

Nomination and Election Processes of Denominational Board Membership

I. Nominations and elections

A. Background

Synod **strongly encourages nominations of persons representing diversity of ethnicity, gender, and age** to obtain board membership that reflects the wonderful diversity of the CRC. Synods 2009 and 2013 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 may note the specific requests by the boards in the accompanying document for either clergy or nonclergy nominees.

B. Nominating process for boards of Calvin College and the Seminary

The process for nominating and electing regional board members (when such are needed) is the same for Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. The Council of Delegates and World Renew have unique nominating processes, described in sections C and D below. The process for the educational institution boards is as follows:

1. **August** – The stated clerk receives notice from the Office of Synodical Services indicating whether the college or seminary are requesting nominees to fill either current or anticipated vacancies in board membership, in addition to the names of board members eligible for a second term. 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. Approval of the nominees by the council is not necessary but biographical information for classis to consider is helpful.
2. **Fall classis meeting** – Each classis is encouraged to review and approve nominees for one or more of the boards from the nominations presented by the churches.
3. **By mid November** – 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 nomination forms are provided and both forms should be submitted—one by *the stated clerk* and one by *the nominee*. Upon receipt of the nominations, the director of synodical services will forward copies of the forms to the respective boards.

4. **January/February** – From the list of nominees submitted from each region, the respective board prepares a slate of two nominees for each vacant position (usually during the winter board meeting).
5. **Late February/early March** – A ballot, if needed that year, is prepared by the Office of Synodical Services and is sent to each classis within a region for vote at the spring meeting of classis. You will be notified if *no* ballot is needed any given year.
6. **Spring classis meeting** – Classis submits the number of votes for each nominee to the Office of Synodical Services and the votes are totaled for each region.
7. **June** – The results of the voting are then submitted to synod for ratification. Tie votes are resolved by a vote of the synodical delegates from the region.
8. Terms of *all* board members begin and end on July 1.

C. *Nominating process for the Council of Delegates of the CRCNA*

The process for nominating and electing delegates for the Council of Delegates of the CRCNA (COD) will be as follows:

1. Each classis whose COD delegate is concluding service is asked to nominate a person or persons (may be more than one but not required for COD) for the COD position.
2. Send the name of the nominee(s) to the Office of Synodical Services, which forwards them to the Nominating Services Committee of the Council of Delegates for review and recommendation to the COD.
3. The Council of Delegates presents a recommendation **to synod** for appointment of the membership.

D. *Process for election of World Renew board member*

Persons who serve on the board of World Renew 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. The office of World Renew will review nominations for membership by the classis for each nominee (there can be more than one) and either forwards the nomination to synod or the Council of Delegates in the interim for ratification. In some cases, World Renew may submit a nominee for consideration by synod or the COD.

When your classis nominates a new regular member to the World Renew board of delegates, please complete an information sheet provided by the World Renew office and include the **full name, address, and telephone number** of that person. This is especially necessary for the persons elected to board membership who are not found in the denominational database for ministers or commissioned pastors.

It should also be noted that the World Renew board of delegates elects a smaller group from among the classical delegates to function as the Joint Ministry Council. The remaining larger Board of Delegates meets just once each year.

II. Board nomination packets

Included in the nomination packet for the stated clerks are *two* nomination forms—**one for stated clerks** to complete and **one for the nominee** to complete. Please make copies as needed for each nominee recommended from your region/classis. In addition, information sheets for each of the denominational boards are provided with further explanation of expectations and role of that particular board (please make available for each potential nominee).

Note: Each of these forms and information sheets are downloadable from the www.crcna.org/StatedClerks website in *electronic* format—easy to share with potential nominees.

III. Board members recommended for reelection

Your packet may also contain names of board members who are eligible for reelection to a second term. If noted, please ask your classis to review the names of persons eligible for reelection and note if there are any reservations about continued service on the board. Communicate the response of classis to the Office of Synodical Services—the names of incumbents will be submitted to synod for reappointment. In all cases, the incumbent will remain as the board member.

IV. General information about denominational boards

A. Terms for all board members begin and end on July 1 and run for three years, renewable for a second three-year term.

B. Each board has slightly different meeting dates.

- Council of Delegates of the CRCNA ordinarily meets in October, 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, February, and May.

Need help? Write Dee Recker at drecker@crcna.org or call 616-224-0827 for assistance with these processes. Thank you!