Report of the Commission on Nominations

The Commission on Nominations convened in person October 18–19, 2018, and January 14–15, 2019, and teleconferenced on February 12, March 5, April 2, and April 30, 2019. Two final electronic votes were held through email, ending on May 20 and May 21–22, respectively.

Throughout the year, members of the commission actively sought qualified candidates, solicited completed profile forms, 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) [2018 edition, p. 116]).

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, and when possible, 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. Profile forms are available from staff to the Commission on Nominations, Laura Tarbous (908-812-7897 or ltarbous@rca.org), or on the RCA website at www.rca.org/profile.

Nominations

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

GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL
Class of 2023
*Rev. Pedro Agudelo (Council for Hispanic Ministries)#
*Bruce Deckinga (Regional Synod of the Great Lakes)#
*Rev. Jamie Dykstra
*Rev. Albert Plat (Regional Synod of Canada)#
*Margaret Ritchie
*Rev. Leigh Van Kempen
COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION
Class of 2022
*Rev. Scott DeLeeuw
Rev. Edward Lungu
*Robin Suydam

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION
Class of 2020
Rebecca Koerselman
Class of 2021
Yvonne Williams
Class of 2022
Rev. William Flavin
Rev. Troy Nanninga

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY
Class of 2021
Rev. Carlos Corro
Class of 2022
Rev. Stacey Duensing
*Rev. Sun Jong Ju

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
Class of 2022
*Rev. Robert Fretz
*Rev. Dennis TeBeest
Rev. Lisa Tice

COMMISSION ON CHURCH ORDER
Class of 2022
Rev. Howard Moths

COMMISSION ON HISTORY
Class of 2022
*Rev. Lynn Japinga
Rev. David Zomer

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL BUSINESS
Class of 2022
Erin Parker (Regional Synod of Albany)#
Rev. John Sauer (Regional Synod of the Great Lakes)#
*Thomas Terpstra (Regional Synod of the Far West)#

COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS
Class of 2022
*Rev. Greg Alderman (Regional Synod of the Far West)#
*Rebecca Hudak (Regional Synod of Albany)#
Rev. Judith Nelson (Regional Synod of the Great Lakes)#
Jael Serrano (Council for Hispanic Ministries)#
COMMISSIONS

COMMISSION ON RACE AND ETHNICITY
Class of 2020
Rev. Young Na
Class of 2021
Vacancy (Council for Hispanic Ministries)
Class of 2022
Rev. Stephen Kim (Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries)#
Jo Prout

COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY
Class of 2022
Rev. James Brownson
*Rev. David Komline
*Rev. Stephen Shaffer
Lauralyn Vasquez

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
Class of 2022
Josey Beird
*Rev. Dwayne Jackson
Rev. Debra Rensink

BOARD OF BENEFITS SERVICES
Class of 2022
Joseph Laswell

As is provided for in its bylaws, BOBS has reduced its membership from 12 to 11 for the 2019–2020 year.

CHURCH GROWTH FUND BOARD
Class of 2022
*Larry Koops
Ronald Rukambe

MINISTERIAL FORMATION CERTIFICATION AGENCY
Class of 2022
Norma Coleman-James
*Rev. Robert Johnson (GSC appointee)
Willie Si
Nancy Van Heerde
Rev. Cathleen Wolff

NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2022
Valerie Arthur
William Levering
Rev. Abigail Norton-Levering (Regional Synod of Albany)
Rev. Amy Nyland
Rev. Wilfredo Rodriguez
CENTRAL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Rev. Sophie Mathonnet-VanderWell
Rev. John Schmidt
Steve Sikkink

Central College amended its bylaws in 2018. It no longer maintains a static class rotation for its three General Synod–appointed members, and their service is reviewed on an annual basis.

HOPE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Class of 2023
Matthew Wixson

Hope College amended its bylaws in 2019. The requirement regarding General Synod–appointed members has been revised and now states that they shall be 25 percent of its total board membership, and, of those, half must be ordained ministers.

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

PASTORAL FORMATION OVERSIGHT BOARD
Class of 2020
Rev. Gregory Dunlap (NBTS Theological Agent designee)
Rev. Daniel Gillett
Rev. Chad Pierce
Class of 2021
Jeff Ludington
Rev. Kyle Small (WTS Theological Agent designee)
Rev. Cora Taitt
Class of 2022
Norma Coleman-James (MFCA Theological Agent designee)
Rev. Eun Jae (Dan) Joo
* Eric Moreno (GSC designee)
Carol Mutch (Commissioned Pastor Advisory Team [CPAT] designee)

N 19-1
To elect the above-named nominees to the General Synod commissions, agencies, and the boards of directors or trustees of RCA-related educational institutions as indicated. (ADOPTED)
A motion was made and supported to amend the slate of nominees incorporated by reference in N 19-1 as follows:

1. To grant a second three-year term on the MFCA board to Bradley Lewis and Vladimir Diaz-Ochoa.
2. To remove the remaining five names proposed for the MFCA board from the slate of nominees to be voted on by the General Synod.
3. To instruct the Commission on Nominations to meet after the General Synod to nominate three of the five candidates to the MFCA Board for consideration by the GSC for interim appointments to the remaining three vacancies on the board until the next meeting of the General Synod.
4. To instruct the GSC to appoint those three candidates on an interim basis until the next meeting of the General Synod.

A motion was made and supported to cease debate.

VOTED: To not cease debate.

Debate regarding the proposed amendment to N 19-1 resumed.

A motion was made and supported to cease debate.

VOTED: To cease debate.

VOTED: To not adopt the amendment to the slate of nominees incorporated by reference in N 19-1.

A motion was made and supported to cease debate.

VOTED: To cease debate.

VOTED: To adopt N 19-1.

N 19-2
To elect Carl Boersma as moderator of the Commission on Nominations for the 2019–2020 term. (ADOPTED)

The membership of Israel Camacho, Lee DeYoung, and Thomas Paarlberg on the Commission on Nominations is concluding on June 30, 2019. The Commission on Nominations wishes to thank them for their service. We are grateful for their prayers, insight, and contribution to the commission’s 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