

## Nomination and Election Processes of Denominational Board Membership

### I. Nominations and elections

#### A. Background

Synod **strongly encourages nominations of ethnic minority and women** to obtain board membership that reflects the broad diversity of the CRC. Synod 2009 emphasized the importance of reflecting the diversity of the church on our committees and boards. We ask that each classis consider this important request and be intentional in seeking diversity in nominations brought forward.

Synod 1983 adopted the following recommendations relating to the balance between the number of non-ministers and ministers on denominational boards.

1. That the boards . . . carefully monitor the balance of their own memberships, noting the balance or imbalance between classical representatives who are ministers or lay members, and alert the classes so that they in turn may take this information into consideration when electing the delegates to those boards.
2. That classes carefully monitor the balance of membership of the denominational boards involved and take this into consideration when electing delegates to these boards.

For this reason, you will note specific requests by the boards for either clergy or nonclergy nominees.

#### B. Nominating process for agency boards

The process for nominating and electing board members (when such are needed) is the same for the educational institutions and most of the agencies of the CRC (i.e., Back to God Ministries International, Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, Home Missions, World Missions, and Faith Alive Christian Resources). The only exceptions to this procedure are the Board of Trustees and CRWRC (cf. sections C and D below). The process for the agency boards is as follows:

1. The stated clerk receives a packet from the Office of Synodical Services indicating which denominational boards are requesting nominees to fill either current or anticipated vacancies in board membership. After reviewing the requests for nominees from your classis, each classis should request the churches to submit names of potential nominees prior to the fall meeting of classis.
2. Each classis will then select nominees for service on one or more of the boards.
3. Information regarding nominees from each classis in a region is forwarded by the stated clerk to the Office of Synodical Services **by November 15**. *Two* separate nomination forms are provided—one for *the stated clerk* and one for *the nominee*. Upon receipt of the nominations, the director of synodical services will forward the names to the appropriate boards.

4. From the gross list of names submitted from each region, the respective board prepares a slate of two nominees for each vacant position (usually at the winter board meeting) and forwards the slate of nominees to the Office of Synodical Services.
5. A ballot is prepared with all the nominees and is sent (late February/early March) to each classis within a region for vote at the spring meeting of classis.
6. Classis submits the number of votes for each nominee to the Office of Synodical Services where the votes are totaled for each region and the results submitted to synod for ratification. Tie votes are resolved by a vote of the synodical delegates from the region.
7. Terms of *all* board members begin and end on July 1.

*C. Nominating process for the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA*

The process for nominating and electing delegates for the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA (BOT) is as follows:

1. *In Canada*, **each classis** where a trustee's term expires selects **two or more** nominees for the BOT position being vacated.

*In the U.S.*, **each classis in a region** where a trustee's term expires selects **one or more** nominees for the BOT position being vacated.

2. The names of nominees are sent to the Office of Synodical Services, which forwards them to the Board of Trustees.
3. From the combined list of names submitted from each classis/region, the BOT prepares a slate of two nominees for each vacant position on the Board.
4. The slate of nominees is presented **to synod** for a final vote for the delegate position only.

*D. Process for election of CRWRC board member*

Persons who serve on the board of CRWRC are selected in keeping with the procedures spelled out in Rules for Synodical Procedure VI, D, 6—each classis nominates a representative to the board, to be ratified by synod. It should also be noted that the CRWRC board of delegates elects a smaller group from among the classical delegates to actually function as the Joint Ministry Council. The remaining larger group meets just once per year. When your classis nominates a new regular member to the CRWRC board of delegates, please forward the **full name, address, and telephone number** of that person to the Office of Synodical Services. This is especially necessary for the persons elected to board membership who are not ministers.

## **II. Board members recommended for reelection**

Your packet also contains names of board members who are eligible for reelection to a second term. Please ask your classis to review the names of persons eligible for reelection if applicable. If classis has no reservations about the nominees, indicate such by return communication to the Office of Synodical Services—that slate of incumbents will be submitted

to synod for reappointment. In all cases, the incumbent will remain as the board member and, where applicable, the alternate will remain as the alternate.

### III. General information re the boards

A. Terms for board members begin and end on July 1 and run for three years. Board members are eligible for appointment to a second three-year term.

B. Each board has slightly different meeting dates.

- Board of Trustees of the CRCNA ordinarily meets in September, February, and May.
- Back to God Ministries International board ordinarily meets in September, February, and May.
- Calvin College Board of Trustees ordinarily meets in October, February, and May.
- Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees ordinarily meets in October and February.
- CR Home Missions board ordinarily meets in September and February.
- CR World Missions board ordinarily meets in September, February, and May.
- Faith Alive Christian Resources board ordinarily meets in September, January, and April.

### IV. Board nomination packets

Enclosed you will find a different colored packet for each board that is requesting nominees from your region/classis. Each board packet includes information re that particular board (please duplicate for each potential nominee) and *two* nomination forms—**one for stated clerks** to complete and **one for the nominee** to complete. *If applicable to your classis*, look for the following colored packets enclosed:

Board of Trustees of the CRCNA (see *tan* packet)

Back to God Ministries International board (see *ivory* packet)

Calvin College Board of Trustees (see *blue* packet)

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees (see *green* packet)

Christian Reformed Home Missions board (see *lilac* packet)

Christian Reformed World Missions board (see *gray* packet)

Faith Alive Christian Resources board (see *yellow* packet)