

Report of the Commission on Nominations

During the 2023–2024 annual cycle, the Commission on Nominations met by Zoom video conference on September 7, October 19, November 9, and December 6, 2023, and February 8, March 7, April 4, April 25, 2024, and in-person on January 16, 2024. In addition, an electronic vote was held by email on May 9, 2024.

The members of the commission include representatives named by the Reformed Church in America's eight regional synods and the four racial and ethnic councils 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 [2023 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.

The number of profiles submitted for consideration in recent years has continued to lessen, which may be reflective of the smaller membership of the RCA and thus the smaller volunteer pool. It may also be reflective of the fact that other assembly levels in the RCA are also experiencing a decrease in membership, and thus many potential volunteers may have already been asked to take on responsibilities at other assembly levels and feel overcommitted. The commission wishes to stress that it believes the nominees listed below are well qualified for the positions for which they are nominated and they will serve well in these roles. At the same time, the commission acknowledges that the continuing trend of a shrinking pool of profiles from which to identify nominees makes the task with which the commission is entrusted—filling the numerous open positions every year in a way that fulfills all of the listed requirements of each body; balances many forms of diversity including racial and ethnic diversity, gender diversity, geographic diversity, age diversity, and diversity of office; and also takes into account the identified needs of each particular body—increasingly difficult.

When the number of qualified candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences 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 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. (Terms that include a beginning and ending year begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of the listed year. Terms that are noted by an ending year only indicate a partial term that will conclude June 30 of the listed year. 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 and ethnic council nomination for various RCA bodies. These nominees are indicated by the regional synod or racial and ethnic council acronym in parentheses followed by a # sign.)

General Synod Council (GSC)

Term ending in 2026

*Campbell, Vivian (AABC)#

Term ending in 2027

*Boote, Rev. Nancy

*Rivera, Rev. Dr. Carlos (GCHM)#

Term of 2024-2028

*Beckford, Patrick

*Beebe, Rev. Brandon

*Enjady, Rainey (NAIM)#

*Kroese, Linda (RSH)#

*TenClay, Rev. Timothy (RSNY)#

*Town, Rev. Gregory

*Vacancy

Commission on Christian Action (CCA)

Term of 2024-2027

*Ennis, Rev. Leah

Haldeman, John David

*Smith, Rev. Dr. Dianna

Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education (CCDE)

Term of 2024-2027

Hart, Rev. Kevin
Puguh, Rev. Paige
*White, Rev. Jason

Commission on Christian Unity (CCU)

Term of 2024-2027

Altamirano, Allan
Bossardet, Rev. Andrew
*Busker, Rev. Dr. Nathan

Commission on Christian Worship (CCW)

Term of 2024-2027

Barber, Rev. Larry
DeVries, Rev. James

Commission on Church Order (CCO)

Term of 2024-2027

*Andrew, Brian
*Jacobsen, Rev. Christopher

Commission on History (CoH)

Term of 2024-2027

*Meeter, Rev. Daniel
*Shepler, Rev. Douglas

Commission on Judicial Business (CJB)

Term of 2024-2027

*Brooks, Rev. Brion (RSMam)#
*Thornton, Edward (RSMat)#
*Visser, Carl (RSC)#

Commission on Nominations (CoN)

Term ending in 2025

[Vacancy] (RSFW)

Term ending in 2026

Gillis, Nancy (NAIM)#

Term of 2024-2027

*Berry, Dr. Tricia (RSH)#
Na, David (CPAAM)#
*Plat, Rev. Al (RSC)#
*Sealy, Rev. Dr. Patricia (RSNY)#

Commission on Race and Ethnicity (CORE)

Term of 2024-2027

Alvarez, Elvis (GCHM)#
Davis, Tony (AABC)#
*Robinson, Rev. Riana Shaw

Commission on Theology (CoT)

Term of 2024-2027

McCreary, Rev. Dr. Micah
Nielsen, Rev. Sara
*Whittington, Robert

Commission for Women (CfW)

Term of 2024-2027

*Bakelaar, Rev. Philip
Fan, Rev. Tiffany
Johnson, Patricia

Board of Benefits Services (BOBS)

Term ending in 2025

Otten, Rev. Wayne

Term of 2024-2027

Mooi, Rev. Christa

Church Growth Fund Board (CGF)

Term of 2024-2027

Faubion, Diane Smith

Ministerial Formation Certification Agency (MFCA)

Term ending in 2027

*Opgenorth, Rev. Jonathan (GSC)#

Term of 2024-2027

Elder, Rev. Jason
Hemmen, Rev. Verlyn

Pastoral Formation Oversight Board (PFOB)

Term ending in 2027

*Boote, Rev. Nancy (GSC)#

Term of 2024-2027

*Camacho, Israel
Komline, Rev. David (WTS designee)#
Kors, Rev. Dr. Cornelis

New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) Board of Trustees

Term of 2024-2027

Andrew, Brian
*Morris, Michael
Richardson, Terry
*Rohrer, Ming-Chen (Grace)
*Testa, Rev. Elizabeth

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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, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.

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 RCA openings or vacancies to be filled at this time.

Central College Board of Trustees

Term of 2024-2025

Ellingson, Mark

Sikkink, Steve

Vogel, Judith

Hope College Board of Trustees

No RCA openings or vacancies to be filled at this time

Northwestern College Board of Trustees

No RCA openings or vacancies to be filled at this time

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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.

Appreciation

This year we say farewell to two commission members who have given faithfully of their time and talents for the work of the Commission on Nominations: Dwayne Jackson, who served one year as immediate past-president of General Synod; and Eric Moreno, who served just under two years. The commission will miss them both greatly!

The commission also said farewell to our staff person, Angela Worthley, at the end of 2023 when she took a new position with the Church Growth Fund. The commission is so grateful for her dedication to detail and the myriad ways that she helped us stay on track and organized during her tenure as our staff person. The commission has been most appreciative of the service and support of Elizabeth Brand. Liz stepped in at the beginning of the year as our administrative staff person. She has guided us in a strategic, compassionate, and helpful manner. Her ability to help us streamline processes has served the commission well.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Sealy, moderator