

Report of the Commission on Nominations

AD-INTERIM REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL

The Commission on Nominations typically presents its report and accompanying recommendations annually to General Synod in June. The June 2021 stated session of the General Synod was adjourned to October 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this report is presented to the General Synod Council (GSC) at its June 22, 2021 meeting. The commission asks that GSC approve the accompanying recommendations *ad interim* as specified in the *Book of Church Order* (Chapter 3, Part I, Article 4, Section 3). The commission will ask General Synod to approve all *ad interim* appointments at its next regular stated session.

During the 2020-2021 annual cycle, the Commission on Nominations met by Zoom video conference on November 17, January 5, January 19, February 9, March 9, April 6, and April 27. Two final electronic votes were held by email, on May 17 and June 3.

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, agency, or board of the General Synod, or on the board of 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 [BCO]* Chapter 3, Part I, Article 5, Section 8.c.2).

The commission seeks to nominate individuals for service on commissions, agencies, and boards 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 *BCO* 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 commissions and agencies is carried out more effectively. Consequently, the commission encourages anyone interested in serving to submit a completed Profile form by emailing it to Angela Worthley, staff to the commission, at nominations@rca.org. A blank Profile form and brief descriptions of each commission, agency, and board can be found at www.rca.org/nominations.

Nominations

Nominees identified by the Commission on Nominations are as follows. (All terms begin on July 1 and end on June 30. The beginning and ending year of the terms of each class is noted, unless the nomination is to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term, then only an ending year is noted. An * in front of the name indicates that the new term will be the individual’s final term.

The *BCO* requires regional synod and/or racial-ethnic council nomination for various RCA bodies. These nominees are indicated by the regional synod or racial/ethnic council acronym in parentheses followed by a # sign.):

General Synod Council (GSC)

Class of 2021-2025

- *Davis, Susan
- * Lohre, Kathryn (ecumenical - ELCA)
- *Meyer-Veen, Rev. Michael
- *Nichols, Rev. Eric (RSMAt)#
- *Roller, Rev. Neale (RSMAm)#
- *Spyksma, Glenn
- *Vande Voort, Lee

Commission on Christian Action (CCA)

Class ending in 2023

Stephenson, Rev. Mark (*interim*, to be replaced by new CRCNA Director of Race Relations and Social Justice when hired without further action by GSC/General Synod to appoint/elect the new person) [Ecumenical Observer – Reformed]

Class of 2021-2024

- Ennis, Rev. Leah
- Smith, Rev. Dianna
- *Van Kooten Laughead, Cameron

Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education (CCDE)

Class ending in 2022

Balk, Rev. Ellen

Class of 2021-2024

- *Swart, Rev. Mark
- VanderWaal, Rev. Bradley
- White, Jason

Commission on Christian Unity (CCU)

Class ending in 2023

Veldt, Rev. Mark

Class of 2021-2024

- Buettner, Rev. Dale
- Busker, Rev. Nathan
- *Corro, Rev. Carlos

Commission on Christian Worship (CCW)

Class ending in 2022

Grimm, Rev. Cory

Class of 2021-2024

- *Frens, Rev. Kent
- *Van Beek, Rev. Troy

Commission on Church Order (CCO)

Class of 2021-2024

- Andrew, Brian
- Jacobsen, Rev. Christopher

Commission on History (CoH)

Class of 2021-2024

Meeter, Rev. Daniel
Shepler, Rev. Douglas

Commission on Judicial Business (CJB)

Class of 2021-2024

Brooks, Rev. Brion (RSMAM)#
Visser, Carl (RSC)#
[vacancy] (RSMAt)#

Commission on Nominations (CoN)

Class of 2021-2024

*Byun, Rev. Ock Kee (CPAAM)#
Garreton, Rev. Jose (RSC)#
Sealy, Rev. Patricia (RSNY)#
Vermeer, Evan (RSH)#

Commission on Race and Ethnicity (CORE)

Class ending in 2022

James, Earl

Class of 2021-2024

Elivo Lopez, Rev. Rolfi (CHM)#
Merino, Janice
*Spooner, Rev. Kelvin (AABC)#

Commission on Theology (CoT)

Class ending in 2022

Church, William Ruggles

Class ending in 2023

*Estes, Rev. Elizabeth

Class of 2021-2024

*Else, Rev. Travis
McCreary, Rev. Micah [RCA seminary faculty]
Whittington, Robert

Commission for Women (CfW)

Class of 2021-2024

*Blankenship, Rev. Melisa
Reid, Claudette
Bakelaar, Rev. Philip

Board of Benefits Services (BOBS) – New York

Class of 2021-2024

*Chapman, Dana
*Condis, Ralph

Board of Benefits Services (BOBS) – Michigan

Class of 2021-2024

*Chapman, Dana

*Condis, Ralph

Church Growth Fund Board (CGFB)

Class of 2021-2024

Putnam, Anne
Silberstein, Karl

Ministerial Formation Certification (MFC)

Class of 2021-2024

*Christiansen, Rev. Scott
*Lin, San-Yi Shirley

Pastoral Formation Oversight Board (PFOB)

Class of 2021-2024

Camacho, Israel
*Johnson, Kristen
*Taitt, Rev. Cora

New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) Board of Trustees

Class ending in 2022

McCarty, Therese – appointed *ad interim* by GSC at its October 23-24, 2020 meeting. By definition, *ad interim* appointees are eligible to serve until the next regular session of General Synod, at which time the General Synod is asked to elect the appointee to the remainder of the term identified. Because this report is intended to be approved *ad interim* by GSC at its June 22, 2021 meeting, and an additional *ad interim* appointment of this nominee is not necessary, it is noted here only for information. The CoN will ask General Synod, at its next regular stated session, to elect this member to the New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.

Class of 2021-2024

*Dunlap, Rev. Gregory (RSMAt)
*Kingdom-Grier, Rev. Denise (RSGL)
Morris, Michael (RSFW)
Rohrer, Rev. Ming-Chen Grace
Testa, Rev. Elizabeth

Western Theological Seminary (WTS) Board of Trustees

Class ending in 2023

Izenbart, Rev. David (RSMAM) and Snyder, Beth - appointed *ad interim* by GSC at its October 23-24, 2020 meeting. By definition, *ad interim* appointees are eligible to serve until the next regular session of General Synod, at which time the General Synod is asked to elect the appointee to the remainder of the term identified. Because this report is intended to be approved *ad interim* by GSC at its June 22, 2021 meeting, and an additional *ad interim* appointment of these nominees is not necessary, it is noted here only for information. The CoN will ask General Synod, at its next regular stated session, to elect these members to the Western Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.

Class of 2021-2024

*Godwin-Stremmler, Rev. Andrea
Haworth, Matthew
Highstreet, Alden (RSFW)
Hillegonds, Timothy
Spoelhof, Steve

*Taitt, Rev. Cora (RSNY)
Vermeer, Evan (RSH)

Central College Board of Trustees

On April 25, 2020, the Central College Board of Trustees elected Rev. Sophie Mathonnet-VanderWell, Steve Sikkink, and Judi Vogel to serve as General Synod members in the class of 2020-2021. Typically, the CoN includes these members in its June report to General Synod and asks for the affirmation required by the bylaws of Central College. This did not occur in 2020 due to the unfortunate timing of the COVID-19 pandemic. General Synod did not meet in 2020, GSC does not have the authority to appoint members *ad interim* to the Central College Board of Trustees, and therefore no action was taken by the CoN or GSC. The CoN will ask General Synod, at its next regular stated session, to affirm the election of these 2020-2021 General Synod members to the Central College Board of Trustees.

Also, please note that on April 24, 2021, the Central College Board of Trustees elected Rev. Sophie Mathonnet-VanderWell, Steve Sikkink, and Judi Vogel to serve as General Synod members in the class of 2021-2022. GSC does not have the authority to appoint members *ad interim* to the Central College Board of Trustees, and therefore no action is requested at this time. The CoN will ask General Synod, at its next regular stated session, to affirm the election of these 2021-2022 General Synod members to the Central College Board of Trustees.

Hope College Board of Trustees

On May 1, 2020, the Hope College Board of Trustees nominated Rev. Mike Pitsenberger, Rev. Eddy Alemán, and Eugene Sutton to serve as trustees in the class of 2020-2023. Typically, the CoN includes these members in its June report to General Synod and asks for the election required by the bylaws of Hope College. This did not occur in 2020 due to the unfortunate timing of the COVID-19 pandemic. General Synod did not meet in 2020, GSC does not have the authority to appoint members *ad interim* to the Hope College Board of Trustees, and therefore no action was taken by the CoN or GSC at that time.

The GSC received a letter dated September 16, 2020, from Hope College, asking that Rev. Mike Pitsenberger, Rev. Eddy Alemán, and Eugene Sutton be affirmed as members of its Board of Trustees at the GSC's October meeting. The GSC, at its October 23-24, 2020, meeting, took action to appoint the trustees *ad interim* and further, to seek ratification of the action at the next regular session of General Synod (GSC 20-38). The GSC will ask General Synod to ratify that action. In addition, the CoN will ask General Synod, at its next regular stated session, to elect these trustees to the Hope College Board of Trustees in a term in the class of 2020-2023.

Also, please note that on May 7, 2021, the Hope College Board of Trustees nominated Rev. Nathan Hart to serve as a trustee in an additional 4-year term in the class of 2021-2025. The GSC does not have the authority to appoint members *ad interim* to the Hope College Board of Trustees, and therefore no action is requested at this time. The CoN will ask General Synod, at its next regular stated session, to elect this trustee to the Hope College Board of Trustees.

Northwestern College Board of Trustees

At its April 23-24, 2020 meeting, the Northwestern College Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Rev. Robert Brouwer and Julie Henrich to serve as General Synod trustees in a final term ending in 2024. Typically, the CoN includes these members in its June report to General Synod and asks for the approval required by the bylaws of Northwestern College. This did not occur in 2020 due to the unfortunate timing of the COVID-19 pandemic. General Synod did not meet in 2020, GSC does not have the authority to appoint members *ad interim* to the

Northwestern College Board of Trustees, and therefore no action was taken by the CoN or GSC. The CoN will ask General Synod, at its next regular stated session, to approve these 2024 General Synod trustees to the Northwestern College Board of Trustees.

Also, please note that at its April 15-16, 2021, the Northwestern College Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Wayne Van Heuvelen to serve as a General Synod trustee, to a final term ending in 2025. The GSC does not have the authority to appoint members *ad interim* to the Northwestern College Board of Trustees, and therefore no action is requested at this time. The CoN will ask General Synod, at its next regular stated session, to approve this 2025 General Synod trustee to the Northwestern College Board of Trustees.

Recommendation

To appoint *ad interim* the nominees named in the 2021 Report of the Commission on Nominations to the General Synod commissions, agencies, and boards, and the boards of trustees of RCA-related educational institutions, until such time as the General Synod meets in regular stated session and gives its approval;

And further, to elect Carol Mutch to serve as *ad interim* moderator of the Commission on Nominations for the 2021-2022 term.

Appreciation

The terms of Commission on Nominations members Carl Boersma, Micheal Edwards, and Robert Montgomery will conclude June 30, 2021. The commission wishes to thank them for their service. We are grateful for their prayers, insight, and contribution to the commission's ministry. Also, the Commission on Nominations appreciates Angela Worthley, RCA staff to our commission, for her tireless attention to detail and diligent service in so many ways.

The commission wishes to express special words of appreciation to Carl Boersma for the seven years he served on the CoN, as well as five years as moderator. During that time he instituted several significant changes to streamline and improve the selection process. He led us with grace, expressing deep appreciation throughout our time together for the work of commission members to a degree none of us had ever experienced before. Collegiality and congeniality were the hallmarks of his leadership. Carl Boersma's character, warmth, and commitment are invaluable gifts to the RCA. We are grateful for the journey we have taken with him.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carl Boersma, moderator
Carol Mutch, vice moderator