

SYNODICAL SERVICES II

Chair: Rev. Scott VanderPloeg
Reporter: Rev. Chris Ganski

I. Response to Overture 7: Synodical Advisory Committee Regarding Denominational Boards

A. Materials:

1. Overture 7, *Agenda for Synod 2025*, pp. 352–354
2. Council of Delegates Supplement Report, Section III. A, including Appendix E
3. Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement Report, Appendix A
4. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) Supplement Report, Section I, including Appendix A
5. Historical Committee Supplement

B. Recommendations

1. That synod, recognizing the importance of maintaining theological, ethical, and professional alignment among nominees to synodically appointed boards, committees, and agencies, direct the office of the General Secretary to request that such bodies provide rubrics listing the qualifications and giftedness expected of board and committee nominees. These rubrics shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Relevant education and professional experience
- b. Spiritual maturity and moral integrity
- c. A stated commitment to Jesus Christ and to the confessional standards of the CRCNA

2. That synod direct the Office of General Secretary to ensure that:

- a. The above rubrics are made publicly available, such as through publication on CRCNA websites or synodical materials.
- b. Biographical summaries of all nominees submitted to synod include information addressing the criteria outlined in the rubric. These bios shall be included in the *Agenda for Synod* or other official delegate resources.

3. That synod consider this action to be its response to Overture 7, acknowledging the concerns raised and the feedback received from Calvin Theological Seminary, the Council of Delegates, the Historical Committee, the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC), and Calvin University.

Grounds:

- a. This recommendation honors and builds upon existing nomination processes, acknowledging that procedures may vary across organizations. The intent is not to replace those processes, but to establish shared baseline expectations for all synodically appointed bodies.
- b. Making the rubric and nominee bios available ensures that synod delegates and church members are better informed, enhancing transparency, trust, and accountability.
- c. This approach affirms the spirit of Overture 7, recognizing the denomination's desire for theological, ethical, and confessional alignment among its leadership.