

1. Vision 2020 in the Reformed Church in America (RCA)

- a. Vision 2020 Team appointed in June, 2018 to consider the future of our denomination in light of underlying tensions between some of our differing theological convictions
- b. Exploration of three original potential actions: staying together, radical re-organization, and grace-filled separation
- c. Unusual proposals: return 2019 delegates to 2020 Synod; change to majority vote
- d. Prospect of 30-50% of our churches leaving our denomination

2. The Meeting of the General Synod of the RCA in October, 2021

- a. Final Proposals from Vision 2020 team
 - i. Center us at the highest levels of our organization around the things we *can* all agree on and giving authority to decide the things we can't agree on to the local levels may be the best way to grow our effectiveness and reclaim some of the unity we feel we've lost through this conflict.
 - ii. We recommend that a new non-profit mission agency be formed independent of the RCA (but in partnership with the RCA) to house what currently makes up the RCA's work in global missions.
 - iii. Recognizing that some separation is inevitable, we believe the RCA has an opportunity to act in an exemplary way by providing a generous exit path for those churches which decide to leave and by inviting those churches to also act generously.
- b. Possible alternative proposals may displace or supplement the Vision 2020 proposals
- c. Sara Melton to represent SCC and our classis as an elder delegate to General Synod
 - i. Support her in prayer for wisdom, strength, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit
 - ii. Share your thoughts, concerns, and questions
 - iii. Consensus of Consistory that has been communicated to Sara
 - 1. Servant's Church wants to remain in the RCA if at all possible.
 - 2. Servant's Church wants to be a place that is open and affirming for all people regardless of sexual orientation.
 - 3. Servant's Church wants each RCA church and classis to be trusted with making these difficult decisions in their local context.

3. How this process impacts Servant's Community Church

- a. If we stay in the RCA, we may need to participate in a reorganization, whether we want to or not
 - i. May need to choose between 2 or 3 reorganized major synods
 - ii. May need to align with an affinity classis rather than our existing classis
- b. If 75% of our consistory and 75% of our congregation vote to leave the RCA, we can plan on paying one year's assessments and can also reasonably expect to be able to keep our real property, in consultation with Classis leadership. If we leave the RCA, we would need to decide what other group or denomination we would want to join and explore the conditions for such a change.
- c. No matter what happens within the RCA, we need to engage in a careful and prayerful process of listening to one another for understanding, determining to refuse to let our differences on this social issue divide us or distract us from our mission.