Report of the Commission on Nominations

The Commission on Nominations convened in person on October 13–14, 2016, and January 17, 2017, and via teleconference on February 14, March 7, April 4, and April 25. Three final electronic votes were held through email, ending on May 22, May 24, and June 1.

Throughout the year, members of the commission actively sought qualified candidates, solicited completed profile forms (brief two-page documents), and checked references of those who were interested in serving on a commission or agency of the General Synod, or on the board of directors or trustees of an RCA-related institution. In these ways, the commission sought to fulfill its responsibilities as stated in the Bylaws of the General Synod—namely, “in consultation with the general secretary, [the commission] shall search the denomination for suitable nominees. In making nominations it shall consider the geographic location, occupation, and record of previous service to the denomination of persons suggested by classes, regional synods, and other sources. It shall consider this and other pertinent data in light of each commission’s or agency’s responsibilities, membership needs, suggested nominees, and place and schedule of meetings” (Book of Church Order Chapter 3, Part I, Article 5, Section 8c; 2016 edition, p. 114).

The commission seeks to nominate individuals for service on agencies, commissions, and boards of directors on the basis of their spiritual gifts, interests, heart (or passion), abilities, personality, experience, and special leadership abilities. When possible, it seeks to involve young adult members of the RCA (so they can be nurtured and encouraged to serve the RCA in a variety of ways in the future). Through its efforts, the Commission on Nominations has proactively fulfilled its responsibility to “search the denomination” and believes those nominated have traits that make them well suited for the work of the positions to which they are being nominated. The commission is pleased to report once again that it has, to the best of its ability, fulfilled its responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of the Book of Church Order are upheld.

When the number of qualified candidates from which to choose increases, the commission’s work is enhanced and the work of the General Synod’s agencies and commissions is carried out more effectively. Consequently, the commission encourages anyone interested in serving to submit a completed profile form to the Commission on Nominations as indicated on the form. Profile forms are available from staff to the Commission on Nominations, Laura Tarbous (908-812-7897 or ltarbous@rca.org) or through the “Profile Form and Commission Information” link on the General Synod page of the RCA website (www.rca.org/profile).

Nominations

Nominees identified by the Commission on Nominations are as follows (* indicates a final term and # indicates an official nomination from the assembly, institution, or agency listed):

GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL
Class of 2018
Rev. Ned Beadel (Regional Synod of the Far West) #
Eric Moreno
COMMISSIONS

Class of 2021
*Charles Contreras
*Rev. Anthony De La Rosa
*Rev. Stephanie Doeschot (Regional Synod of Mid-America) #
*Rev. Anna Jackson
*Rev. David Landegent
*George Rounds (Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics) #
*Ervin Sparapani – ELCA ecumenical non-voting member

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION
Class of 2020
Rev. Jane Brown
Curtis Dixon
*Rev. Sophie Mathonnet-VanderWell
Vacancy – ELCA ecumenical observer
Vacancy – Reformed ecumenical observer

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION
Class of 2020
Pamela Van Beek
Vacancy (member from the faculty of an RCA-affiliated institution)

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY
Class of 2020
Rev. Donna Field
*Rev. Michael Hardeman
*James Payton – ecumenical member
*Rev. Jodie Wu

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
Class of 2018
Dorene Horstman
Class of 2020
*Rev. Sarah Palsma
Jonathan Tamayo

COMMISSION ON CHURCH ORDER
Class of 2020
Rev. Joshua Scheid
Jennifer Van Regenmorter

COMMISSION ON HISTORY
Class of 2020
Andrew Klumpp
Rev. Steven Pierce

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL BUSINESS
Class of 2020
Rev. Stephen Breen (Regional Synod of the Heartland) #
Vacancy (Regional Synod of New York) #

COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS
Class of 2019
Rebecca Hudak (Regional Synod of Albany) #
Thomas Paarlberg (Regional Synod of the Great Lakes) #
Class of 2020
Rainey Enjady
Carol Mutch (Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics) #
Rev. James Steward (African American Black Council) #
*Rev. Cary Winn (Regional Synod of Mid-America) #

COMMISSION ON RACE AND ETHNICITY
Class of 2018
Rafael Garcia (Council for Hispanic Ministries) #
Class of 2019
Rev. Douglas Banks
Class of 2020
*Rev. Richard DeBruyne
June Denny
Minsuk Lee

COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY
Class of 2019
David Komline
Class of 2020
Rev. Ronald Citlau
*Laird Edman
*Mark Husbands
Suzanne McDonald – Reformed ecumenical observer
Vacancy – ELCA ecumenical observer

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
Class of 2020
*Rev. Susan Hetrick
Jessica Nunez

BOARD OF BENEFITS SERVICES
Class of 2020
Rev. Jack Doorlag
*Rev. Nelson Murphy
*Jason Schnelker
Douglas Struyk

The Board of Benefits Services’ Constitution and Rules has been revised to read “The board of directors of The Board of Benefits Services shall consist of at least 9 and not more than 17 directors” (BOBS Constitution and Rules, II, 2.1). For the 2017–2018 year, the number of directors has been reduced from 17 to 13.

CHURCH GROWTH FUND
Class of 2020
Nicole Kouba
*Mary Linge
*Rev. Anthony Vis

As is provided for in its bylaws, the board has increased its membership from six to seven for the 2017–2018 year.

MINISTERIAL FORMATION CERTIFICATION AGENCY
Class of 2020
Rev. Dustin DeVriend
Rev. Frances Nelson
COMMISSIONS

NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2020
Rev. David Choi
Brittnee Crawford
*Barbara Felker
*Richard Glendening (Regional Synod of the Heartland)
Rev. John Kapteyn (Regional Synod of Canada)
*Rev. En Young Kim
Russell Paarlberg (Regional Synod of Mid-America)
Ronald Slaughter
Timothy Taylor (Regional Synod of the Great Lakes)
*Diane Tice
Dean Zimmerman

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2019
Rev. Lisa Vander Wal (Regional Synod of Albany)
Class of 2020
*Rev. James Poit (Regional Synod of the Far West)
James Veld (Regional Synod of Mid-America)
Rev. Brian Vriesman
Carol Wagner (Regional Synod of the Great Lakes)

CENTRAL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2021
Jason Andringa
Steve Sikkink
Judith Vogel

HOPE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2019
J. Lindsey Dood
Class of 2020
David Lowry
Class of 2021
*Rev. David Bast
Rev. Nathan Hart

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
This year there are no trustees to be appointed by the General Synod.

R 17-53
To elect the above-named nominees to the General Synod commissions and agencies and the boards of directors or trustees of RCA-related educational institutions as indicated. (ADOPTED)

R 17-54
To elect Carl Boersma as moderator of the Commission on Nominations for the 2017–2018 term. (ADOPTED)

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Boersma, moderator