Additionally, in response to a motion made and supported from the floor, the General Synod also voted to grant privilege of the floor to general secretary emeritus Wesley Granberg-Michaelson.

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 237, with enrolled membership at 229, therefore, a quorum was declared present.

MINUTES AND JOURNAL/TELLERS

The Acts and Proceedings of the 212th regular session of the General Synod were read by title.

VOTED: To approve the schedule for posting the journal of actions to the RCA website, the procedure for approving the journal of actions, and the minutes of the 212th Regular Session of the General Synod (which met on June 7–12, 2018).

The Rules of Order were read by title, and it was indicated that copies were available online.

Ben Lin and Betty Shuster (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:

- During the meeting on Friday, June 7, RCA chaplains were recognized for their service, Jim Harrison, RCA coordinator for prayer mobilization, addressed the synod regarding “listening prayer,” and the synod heard a presentation by James Herrington, Trisha Taylor, and Ryan Donovan (facilitators for the Vision 2020 Team) and a panel discussion among Charles Contreras, Diane Smith Faubion, Thomas Goodhart, and Scott Treadway (members of the Vision 2020 Team).
- During its meeting on the evening of Saturday, June 8, the General Synod heard a presentation entitled “Better Together: Many Gifts, One Spirit.” It included music, dance, video presentations, and spoken word, and highlighted work in the areas of discipleship (next generation engagement, leadership development, the Ministerial Excellence Fund, and women’s transformation and leadership); leadership (equipping thriving congregations, adaptive change, the Ezra Project, and disability concerns); and mission (volunteer engagement, “ministry incubators” to create impactful ministries in local communities, local missional engagement,
and ministry to orphans and vulnerable children). Leaders, presenters, and other participants included Martha Alemán, Eliza Bast, Andy Bossardet, Regina Brannock, Vivian Campbell, Lia Dantas, Thiago Dantas, Logan Deluca, D. Marc de Waard, Terry DeYoung, Barb Ellis, Tami Flick, Trenton Herald, Josh Holicky, Jeffery Hough, Earl James, Sung Kim, Denise Kingdom Grier, Gezelle Kingdom Grier, Joann Koning, Jess Koster, Maleeka Love, Rita Loyola, Lesley Mazzotta, Andrew Melendez, Emily Mergener, Ina Montoya, James Nakakihara, Abby Norton-Levering, Robert Phillips, Albert Plat, Abby Powers, Anna Radcliffe, Catherine Ramos, Bep Reeves, Claudette Reid, Lorena Serrano, Erica Simpson, Jeremy Simpson, Erika Spykman, Glenn Spyksma, Marijke Strong, Liz Testa, Molly Towne, Jason White, Bianca Williams, Crystal Wright, Imos Wu, Jodie Wu, Kris Woltjer, Grant Wunderlich, Ricky Velazquez, and Jill Ver Steeg. Following the program a reception was hosted by the Hope college president.

**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 and overtures and new business.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH ORDER AND GOVERNANCE**
- **Moderator:** Jonathan Sherrill (Classis of Great Lakes City)
- **Vice Moderator:** Patricia Sealy (Classis of New York)
- **Ministers**
  - Carole Barber (Classis of the Americas)
  - Cornelis Kors (General Synod Professor)
  - Scott Stephan (Classis of Illinois)
  - Mark Vellinga (Classis of Southwest)
- **Elders**
  - Vicki Ackerman (Classis of Southwest Michigan)
  - Jeffrey Chu (Classis of Rockland-Westchester)
  - Jay Wielenga (Classis of East Sioux)

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND NEW BUSINESS**
- **Moderator:** Arika Theule-VanDam (Classis of Holland)
- **Vice moderator:** Albert Plat (Classis of Canadian Prairies)
- **Ministers**
  - Benjamin Brooks (Classis of Rocky Mountains)
  - Timothy Brown (General Synod Professor)
  - Richard Chavarria (Classis of California)
  - Suzanne Vogel (Classis of Central Iowa)
- **Elders**
  - Regina Brannock (Classis of Central Plains)
  - Claudette Reid (Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics)
  - Lynne Stenberg (Classis of Montgomery)

**FACILITATORS FOR VISION 2020 FEEDBACK GROUPS**

The following delegates to the General Synod served as facilitators for the Vision 2020 feedback groups that met to discuss the three options described in the report of the Vision 2020 Team.
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

Four items of new business were presented to and received by the General Synod, and then referred to the Committee of Reference for further referral or disposition as appropriate. The items of new business were as follows:

1. To request that the General Synod acknowledge the service to the RCA by the Rev. Dr. Marvin Hoff who passed away on May 26, 2019.

No reasons were given in writing for the submission of the foregoing as new business. At a subsequent session of the General Synod the president noted that Rev. Dr. Hoff’s service would be acknowledged during the report of Western Theological Seminary. For additional information regarding this item of new business, see TE 19-4 on page 318.

2. Move to request the General Synod Council research the establishment of an Office of Older Adult Ministry to provide resources, support, and guidance for our churches, classes, and regional synods to further care for older adults.

No reasons were given in writing for the submission of the foregoing as new business.

This item was not accepted as new business. For additional information, see EC 19-13 on page 115.

3. The General Synod requests that each classis and regional synod strongly consider sending the same pastor and elder delegates to General Synod in 2020 as were sent to General Synod in 2019.

Reasons given for the submission of the foregoing as new business were:

3. To provide consistency between the Vision 2020 feedback groups of General Synod 2019 and those voting upon the recommendation of the Vision 2020 Team at General Synod 2020. This item was accepted as new business and retained by the Committee of Reference, which subsequently made a recommendation to the synod. For additional information regarding this item of new business, see EC 19-14 on page 115.


Sec. 2.
   a. Amendments to the Government, the Disciplinary and Judicial Procedures, the Formularies, and the Liturgy and the Directory for Worship shall be made only upon adoption by the General Synod at a stated meeting, with recommendation to the classes for approval.
   b. At least two-thirds of the classes shall approve a proposed amendment in order to secure its adoption. Only classes whose delegates were eligible to be seated at the General Synod at which the amendment was adopted are eligible to vote on the recommendation for approval.
   c. Any recommendations and amendments pertaining to the 2020 Vision Team’s final report and adopted by the General Synod of 2020 shall be approved by a simple majority of the classes in order to secure their adoption.
   d. If an amendment is approved by the classes, the General Synod, at its discretion, may pass a final declarative resolution on the amendment. When the declarative action has taken place, the amendment shall become effective.

Reasons given for the submission of the foregoing as new business were:

1. In the Vision 2020 feedback discussion groups, a common question has been raised: how will any of the scenarios get two-thirds approval of the classes for 2021? While it is not the norm to amend the BCO for such a specific and limited circumstance, this is an unprecedented time. It is imperative for the implementation of the 2020 Vision Team’s “final report with recommendations” (MGS 2018, OV 18-23, p. 153), if adopted by the General Synod, to remove obstacles that may cause the Vision 2020 process to fail. If the 2020 recommendation does not receive a two-thirds vote, the RCA would face a rapid loss of congregations, classes, and regional synods.

2. In the spirit of General Synod 2018’s decision to submit the RCA to the Vision 2020 process, this will allow the RCA to move forward in mission.

This item was accepted as new business and retained by the Committee of Reference, which subsequently made a recommendation to the synod. For additional information regarding this item of new business, see EC 19-15 on page 115.