ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America convened in its two hundred twelfth regular session on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Thursday, the seventh of June, A.D. two thousand eighteen, at 3:00 p.m., Eastern time.

FORMATION OF THE SYNOD

OPENING OF SYNOD

The General Synod was opened by president Lee DeYoung on Thursday afternoon, June 7, 2018. The president introduced the vice president, parliamentarian, general secretary, and meeting recorders and recognized others in attendance as corresponding delegates or seminarian 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.

On Friday, June 8, 2018, Dr. Cheryl Brandsen, Calvin College provost, welcomed the delegates and other General Synod attendees.

WORSHIP

On Thursday evening (June 7, 2018), the delegates gathered at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel on the campus of Calvin College for a joint opening worship service with synod delegates from the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The service was led by a worship team composed of Sheryl Beerens, Lydia Brown, Miriah Brown, Tabitha Brown, Rev. Wayne Coleman, Miranda Craig, Rev. Jonathan Gabhart, Rob Housman, Melissa Johnson, Lana Anne Langelier, Ahava Lefabre, Johanna Mason, Rev. Liz Testa, and Angela Wagenveld. The Word was preached by Rev. Jenna Brandsen and Rev. Jon Brown. The sacrament of communion was shared, with Revs. Brandsen and Brown serving as co-celebrants. An offering was received for RCA/CRC Disability Concerns to support the full participation of people with disabilities in learning communities hosted by RCA/CRC Disability Concerns.

In addition to the joint opening worship celebration, delegates worshipped in area churches on Sunday morning (June 10, 2018) and participated in a joint Sunday evening worship service with synod delegates from the Christian Reformed Church in North America at the DeVos Center for Arts and Worship at Grand Rapids Christian High School. The Sunday evening service was led by a worship team composed of Andy Bast, Anna Gabhart, Rev. Jonathan Gabhart, Rev. Andy Kadzban, Anna Langholz, Rev. Noah Livingston, Johanna Mason, and Jeremy Simpson. Rev. Ruth Boven served as liturgist, Lee DeYoung led the pastoral prayer, Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige offered praise dance, and Susanah Wade read Scripture. The Word was preached by Dr. A.K. Lama. The sacrament of communion was shared, with Rev. Dr. Carol Bechel and Rev. Dr. Micah McCreary serving as co-celebrants. An offering was received for the newly launched Arabic-language media ministry of Back to God Ministries International (CRC), Words of Hope (RCA), and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt—Synod of the Nile.
On Friday, Saturday, and Monday mornings, worship was conducted jointly with the Christian Reformed Church in North America. On Friday morning (June 8, 2018), the Word was preached by Rev. Anna Jackson; other worship leaders included Evelyn Bennally, Lee DeYoung, Anna Gabhart, Rev. Jonathan Gabhart, Rev. Noah McLaren, and Rev. John Tenyenhuis. On Saturday morning (June 9, 2018), the Word was preached by Rev. Tom Bonhof; other worship leaders included Leonor Caballero, Lee DeYoung, Anna Gabhart, Rev. Jonathan Gabhart, Rev. Andy Kadzban, Rev. Noah McLaren, and Rev. Dr. Patricia Singletary. On Monday morning (June 11, 2018), worship leaders included Rev. Jenna Brandsen, Lee DeYoung, Anna Gabhart, Rev. Jonathan Gabhart, Rev. Noah McLaren, Linda Miles, Rev. Nick Miles, and Rev. Dayna Vreeken.

The closing worship service was held at the Chapel on the campus of Calvin College on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. It began at 10:30 a.m. and included the installation of the Rev. Eddy Alemán as general secretary and James Nakakihara and the Rev. EJ de Waard as General Synod president and vice president, respectively. The Word was preached by the Rev. Ken Korver. The sacrament of communion was celebrated, with the Rev. Eddy Alemán and James Nakakihara (newly installed general secretary and General Synod president, respectively) serving as co-celebrants.

Participants in the portion of the service for the installation of the Rev. Eddy Alemán as general secretary included Lee De Young, Rev. Dr. Jill Ver Steeg, Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom-Grier, Rev. Dr. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, Rev. Don Poest, Kathryn M. Lohre (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), Carlos Malavé (Christian Churches Together), Dr. Jim Payton (Christian Reformed Church in North America), Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson (United Church of Christ), Dr. Monica Schaap Pierce, Rev. Dr. Andrés Serrano, and Lorena Serrano.


An offering was received for RCA Global Mission’s strategic impact area in Brazil to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church of Manaus (IPManaus) to plant churches and prepare missionaries to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to people living both in the city of Manaus and along the Amazon River. Closing prayer was offered by the Rev. Andy Bossardet.

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

**Thursday, June 7**
- Afternoon Opening Prayer — Lee DeYoung, General Synod president
- Afternoon Closing Prayer — Marianne Lin, Classis of Queens

**Friday, June 8**
- Morning Closing Prayer — Mark Kleinheksel, Classis of Great Lakes City
- Afternoon Opening Prayer — Terry DeYoung, GSC coordinator for Disability Concerns
- Afternoon Closing Prayer — Lindsay Bona, Classis of Holland
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.