Report of the Commission for Women

The Commission for Women is committed to the work of advocacy for all women in the Reformed Church in America (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.

The Commission for Women discussed several topics at its meetings this year. We discussed the specific issues women deal with when they’re experiencing domestic violence. We talked about resources for women and the churches that are supporting them, and how to make sure churches are aware of the issues that may be silently present in their congregations.

We also discussed whether to propose a Sunday where a more deliberate awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence would be highlighted. We also spent time discussing how we can support women who are discerning their vocation, who are still in seminary, or who are looking for a first call. Some tangential conversations were around whole regions that are not as welcoming to women’s ordination, how to support women in those areas, and the use of gender neutral language in official documents as a way of continuing to normalize the fact that pastors are both male and female.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve the RCA.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Melisa Blankenship on behalf of the Commission for Women