

Report of the Commission for Women

The Commission for Women is committed to the work of advocacy for all women in the RCA. Honoring the gifts of women strengthens the church and invites the full participation of all of God's people in ministry. The Commission for Women seeks to raise awareness, to provide opportunities for women in the church, to provide information so that women can participate in the leadership and life of the church, to work toward systemic changes in the church for the full inclusion of women, and to collaborate and celebrate with other RCA bodies on issues concerning women.

There were several topics that the Commission for Women discussed at our meetings this year. Of prime importance was collaborating with the Office of Women's Transformation and Leadership in developing and disseminating resources for the church regarding the #WeAreSpeaking movement, a call to the church to end harassment, abuse, and sexual violence against women and girls. We are working toward the goal of designating an RCA-wide #WeAreSpeaking Sunday. This is an ongoing, multi-year project, and a more detailed report will be presented to General Synod at a later date.

The Commission for Women also looked at ways in which we can collaborate with other commissions and RCA entities regarding the issue of women affected by domestic abuse and violence. We are currently focusing on gathering and organizing resources. This is also a multi-year project, presently in the early stages.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve the RCA.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Susan Hetrick on behalf of the Commission for Women