

Report of the Commission on Nominations

During the 2022-2023 annual cycle, the Commission on Nominations met by Zoom video conference on September 13, October 4, and December 6, 2022, and February 14, March 7, April 4, April 18, and May 9, 2023, and in-person on January 17, 2023. In addition, three electronic votes were held by email on May 30, May 31, and June 1, 2023.

The 13 members of the commission include representatives named by the Reformed Church in America's eight regional synods and the three racial and ethnic councils, plus a member representing Native Americans/First Nations and the immediate past president of General Synod. The commission actively promoted the completion of profile forms by all individuals who are members of and wish to serve the Reformed Church in America (RCA) on a General Synod commission, agency, or board. Those profiles were carefully reviewed, and candidates and their references were vetted and discussed thoroughly. In this way, 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 8c, 2 [2022 edition, p. 118]). The commission also worked in cooperation with the boards of trustees of the RCA-related institutions to fill openings and vacancies on their respective boards as directed by the various governing documents of those institutions.

The commission seeks to nominate individuals for service on commissions, agencies, and boards on the basis of their spiritual gifts, interests, passion, abilities, personality, experience, and special leadership abilities. Through its efforts, the commission has proactively fulfilled its responsibility to search the denomination. The commission is pleased to report 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, agencies, and boards is carried out more effectively. Consequently, the commission encourages anyone interested in serving to submit a completed profile by emailing it to Angela Worthley, staff to the commission, at nominations@rca.org. A blank profile and brief descriptions of each commission, agency, and board can be found at www.rca.org/nominations. If you wish to read in a language other than English, the following translations are currently available.

Korean – www.rca.org/ko/nominations
Portuguese – www.rca.org/pt/nominations
Spanish – www.rca.org/es/nominations

Nominees

The commission recommends to General Synod that it elect the following nominees for the terms identified, whom the commission believes have those qualities that make them well-suited for the positions to which they are being nominated. (Classes that include a beginning and ending year begin on July 1 and end on June 30. Classes that are noted by an ending year only conclude June 30. An asterisk 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 ending in 2026

*[vacancy] (AABC)#

Class of 2023-2027

*Barber, Rev. Carole

*Gutierrez, Rev. Fredy (CHM)#

*Hoeksema, Clair

*Opgenorth, Rev. Jonathan (RSGL)#

*Shan, Jidong

*Vrielink, Hank (RSC)#

Commission on Christian Action (CCA)

Class of 2023-2026

Dekker, Rev. James (Ecumenical Observer – Reformed)

*Elzinga, Rev. Anne

Ogden, Rev. Doug (Ecumenical Observer – ELCA)

*Prince, Bradley

Song, Rev. Thomas

Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education (CCDE)

Class of 2023-2026

*Koerselman, Rebecca

Van Dyk, LaCosta

Commission on Christian Unity (CCU)

Class of 2023-2026

*Elenbaas, Rev. Anthony (Ecumenical – CRCNA)

Hoffman, Rev. Robert

*Jackson, Carol

*Lampen, Rev. Jeffery

Commission on Christian Worship (CCW)

Class of 2023-2026

De Koster, Rev. Rosalyn

Robinson, Beverly

Commission on Church Order (CCO)

Class of 2023-2026

Bruehl, Amanda
De Koster, Philip

Commission on History (CoH)

Class of 2023-2026

Balk, Rev. Aric
*Devos, Rev. Corstian

Commission on Judicial Business (CJB)

Class of 2023-2026

Peake, Rev. William (RSH)#
Wade, Rev. Susanah (RSNY)#

Commission on Nominations (CoN)

Class of 2023-2025

Hart, Rev. Suzanne (RSGL)#

Class of 2023-2026

*Dove, Rev. Lawrence (AABC)#
Kallioinen, Rev. Dylan (RSMAM)#
Poest, Rev. Christopher (RSMAt)#
[vacancy] (Native Americans/First Nations)

Commission on Race and Ethnicity (CORE)

Class of 2023-2026

Gullion, Nathan (Native Americans/First Nations)
*Na, Rev. Dr. Young
*Pyle, Rev. Nathan

Commission on Theology (CoT)

Class ending in 2025

Scholten, Rev. Douglas

Class of 2023-2026

Bierma, Dr. Lyle (Ecumenical observer – reformed body)
*Bouma-Prediger, Dr. Steven
Longfield, Rev. Nathan
Santos, Rev. Dr. Carmelo (Ecumenical observer – ELCA)
Tolsma, Sara Sybesma

Commission for Women (CfW)

Class of 2023-2026

Brouwer, Rev. Kristin
*Dekker, Rev. Florence

Board of Benefits Services (BOBS)

Class ending in 2025

[vacancy]

Class of 2023-2026

Banks, Rev. Beryl
*Cumings, Timothy
Weener, Seth

Church Growth Fund Board (CGFB)

Class ending in 2024

Faubion, Diane Smith

Class of 2023-2026

*Bos, Rev. Dr. Michael
Ellingson, Mark
Molling, Michael

Ministerial Formation Certification Agency (MFCA)

Class ending in 2025

Valdez, Jacqueline

Class of 2023-2026

Converse, Rev. Susan
Zumdaahl, Rev. Lyle

Pastoral Formation Oversight Board (PFOB)

Class of 2023-2026

*Dunlap, Rev. Gregory (NBTS Theological Agent designee)
*Gillett, Rev. Daniel
*Pierce, Rev. Dr. Chad

New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) Board of Trustees

Class of 2023-2026

Clifton, Rev. Angelita
*Cruz, Rev. Samuel
*Kaltwasser, Cambria
*McGinty, Felicia
Plat, Rev. Albert
*Vis, Rev. Anthony (RSH)

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To elect the above-named nominees to serve as members of the General Synod commissions, agencies, and boards, and the boards of trustees of RCA-related educational institutions, for the terms identified; and further,

To elect Patricia Sealy to serve as moderator of the Commission on Nominations for the annual term beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

Ad Interim Appointments

The General Synod Council (GSC) appointed two *ad interim* nominees at meetings held in October 2022 and March 2023. An *ad interim* appointment is a temporary

appointment made by the GSC of an individual to fill a mid-term vacancy on a commission, agency, or board. He or she typically serves less than one year until the next stated session of the General Synod (*BCO*, Chapter 3, Part I, Article 4, Section 3 [2022 edition, p. 112]).

Nominee appointed *ad interim* on October 10, 2022 (GSC 22-48)

General Synod Council (GSC)

Class ending in 2025

*Cline, Linda

Nominee appointed *ad interim* on March 21, 2023 (GSC 23-03)

Commission on Nominations (CoN)

Class ending in 2024

Plat, Rev. Albert (RSC)#

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To elect the above-named appointees, who were appointed *ad interim* by the General Synod Council, to serve as members of the General Synod commissions, agencies, and boards indicated, for the remainder of the terms identified.

Nominees for Western Theological Seminary and College Boards of Trustees

The Commission on Nominations recommends to General Synod the following trustees for the terms identified.

Western Theological Seminary (WTS) Board of Trustees

No openings or vacancies to be filled at this time.

Central College Board of Trustees

Class of 2023-2024

Ellingson, Mark

Sikkink, Steve

Vogel, Judith

Hope College Board of Trustees

Class of 2023-2024

*Chavis, Illena

Class of 2023-2026

Alemán, Rev. Eddy

Pitsenberger, Rev. Michael

Class of 2023-2027

*Wixson, Matthew

Northwestern College Board of Trustees

Class of 2023-2027

Van Roekel, Gerald B.

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To affirm the election of the above-named Central College nominees to serve as General Synod members of the Central College Board of Trustees for the terms identified; and further,

To elect the above-named Hope College nominees to serve as Synod Members of the Hope College Board of Trustees for the terms identified; and further,

To appoint the above-named Northwestern College nominee to serve as a General Synod trustee of the Northwestern College Board of Trustees for the term identified.

Appreciation

This year we say farewell to five individuals who have given unstintingly of their time and talents for the work of the Commission on Nominations: Phil Assink, who served one year as immediate past-president of General Synod; Rainey Enjady, who is completing six years of service; Carol Mutch, our moderator, who is also completing six years of service; Judy Nelson, our vice moderator, who leaves Nominations earlier than expected in order to take on the responsibilities of president of General Synod; and Dean Schramm, our secretary, who has performed his work with diligence, good humor, and commitment.

The Commission on Nominations also extends a heartfelt “thank you” to Carol Mutch for her leadership as moderator over the past two years. Guided by her profound faith, commitment to the Reformed Church in America, her diligence in seeking candidates who are a “good fit,” and her lightheartedness, Carol has been a role model for the members of this commission. We will miss her, and we wish her an abundance of blessings as she moves on to the next phase of her work in building the kingdom of God.

We are especially grateful for Angela Worthley, our staff support and the backbone of the commission. She can always be counted on to handle, without prompting, the myriad communications and recordkeeping that keep us on point. Her competence, warmth, genuine concern for others, dependability, and clear commitment to the work of the RCA are a true gift to us and to the denomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Mutch, 2022-2023 moderator

Patricia Sealy, CoN member and corresponding delegate to 2023 General Synod