to another regional synod and is actively attempting to keep the broader RSFW delegates from having that discussion.
5. City Classis’ need is urgent in that, once it is disbanded, it will be difficult or impossible to present a transfer request to a later General Synod.
6. City Classis believes it would be welcomed by the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics under these circumstances.
7. Transfer of a classis to another regional synod is within the exclusive authority of the General Synod and cannot be sought via judicial complaint—thus a direct petition to the General Synod is the only avenue available to City Classis.

The item was accepted as new business and referred to the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business. For additional information regarding this item of new business, see OV 18-26 on pages 154–155].