



REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

FOLLOWING CHRIST IN MISSION

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 203rd session of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

The General Synod Workbook is your primary resource for the sessions of the synod. I encourage you to take time before you travel to Holland to acquaint yourself with the agenda, schedule, and business coming before the synod. If your classis or regional synod has announced a General Synod orientation, I encourage you to attend this meeting. It's an excellent way to learn how the synod works and what will be expected of you as a delegate, and to seek clarification about the issues that will be addressed by the assembly.

It is very important for you to give serious, focused, prayerful attention to the reports in the Workbook. The agenda for synod has been refined so that delegates will have opportunities to 1) discuss key issues and overtures coming before synod in advisory groups, 2) discuss, in forums, the six elements of Our Call, the RCA's ten-year goal, and 3) review the work carried out through the synod's agencies, commissions, and institutions.

General Synod will begin with worship at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, at Dimnent Chapel on the campus of Hope College. Synod will reconvene Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. in Dimnent Chapel for morning prayer, the call to order, and introductory business, which will be followed by the initial meeting of issue advisory committees. At 10:30 a.m., synod will gather in plenary session in Hope College's DeVos Fieldhouse.

General Synod is a time for making significant decisions affecting the life and mission of the Reformed Church in America. It is also much more than that. The opportunities for worship, fellowship, learning, and reflection are enriching and inspiring. Elders and ministers report that they return home revitalized for ministry and with a fresh awareness of and appreciation for the breadth and depth of the work carried out through the Reformed Church in America and with our mission partners worldwide.

Plans for General Synod are being finalized as you begin your review of the Workbook. The elected officers, the worship leaders and presenters, the general secretary, staff, and volunteers who are working to support delegates as they prepare to help lead the Reformed Church in America ask for your prayers and the prayers of the RCA's congregations and assemblies. We look forward to the time we will have together in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Bradsell