

## **Addition to the Report of the General Synod Council Serving as the Executive Committee of the General Synod**

The following was inadvertently omitted from the report of the GSC serving as the executive committee of the General Synod.

### **Nomination of Board Members to Effect Dissolution of Vibrant Congregations/Reformed Partnership for Congregational Renewal (RPCR)**

In 2018, the CRC and RCA established a joint project called the Reformed Partnership for Congregational Renewal (RPCR), for which grant funding was secured. RPCR was intended to be a kind of “intake center” that could help RCA and CRC congregations assess what they needed to help them move forward in ministry given their particular circumstances, and then connect them with a relevant ministry, program, or partner organization. The RPCR was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2019 - the CRC and RCA were each responsible for appointing four voting board members. The organization filed a change of name and has been known as Vibrant Congregations for several years.

When Vibrant Congregations began, it was largely a staff project, and RCA board members were mainly Transformed & Transforming staff members. Staff who served as board members have all since left the RCA staff, and their board positions were not subsequently filled. At this time, there are no voting RCA board members on Vibrant's board.

General secretary Eddy Alemán and CRC general secretary Zach King have been involved in a number of discussions about the future of Vibrant Congregations, and ultimately decided that the best way forward will be to officially dissolve the nonprofit for several reasons. The grant funding is ending, and neither the CRC nor the RCA have the capacity to continue to fund the organization. Each denomination's reality has changed since 2019, when the organization was first incorporated as its own nonprofit, and both denominations are now refocusing and approaching the task of resourcing congregations in different ways than were envisioned through Vibrant. Especially with the RCA's smaller size, we don't have the financial resources to fund Vibrant Congregations into the future, and we plan to do the work of equipping congregations through the Center for Multiplication and Ministry - the reorganized and unified RCA equipping staff. The work of equipping congregations will continue; the work is just being carried out differently.

In order to properly and legally dissolve the organization, however, it must have a fully constituted board, which means that the RCA's four board positions need to be filled. According to the way Vibrant's bylaws are written, the General Synod is responsible for appointing the RCA's board members. This was likely an oversight in the drafting of Vibrant's original bylaws, as the CRCNA's appointing body is not its Synod but its Council of Delegates, which is its analogous body to the RCA's GSC.

GSC voted at its March 2023 meeting to bring the names of the following nominees to the General Synod and ask General Synod to appoint them for the purpose of

dissolving the organization. The Commission on Nominations is not involved because Vibrant is not a General Synod commission or agency since the General Synod has not been asked to approve its bylaws; the Commission on Nominations only makes nominations for “the General Synod Council and all General Synod commissions and agencies” (*BCO* Chapter 3, Part I, Article 5, Section 8.c.1.).

The nominees below are all aware that they are being nominated/appointed for the purpose of winding down the organization. Two nominees are GSC staff members, but since the sole purpose of the appointment of RCA board members is to dissolve the organization in an orderly and proper manner, and the CRC also has several denominational staff members serving in their board spots, it seems appropriate for some board positions to be filled by GSC staff members with background understanding of Vibrant’s history and the current circumstances.

**EC 23-10**

**To appoint the following individuals to serve as the RCA’s representatives on the board of directors of Vibrant Congregations (Reformed Partnership for Congregational Renewal, RPCR) for the purpose of winding down the organization: Edie Lenz, Steve Norman, Sung Kim, and Liz Brand.**