Report of the Commission on Nominations

The Commission on Nominations convened in person on October 12–13, 2017, and January 16, 2018, and teleconferenced on February 13, March 6, April 3, April 24, and May 8, 2018. Two final electronic votes were held through email, ending on May 15 and May 18.

Throughout the year, members of the commission actively sought qualified candidates, solicited completed profile forms (a brief two-page document), 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[2]; 2017 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 also seeks to involve young adult members of the RCA so that 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 to ensure 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 according to the instructions indicated on the form. Profile forms are available from Laura Tarbous, denominational staff to the Commission on Nominations (908-812-7897 or ltarbous@rca.org), or on 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 2019
Rev. Jamie Dykstra
Class of 2021
*Betty Jo Shuster
Class of 2022
*Rev. Ned Beadel (Regional Synod of the Far West) #
*Hellen Harvey (African American Black Council) #
*Rev. Robert Johnson
*Rev. Kent McHeard (Regional Synod of Albany) #
*Eric Moreno
*Rev. Shuo-Min (Imos) Wu (Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries) #

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION
Class of 2020
Rev. Mark Ennis
Reginald Smith – Reformed ecumenical observer
Kim Winchell – ELCA ecumenical observer
Class of 2021
Elizabeth Carroll
Rev. Ellen Jo (E.J.) Emerson
Cameron Van Kooten Laughead

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION
Class of 2019
Rev. Troy Nanninga
Class of 2020
Derek Taylor
Class of 2021
Rev. Chad Farrand
*Rev. Bethany Popkes
Rev. Mark Swart

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY
Class of 2021
*Rev. Wanzette (Ann) Bilbrew
*Rev. Kathryn Davelaar Guthrie
Lowell TenClay

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
Class of 2019
Rev. Lisa Tice
Class of 2020
Rev. Dirk Gieser
Class of 2021
Rev. Kent Frens
Rev. Troy Van Beek

COMMISSION ON CHURCH ORDER
Class of 2021
*Philip De Koster
*Rev. Linda Gold
COMMISSION ON HISTORY
Class of 2021
Alexander Arthurs
David Tripold

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL BUSINESS
Class of 2020
Rev. Kendra Van Houten (Regional Synod of New York) #
Class of 2021
*Rev. Paul Janssen (Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantic) #
*Russell Paarlberg (Regional Synod of Mid-America) #
*Rev. Barry Wynveen (Regional Synod of Canada) #

COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS
Class of 2021
*Rev. Carl Boersma (Regional Synod of the Heartland) #
Rev. Ock Kee Byun (Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries) #
*Rev. Micheal Edwards (Regional Synod of New York) #
*Robert Montgomery (Regional Synod of Canada) #

COMMISSION ON RACE AND ETHNICITY
Class of 2020
Rev. Matthew Waterstone
Class of 2021
*Karla Camacho
Rafael Garcia (Council for Hispanic Ministries) #
Rev. Kelvin Spooner (African American Black Council) #

COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY
Class of 2020
Rev. William Russell – ELCA ecumenical observer
Class of 2021
Rev. Travis Else
Elizabeth Estes
*Kristen Johnson

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
Class of 2021
Rev. Melisa Blankenship
*Kristin Intelisano
Rev. Daniel Jelsma

BOARD OF BENEFITS SERVICES
Class of 2021
Dana Chapman
Ralph Condis

As is provided for in its bylaws, BOBS has reduced its membership from 13 to 12 for the 2018–2019 year.

CHURCH GROWTH FUND
Class of 2021
*Rod Douma
*Diane Smith Faubion
MINISTERIAL FORMATION CERTIFICATION AGENCY
Class of 2021
Rev. Scott Christiansen
Rev. Shirley Lin

The 2017 General Synod approved a revision to the MFCA bylaws resulting in a
membership reduction from 11 to 9.

NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2021
*Danielle Brown
Rev. Gregory Dunlap (Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics)
Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier
*Gay Morris (Regional Synod of the Far West)
*Evan Spagner
*Amaury Tanon-Santos

As is provided for in its bylaws, the NBTS board has reduced its membership from 23 to
21 for the 2018–2019 year.

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2020
Percy Gilbert
Fred Johnson
Class of 2021
Rev. Andrea Godwin-Stremler
Matthew Haworth
Alden Highstreet
Timothy Hillegonds
Doug Honholt
Philip Miller
Steve Spoelhof
Rev. Cora Taitt
Vacancy (RSC)
Vacancy (RSH)

CENTRAL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2022
Barbara Kniff-McCulla

HOPE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2019
Rev. Dennis Voskuil
Class of 2022
Rev. Grace Claus

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2020
Catherine Bloom

N 18-1
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)
N 18-2
To elect Carl Boersma as moderator of the Commission on Nominations for the 2018–2019 term. (ADOPTED)

The Commission on Nominations thanks Shuo-Min (Imos) Wu, Dan Gillett, and Don Poest for their service. Their membership on the Commission on Nominations is concluding, and we are grateful for their prayers, insight, and contribution to our ministry. The Commission on Nominations appreciates Laura Tarbous, RCA staff to our commission, for her tireless attention to detail and diligent service in so many ways. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Boersma, moderator