**Responsibilities** **of RSA’s;**

1. Serving the REC and seeing to the spiritual assistance to the Regional Fraternity (GGCC art. 90.3.c);
2. Exercising pastoral care and spiritual guidance in regard to the Regional Fraternity, including participation in the scheduled meetings of the Regional Fraternity and the REC (HSA, Ch. 1, pp 16-18);
3. Serving as an active, voting member of the REC and of the chapter of the Regional Fraternity and collaborating with it in all activities (SSPA 13.3). By right s/he is a voting member of the REC and may vote on any matter except those involving financial matters or in elections at any level (SSPA 12.3). S/he may speak about the spiritual dimensions of any decision, even if not allowed to vote;
4. Serving as Ecclesial Witnesses at Local Fraternity Chapters of Election or delegating this to another qualified person by a written letter of delegation (GGCC art. 76.2; SSPA 21.3.b; HSA p17 #4; RG );
5. Performing the Pastoral Visitation in coordination with the schedule for Fraternal Visitations or delegating this to another qualified person by a written letter of delegation (GGCC art.95; SSPA 21.3.b; HSA p17 #3);
6. Coordinating the service of the spiritual assistance, the formation (ongoing and initial) of spiritual assistants, and fraternal union among the assistants (SSPA 21.3.c);
7. Fostering the interest of the friars in the OFS and in the Franciscan Youth (SSPA 21.3.d).
8. **Conference of RSAs**.
	1. If there is more than one Regional Spiritual Assistant, they form a Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants (CRSA), which consists of representatives of the First and Third Order Regular Provinces with jurisdiction within the Regional Fraternity, and give their service collegially (SSPA 3.2).
	2. No one person should dominate or serve exclusively as the person representing the spiritual assistants at REC meetings. They should collegially determine which one of them is to be the voting member of the REC at any given time.
	3. They coordinate the service of the spiritual assistance, the formation (ongoing and initial) of spiritual assistants, and fraternal union among the assistants (SSPA 21.3).
	4. All references to Regional Spiritual Assistant within this article are to be read to include the CRSA.

**Request and Appointment**.

1. The REC requests a Regional Spiritual Assistant from each province indicated collegially by the Provincial Minister(s) with jurisdiction in the territory of the Region (GGCC art. 91.2.c). That person has the responsibility to make such an appointment. (See RG 8.11 and 8.8 for who may be appointed and term of appointment.)
2. For accountability, it is best that any single person be appointed only by the Provincial Ministers of one obedience. Otherwise, the REC would need to approach multiple parties for recourse.
3. Each Regional Spiritual Assistant is then appointed by the Provincial Minister or delegate after consultation with the REC (HSA, Ch. 1).
4. If the Regional Spiritual Assistant position is vacant, the Regional Minister must contact the Provincial Minister (or delegate) and request a new assistant (see RG 9.4 above). During the interim period, to permit Pastoral Visitations and local elections to proceed, the Provincial Minister (or delegate) may designate another person to act as Pastoral Visitor or Ecclesial Witness or do so himself.