ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

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

FORMATION OF THE SYNOD

OPENING OF SYNOD

The General Synod was opened by president James Nakakihara on Thursday afternoon, June 6, 2019. The president introduced the vice president, parliamentarian, general secretary, and meeting recorders, and recognized others in attendance as corresponding delegates or Seminarian Seminar or Call Waiting program leaders and attendees. The president presented a brief orientation regarding how the General Synod will conduct its business, including the process for voting electronically. 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 Thursday, June 6, 2019, Dennis Voskuil, Hope College interim president, welcomed the delegates and other General Synod attendees.

WORSHIP

Thursday evening (June 6, 2019), the delegates gathered at 7:00 p.m. in Dimnent Chapel on the campus of Hope College for an opening worship service. The service was led by a worship team composed of Jasmine Beltran, Gordon Bruns, Julia Cosgrove, Matt Dykstra, Dan Gillette, Ryan Meynard, Avery Molnar, Ina Montoya, Wayne Otten, Randy Smit, Avery Tejeda, Joel Van Houten, Richard VanOss, Tucker VanRegenmorter, and Keith Walker. The Word was preached by Donald Poest. The sacrament of communion was shared, with General Synod president James Nakakihara and Lisa Tice serving as co-celebrants. An offering was received to support Cyclone Idai disaster relief in Mozambique.

In addition to the opening worship service, delegates worshipped in area churches on Sunday morning (June 9, 2019) also worshipped together on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday mornings (June 7, 8, 10, and 11). On Friday morning (June 7, 2019), worship leaders included Jacob Braun, Jeffrey Chu, Dylan Dreyer, Josie Dreyer, Pam Haverdink, Trenton Herald, Kristen Livingston, Ken Neevel, and Travis Radaz. On Saturday morning (June 8, 2019), worship leaders included Deb Andre, Jacob Braun, Dylan Dreyer, Josie Dreyer, Pam Haverdink, Trenton Herald, Kristen Livingston, Ken Neevel, Dane Werkema, and Barbara Yandell. On Monday morning (June 10, 2019), worship leaders included Deb Andre, Terry DeYoung, Josie Dreyer, Barbara Felker, Trenton Herald, Brian Keepers, and Ken Neevel. On Tuesday morning (June 11, 2019), worship leaders included Bre Harris, Moses Kuyani, Susan Kuyani, Hannah Lampe, Carter Lezman, Brandon Tates, and student participants in the Hope College Awakening Institute.

A closing worship service was held in Dimnent Chapel on the campus of Hope College on Tuesday, June 11, 2019. It began at 10:32 a.m. and included the installation of the Rev. EJ de Waard and the Rev. Philip Assink as General Synod president and vice president, respectively. The Word was preached by Trisha Taylor. The sacrament of communion was
celebrated, with EJ de Waard (newly installed General Synod president) and Eddy Alemán (general secretary) serving as co-celebrants.


An offering was received to support Cyclone Idai disaster relief in Mozambique. Closing prayer was offered by Louis Ford.

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

Thursday, June 6
Afternoon Opening Prayer — James Nakakihara, General Synod president
Afternoon Closing Prayer — Frederick Wezeman, Classis of Chicago

Friday, June 7
Morning Closing Prayer — Hellen Harvey, General Synod Council
Afternoon Opening Prayer — Ruth Langkamp, Synod of the Great Lakes

Saturday, June 8
Afternoon Opening Prayer — Eun Jae (Dan) Joo, Classis of Delaware-Raritan
Afternoon Closing Prayer — Kim Van Es, Classis of East Sioux
Evening Opening Prayer — Jeremy Simpson, Western Theological Seminary
Evening Closing Prayer — Jill Ver Steeg, GSC Chief Operating Officer

Sunday, June 9
Evening Opening Prayer — Marijke Strong, Regional Synod of Canada, Vision 2020 Team
Evening Closing Prayer — Barbara Felker, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Vision 2020 Team

Monday, June 10
Morning Closing Prayer — Sunny Baldwin, Classis of Schenectady
Afternoon Opening Prayer — R. Scott Rees, Classis of Nassau-Suffolk
Afternoon Closing Prayer — Martha Alemán, Regional Synod of Canada
Evening Opening Prayer — Daniel Tolsma, Northwestern College
Evening Closing Prayer — Joel Plantinga, Classis of California

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

So that the parliamentarian, speakers who received official invitations from the General Synod Council, and General Synod Council staff might 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 staff.
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,