

STANDING COMMITTEES

Candidacy Committee Supplement

I. Candidates for minister of the Word

A. Candidates for ministry

Each year it is a privilege to meet and interview the applicants for candidacy. The interviews for these candidates were conducted this year by teams of four persons. The Candidacy Committee is pleased to recommend for candidacy the nineteen individuals listed below. These persons include those who graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary and from other accredited seminaries. Candidates who attended seminaries other than Calvin Theological Seminary have completed the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy. Biographical details for each candidate can be found in the candidate booklet available for download at crcna.org/candidacy.

The following motion will allow their names to be approved by synod:

That synod declare the following nineteen individuals as candidates for ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America, subject to completion of all remaining (if any) requirements (the list of candidates eligible for call is available on the Candidacy Committee website: crcna.org/candidacy).

Peter Urie Bae	Masao Fujishima	Kevin Lobert
Joseph Bartels	Julia Gho	Caley Meza
Tha Bawi	Kanghyeon Heo	Rachel Park
Kyle Beckrich	Kyo Chan Koo	Christopher Smid
Rylan Brue	Dylan Kern	Matthew Sun
Josiah Chapman	Peter Kranenburg	
Raymond Evans	Israel Ledee	

B. Extension of candidacy

The rules of synod require that someone declared a candidate by one synod must request an extension of candidacy status at the following synod if a call has not been accepted. The Candidacy Committee communicates with such persons to determine the validity of their extension and to offer words of encouragement.

The Candidacy Committee recommends the following persons for approval of candidacy extension:

Jeremiah Bašurić	Charles Mutinga
Melissa Burmaster	Michelle Oh
David Kerkstra	Jonathan Sturuss
Young Geol Lee	Lorinda VanderWerp

It may be interesting to note that all of the above were declared candidates by Synod 2024. This year there are no extended candidates who have been waiting longer than one year to accept a call.

II. Article 8 candidates approved

Our process for guiding pastors ordained in other denominations who wish to become ordained in the CRC is described in Church Order Article 8. Church Order Supplement, Article 8, E directs the Candidacy Committee to be intimately involved in this process and to submit for synod's review the names of those approved for Article 8 process. The Candidacy Committee has concurred on the need for the following persons in the past year. In each case the appropriate documents are on file with the Office of Candidacy.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Classis</i>	<i>Ordination Denomination</i>
10/14/2024	Mavindi Mbuba	GR South	Baptist Comm. of River Congo
10/30/2024	Jean Gomes	Grandville	Presbyterian Church of Brazil
11/20/2024	Soonhyuk Kwon	Calif. South	Presbyterian Church in Korea
11/27/2024	Kenneth Labbe	Huron	Reformed Church in America
02/3/2025	Han-Sung Kim	Central Calif.	KAICAM

III. Nominations

Rev. Henry Kranenburg and Rev. Andy Sytsma are completing their first term on the committee and are willing to serve a second term. Rev. Felix Fernandez and Judy Cook are completing their second terms and are not available for reappointment. Rev. Michele Kool withdrew from the committee during the past year. Therefore the Candidacy Committee presents to synod the following slates of nominees for appointment to fill three vacant positions:

For position 1

Rev. Mark Bennink has been the chaplain for the Grand Rapids team of Hospice of Michigan for nearly four years, and he served as a church pastor for twenty-four years. He served as the pastor of Newton (Iowa) CRC; as pastor of congregational life at First CRC, Fremont, Michigan; as senior pastor at Twelfth Avenue CRC, Jenison, Michigan; and as interim pastor at First CRC, Zeeland, Michigan. He has been a member of several classis committees, including the Classis Muskegon ministries board and the Classis Georgetown vision team (classical interim committee). He also served as synodical deputy for Classis Georgetown and enjoyed affirming new candidates for ministry during their classis exams. He has mentored youth pastors and trained new hospice chaplains. He is a member of Holland Heights CRC in Holland, Michigan, and serves in the congregation's worship, teaching, and youth prayer ministries. He has been married to his wife, Sheri, for almost thirty-two years and is the father of two adult children.

Rev. InSoon Gho Hoagland is a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist (LCMFT) who operates a private practice in Leavenworth, Kansas. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology and theology, a master's degree in marriage and family Christian counseling, and a master of divinity degree from Calvin Theological Seminary, where she has been honored

as a distinguished alumna. Currently she is a Ph.D. candidate in counselor education and supervision at Kansas State University and serves as an academic associate in Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy. Ordained in 1998, Rev. Hoagland is notable for being the first Korean female ordained minister and the first female military chaplain in the CRCNA. After more than twenty years of dedicated service in the United States Army, she transitioned to civilian life and now focuses on supporting the military community in Leavenworth as an LCMFT, providing psychotherapy and pastoral counseling as both a clinical chaplain and pastoral counselor.

Rev. Hoagland has served two terms on the CRCNA Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee and has participated in the Chaplain Advisory Committee. She has been involved with the Memorial Chapel Liturgical Congregation at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Through her counseling practice and outreach initiatives, Rev. Hoagland remains devoted to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurturing the spiritual well-being of people in her community. She continues to engage with new projects and initiatives that promote mental health and well-being, further establishing her role as a leader and advocate in her field.

For position 2

Rev. Matthew Burns has served as a pastor in two Christian Reformed congregations—in Palo Alto, California, where he served for six years; and in Whitinsville, Massachusetts, where he currently serves at Pleasant Street CRC. Originally from a broadly evangelical background, Matthew discovered the Christian Reformed Church at Calvin University and trained for pastoral ministry at Calvin Theological Seminary (M.Div, Th.M.). He has served on several classical teams, including the new church development team in Classis Central California, and he currently leads the classis ministry leadership team of Classis Atlantic Northeast. He also served as a delegate to Synods 2023 and 2024.

Rev. Michael Koetje is the pastor of Westwood CRC in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He also served as pastor at Second CRC in Grand Haven, Michigan, and at Hope CRC in Hull, Iowa. He is a graduate of Calvin University (B.A., 1996) and Calvin Theological Seminary (M.Div., 2000). He has served on the Calvin University Board of Trustees and is concluding service on the Council of Delegates, for which he has chaired the Synodical Services Committee and been a member of the executive committee and two COD task forces. He currently chairs his classis' interim committee and has served as stated clerk, as a church counselor and church visitor, and as a member of the student fund committee. He and his wife, Mindy, have three adult children.

For position 3

Rev. Shaun Jung has served as a pastor at The Tapestry church in Richmond, British Columbia, and is currently serving as a pastor at New Life

CRC in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Originally from South Korea, Shaun grew up in the Presbyterian Church and was later introduced to the Christian Reformed Church during his ministry at The Tapestry church. He studied at Prairie Bible College (BA, 2007) and at Regent College (M.Div., 2013; Th.M., 2015). He also completed the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy through Calvin Theological Seminary in 2019, after which he was ordained in the CRC. He served as a delegate to Synod 2024 and is currently serving on a task force to develop Church Order procedures.

Rev. Paula Seales is an ordained minister (emeritus) of the CRC, presently serving as pastor and mission network developer of Kavod Fellowship, a group of microchurches with a vision of reaching people who are lost, unchurched, and dechurched in the larger community of Grand Rapids, Michigan. She also served at Madison Square Church in Grand Rapids in various roles since 2005, accepting a call in 2016 as an evangelism pastor while working at Mel Trotter Ministries. She left her home country, Trinidad and Tobago, with her two children in 1997 to start a new life in the United States. She graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary with M. Div and Th.M. degrees and is currently enrolled in the seminary's doctor of ministry program. She has served on the executive committee of Classis Grand Rapids East and on the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality. She currently serves on the board of the Hermitage Community, a spiritual retreat center in Three Rivers, Michigan. She actively seeks to empower young leaders for microchurch work.

IV. Recommendations

- A. That synod declare those persons listed in section I, A as candidates for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
- B. That synod approve the extensions of candidacy as recommended in section I, B.
- C. That synod approve the action of the Candidacy Committee in declaration of need for those persons listed in section II for affiliation under Church Order Article 8.
- D. That synod by way of the ballot elect three new members from the slates of nominees presented in section III to fill the open positions on the Candidacy Committee.

Candidacy Committee
Susan LaClear, director

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Supplement

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) presents this supplement of additional matters related to ecumenical relationships and interfaith interactions.

I. Right of Comment on Overture 7 in the *Agenda for Synod 2025*

The EIRC exercises its right of comment by endorsing the response presented in Appendix A regarding Overture 7: Synodical Advisory Committee regarding Denominational Boards (*Agenda for Synod 2025*, pp. 352-54).

II. Right of Comment on Overture 24 in the *Agenda for Synod 2025*

The EIRC exercises its right of comment by endorsing the response presented in Appendix B regarding Overture 24: Review the CRCNA's Membership in the World Communion of Reformed Churches (*Agenda for Synod 2025*, pp. 389-92).

III. Response to Communication 7 in the *Agenda for Synod 2025*

The EIRC has gratefully received the communication from Classis Iakota (Communication 7, *Agenda for Synod 2025*, pp. 427-29). Because this communication was sent to both synod and to the EIRC, we have included our response as Appendix C to this report.

IV. Relationship with Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerken (NGK)

The Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerken (NGK) is a newly created denomination (May 2024) formed from the merger of the Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland (Vrijgemaakt) (Reformed Churches in the Netherlands [Liberated]) and Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken (Netherlands Reformed Churches). The CRC is a church in communion with only the latter body. Therefore, there is a need to determine what our ecumenical relationship will be with the new denomination, Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerken (NGK), resulting from this merger.

Rev. Peter Sinia, formerly of the Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken (Netherlands Reformed Churches) and now part of the newly created Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerken (NGK), is an ecumenical guest at Synod 2025.

The matter of an ecumenical relationship with the new merged denomination is on the EIRC agenda for its fall 2025 meeting, with the hope that a recommendation will be made in winter 2026 resulting in a recommendation to Synod 2026.

V. CRC pastors serving Alliance of Reformed Churches congregations

Currently several CRC pastors are serving in Alliance of Reformed Churches congregations. These churches had been member congregations of the RCA when they had issued calls to CRC pastors by way of the Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers between the two denominations (see Church Order Supplement, Art. 8, D). These congregations subsequently disaffiliated with the RCA and became members of the Alliance of Reformed Churches. Because the Orderly Exchange provisions apply only to

the CRC-RCA relationship, the EIRC recommends that synod, by way of exception, declare that all CRCNA pastors currently serving an Alliance church may continue to be loaned to serve their current congregations (see Recommendation B).

VI. Nominations for membership

In keeping with the Reformed confessions and discipleship as well as synodical guidelines and requirements for diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity, geographical location, and ordination among the membership of the committee, the EIRC presents a slate of two nominees from each of the following regions:

Canada West

Art Van Loo is currently an elder at Trinity CRC, Edmonton, Alberta, where he has been a member for about 15 years. Art is a lifelong learner and has been involved in Bible study groups and enjoys theological discussions. In his private time he enjoys oil painting as well as riding his bicycle. Much of his career has been in the trucking and transportation industry. Art served as a delegate to Synod 2023. Art has also been active in helping his congregation enfold people of different ethnic backgrounds. He brings a willingness to work hard for the EIRC and a desire to build strong relationships across denominational lines and authentic connections with other religions.

Joshua Johnson is a member of Covenant CRC in Calgary, Alberta, and is employed as a medical office assistant. He has served as a deacon in his church and as a delegate to Synod 2023. Joshua is deeply inspired by the CRCNA's commitment to ecumenism, which fosters unity and cooperation among Christians worldwide. The idea of serving on this committee is exciting to him because it offers an opportunity to witness the strengthening of relationships with other Christian denominations, and to engage in meaningful dialogue that reflects our shared faith in Christ.

U.S. East

Rev. Sheila Holmes serves as the pastor of Northside Community CRC, Paterson, New Jersey. She earned degrees in science, biblical studies, Christian counseling, and mental health, and she serves as a trauma facilitator and counselor and crisis chaplain. Sheila has served on the Home Missions Board, the CRCNA Board of Trustees, the Council of Delegates, several denominational committees, and as a vice president and clerk of synod. She is presently serving as the stated clerk of Classis Hackensack and as a member of the Dignity Team. She has served on other ecumenical boards and committees within her community, and she sees these opportunities as places not only to share her faith but also to show the love of Jesus and to grow in understanding other cultures.

Rev. Michael Saville serves as the pastor of East Palmyra CRC in Palmyra, New York. A graduate of Covenant Theological Seminary, he came into the CRC from the RCA in 2019. He served as a delegate to Synod 2022

and presently serves as the interim committee chair and synodical deputy for Classis Atlantic Northeast. Originally from British Columbia, Michael enjoys living with his wife and three daughters in rural upstate New York.

U.S. West

Rev. William Wilton is currently a pastor at Sunrise CRC in McMinnville, Oregon, and executive director of International Theological Education Ministry (ITEM). He has previously served on the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees. With twenty-five years of pastoral experience, he has long had an interest in the global church and expressions of church unity, and he was instrumental in facilitating the memorandum of understanding between the CRCNA and the CRC of Liberia.

Rev. Harold Caicedo is the senior pastor of Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrador CRC in Fontana, California. He earned a master of divinity degree, a master of sociology degree, and a doctoral degree in ministry. He has served on the Classis California South executive team, as a member of the Council of Delegates, as a delegate to three synods, as a member of the Global Vision and Global Vision Implementation teams, and as a leader of Consejo Latino. He has also been instrumental in forming relationships with pastors in Venezuela and in mentoring many new leaders.

Great Lakes

Myiah Klinger is a member of North Blendon CRC, Hudsonville, Michigan. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Michigan and a master's in social work degree at Boise State University. As a licensed clinical social worker, she regularly works with diverse populations, including those of different religious backgrounds. Myiah served as a young adult representative at Synod 2023. She is motivated to serve in a larger capacity in the denomination, as she is passionate about the CRC and its future.

Rev. Chad Steenwyk serves as pastor at Central Avenue CRC in Holland, Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree in business from Calvin College and a master of divinity degree from Calvin Theological Seminary, and he is currently studying toward a doctor of ministry degree through Knox Theological Seminary. He has served on the CRC Loan Fund (as chair), on the Holland Christian Schools Board (as secretary), and as vice president of Synod 2023. He is currently serving on the Holland Christian Schools Trustee Committee. Chad has a deep desire to pursue the unity of Christ's church, and he has engaged in continual learning about denominations, Christian groups, and ecumenical movements. For over 15 years he has been a collaborator and coordinator for Lakeshore Pastors' Fellowship, which includes over 30 pastors from various denominations. As a pastor serving in Classis Holland for over twenty years in close proximity to Hope College and Western Theological Seminary, he

has also worked alongside many union/dual-affiliate congregations and colleagues who are RCA pastors serving in CRC churches.

VII. Recommendations

- A. That synod by way of the ballot approve four new members from the slates of nominees presented to serve on the EIRC for a first term of three years, effective July 1, 2025.
- B. That synod, by way of exception, declare that all CRCNA pastors currently serving in Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC) congregations may continue to be loaned to serve their current congregations per Article 12-d [presently Art. 13-c] and Supplement, Article 12 [if adopted by Synod 2025], with the understanding that the provisions of Supplement, Article 12, C, 2 [if adopted by Synod 2025; otherwise Supplement, Art. 13-c], will govern this ongoing relationship.

Grounds:

- a. Because the ARC is not covered by the provisions of “orderly exchange,” the status of these pastors is currently unclear in our church polity.
- b. While ordinarily the loaning of a pastor to a congregation outside the CRC is a matter for the discernment of the classis and synodical deputies, the classes have already processed calls to the congregations involved per the regulations of Article 10-b, and it does not seem necessary to repeat that process for each of those pastors.
- c. Given the change in our ecumenical relationship with these congregations, it seems appropriate that the regular review of on-loan status become part of the call moving forward (Supplement, Art. 12, C, 2).
- d. This process is specific to this unique situation and is not intended to become an avenue to bypass the ordinary discernment that classes and synodical deputies are to do.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee,
Shirley Roels, chair
Zachary J. King, general secretary (ex officio)

APPENDIX A

EIRC Comments on Overture 7

Overture 7 requests that Synod 2025 create a new Synodical Advisory Committee whose purpose is to interview and make specific recommendations to synod for most denominational board positions to be voted on by synodical delegates, including new appointments and reappointments (*Agenda for Synod 2025*, pp. 352-54). The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) is listed as one of the bodies for whom this would apply.

The EIRC appreciates the desire of to have sufficient information about proposed EIRC members in order to have confidence in their biblical and theological understandings and practices as well as their capacity to advise synod appropriately about ecumenical and interfaith relations. Such biblical and theological understandings are essential to the work of the EIRC because it is charged to advise synod about the CRCNA's engagement with many other denominational partners. The EIRC is directly accountable to the CRCNA synod.

The EIRC works diligently to provide synod with nominees from across the many regions of the CRCNA. Normally the EIRC provides two such nominees for each available position on the committee. This is a responsibility that takes a significant amount of time when there are committee positions to be filled. In addition to an essential focus on biblical and theological convictions, the committee works diligently to include the voices of men and women from the range of cultures that contribute to the CRCNA. The EIRC presumes that synodical delegates will select from among the nominees the EIRC presents. Yet the final decisions on EIRC appointees are those of synod.

It would be difficult to coordinate the search for new EIRC members with a new Synodical Advisory Committee. Frequently it takes us six to seven months of a year to research and secure the nominees whose names are then forwarded to synod. This span of time is needed since we solicit nominees from CRC congregations in every region and from every classis. The classes need time to confer in order to choose nominees who are knowledgeable about the confessions that shape the CRCNA and who have the readiness, time, and capacities to contribute wisely to ecumenical relations. Due to these important processes, normally such nominees are confirmed in the late April meeting of the EIRC. Given this timetable, there would be little time for a second committee to conduct personal interviews before synod meets. Additionally, a second layer of review would duplicate work that has already been completed by the EIRC in its review of qualified nominees.

The EIRC is open to providing additional information to synod regarding committee nominees. Such requests must be feasible for our committee to implement within the time available to denominational staff and to volunteer EIRC members. Yet there may be ways to provide additional background information to synodical delegates about EIRC nominees. We await the direction of synod in this regard.

EIRC Comments on Overture 24

Overture 24 requests that an appointed task force conduct a comprehensive review of the CRCNA's membership in the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and to "report back at the latest to Synod 2027" (*Agenda for Synod 2025*, pp. 389-92). The overture requests that this report include an analysis of the concerns of this overture; a recommendation for synod's approval or disapproval of continued WCRC membership; and a written draft communication from the CRC synod to the WCRC about these concerns.

Advising synod regarding ecumenical relations is the responsibility that synod has delegated to the EIRC, which reports directly to synod on such matters. The year ahead provides an excellent opportunity for the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee to conduct the requested review instead of appointing a separate task force.

The WCRC is the largest Reformed Christian communion in the world. It spans 230 denominations, 108 countries, and 86 million Reformed Christians on six continents. This network has its roots in the Protestant Reformation and, more particularly, in the theological teachings of John Calvin. Normally, every seven years the WCRC holds a worldwide assembly that engages all its member denominations. In June 2010, the WCRC was formed through a Uniting General Assembly that met at Calvin College (now Calvin University). Rev. Peter Borgdorff planned and coordinated that meeting to gather Reformed Christians from six continents in a common witness. This was the occasion on which the Reformed Ecumenical Council and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches merged to form the WCRC. Rev. Borgdorff then served for several years on the WCRC's executive committee.

The next such assembly was held in 2017 in Leipzig, Germany, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. At that assembly the CRCNA was represented by Rev. Peter Borgdorff, previously the CRCNA ecumenical officer. He was joined at that assembly by four other CRC lay and ordained leaders. Additionally, Rev. William Koopmans, a former chair of EIRC, served as an adviser to the WCRC's executive committee from 2010 through 2017.

This year, from October 14-23, 2025, the WCRC will hold its next worldwide assembly in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The theme of that gathering, "Persevere in Your Witness," is based on Hebrews 12:1. The CRCNA will be represented by Rev. Zachary King as general secretary and by Eleanor Borsma Sarkany, a commissioned pastor in Canada who also serves as an EIRC member. This gathering will provide insights into the current WCRC emphasis on both communion and justice. It will also be an excellent opportunity to renew the ongoing conversation between the CRC and the WCRC.

In 2024, Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi, the former WCRC executive director, returned to WCRC leadership, and he too is someone who knows the depth of the CRCNA's role in forming the WCRC.

Therefore the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee offers to conduct this review on behalf of synod and to provide the requested comprehensive report for Synod 2026. The EIRC will also respond to other directives in this regard that are approved by Synod 2025.

APPENDIX C

EIRC Response to Communication 7

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (EIRC) Committee receives the communication from Classis Iakota with thanks (Communication 7, *Agenda for Synod 2025*, pp. 427-29) and wishes to note the following in response:

First, the EIRC wants to recognize the significant and weighty concerns experienced by CRCNA congregations as their neighbor RCA congregations have disaffiliated and joined other communions and alliances. In response, the EIRC has worked urgently to clarify the relationship between the Alliance of Reformed Churches and the CRCNA.

Second, Communication 7 refers to a document titled "EIRC Comments regarding Overture 15" (see *Acts of Synod 2024*, pp. 741-44). The EIRC's comments, quoting from the preface of the CRCNA Ecumenical Charter, acknowledge that complete theological and confessional uniformity between denominations in ecclesiastical relationships "is no longer a meaningful option" (p. 742). Classis Iakota in Communication 7 then asks the question, "Does such an . . . application of our Ecumenical Charter mean that there are no longer any faith and practice expectations defining our closest partners?" The answer is that there are indeed such expectations. For example, there is a higher degree of alignment expected of denominations "in communion" with the CRCNA than there is with those "in cooperation." The question is "What degree of uniformity is required (and on what issues)?" In its comments on Overture 15 (*Agenda for Synod 2024*, pp. 450-54), the EIRC was communicating that the expectation of complete theological and confessional *uniformity* would considerably shrink the breadth of CRCNA ecumenical relationships to the detriment of our denomination.

Third, in response to Synod 2024's directions, the EIRC is proposing an addition to the Supplement of Church Order Article 8 (EIRC Report, *Agenda for Synod 2025*, p. 250) that would require confessional alignment via the Covenant for Officebearers for all RCA clergy serving CRCNA congregations under the terms of orderly exchange. It is hoped that this addition to the Church Order Supplement would go some distance in addressing the legitimate concerns of Classis Iakota in this matter.

Historical Committee Supplement

Communication in response to Overture 7

Note: The Historical Committee submits these comments as a response to Overture 7 per the synodically approved “Right of Comment” policy, which states the following:

If an agency or educational institution staff or staff of a synodical standing committee wish to provide synod with a communication in response to a matter on the agenda of synod, the matter is brought to the appropriate board (in the case of Calvin University, Calvin Theological Seminary, World Renew) or committee (in the case of standing committees of synod) meeting via the protocols in place for each.

If the communication is adopted or endorsed by the respective board or committee, it is provided by means of the board or committee’s Supplement Report which, as indicated elsewhere, is brought by the COD to synod.

Comments regarding Overture 7

The vetting process for future members that the Historical Committee has in place is working well for the purposes of the committee’s work. It includes attention to the following:

- faithful commitment to the Reformed tradition—that is, the expectations for being a member in good standing in a CRC congregation
- working toward balanced regional/national, ethnic/racial, and gender representation
- specific knowledge, skills, and/or experience relevant to the work of the Historical Committee, including knowledge of the CRCNA and the communities that support it, experience as a historian, etc.

What is the problem that this proposal is trying to solve? We ask this question for the following reasons:

- Our current process of nomination practices the virtues of healthy accountability, transparency, and goodwill. Synodical approval of each nominee both serves as an appropriate check on this process and engages the input of the wider denomination.
- The overture’s proposed process will add an intrusive layer to the existing process. In addition, it is not clear how the result would better introduce nominees to the delegates at synod.
- The boards listed in the overture seem like a strange group to apply the same process to, given their varied natures and given the existing processes that each has for choosing representatives.

The process Overture 7 describes will make it harder to recruit people to the committee.

- The use of a separate committee to vet Historical Committee nominees would likely provoke anxiety on behalf of potential candidates

who might not know what to expect of an interview for a voluntary committee position focused on historical and archival matters.

- The process seems to lay aside the goal of diversity that the CRCNA has worked toward for years, particularly for its standing committees. The overture does not consider how the process it requires will be experienced by different communities in the denomination.
- The overture emphasizes a need to provide more information for synodical representatives, but it does so in only one area, faith commitment, excluding diversity of representation and relevant expertise/experience. Adding detail in those areas to the Overture 7 proposed process, which is already demanding, would only make the proposed process more onerous for potential nominees of the Historical Committee.
- The proposed overture communicates distrust. It will lead otherwise willing volunteers to reconsider their willingness and will undermine the morale of the committee.

If synod desires more information to assist in the ratification process of potential nominees, the Historical Committee stands willing to provide such information as requested.