

APPENDIX A

NOMINATION PROCEDURE FOR COMMISSIONERS AND ALTERNATES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OVERALL GUIDELINES

Teaching elder and ruling elder commissioners and alternates to meetings of the General Assembly (GA) shall be nominated to achieve the goal of full participation as outlined in paragraph F-1.0403 the Book of Order:

F-1.0403 Unity in Diversity

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:27–29). The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church’s membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.

Ordinarily alternate commissioners to a GA shall be nominated principal commissioners to the following GA. An elected alternate who became a principal has fulfilled his/her term and the Committee on Nominations shall seek applications, with the same eligibility requirements, for a replacement principal commissioner nominee for the next GA meeting.

The Stated Clerk shall maintain lists of teaching elders who have served as GA commissioners and congregations whose ruling elders have served as GA commissioners.

One Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) and one alternate shall be nominated.

ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE

Teaching Elders

All teaching elders on the active, Honorably Retired, validated ministry and member-at-large rolls of this Presbytery are eligible for nomination. Nominees shall be enrolled in the Presbytery of the James for at least three years immediately preceding the time of the meeting of the GA to which she/he is elected as a commissioner.

To be eligible, a teaching elder shall have attended at least four of the Presbytery meetings during the two calendar years prior to election.

Any teaching elder who has agreed to accept a call from a church or other service outside the Presbytery as of the date of the beginning of the GA shall automatically become ineligible to be a commissioner from this Presbytery to the GA.

Ruling Elders

To be eligible, the session of the congregation from which a ruling elder is nominated ordinarily shall have sent commissioners to at least four of the Presbytery meetings during the two calendar years prior to election in one of the following categories: elected session commissioner or an elder otherwise enrolled as a member of the Presbytery. A ruling elder ordinarily shall be recommended by her/his session.

A ruling elder who has moved his/her membership from a church within the Presbytery as of the date of the beginning of the GA shall automatically become ineligible to be a commissioner from this Presbytery to the GA.

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

The nominees shall be active members of one of the churches of our Presbytery, between the ages of 17 and 23 on the date the GA convenes, recommended by the session of his/her church and invited by the session to submit an application to the Committee on Nominations.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications shall be available on the website of the Presbytery. Applications may be submitted at any time but the deadline for submission is March 1 of an election year (currently odd numbered years). Alternate commissioners to the previous GA need not submit a new application.

The application shall include the following information:

1. An agreement that the applicant is willing and able to report back to the Presbytery concerning the actions and experience of the GA. It is expected that all commissioners to the GA will report to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting following the GA.
2. A statement that the applicant understands the rigors of participating fully in the work of the GA and is willing to undertake such rigorous activity. Applicants need to be advised that attendance at a GA requires reading over 1,000 pages of on-line reports and overtures in advance, long hours in committee meetings and plenary sessions and considerable travel between the hotel and committee meeting rooms, plenary site, exhibit/eating areas, and worship sites.
3. Information as to whether the applicant has previously attended the GA as an elected commissioner from any Presbytery or as a visitor.
4. The teaching elder-applicant's date of ordination and date of most recent enrollment in the Presbytery of the James. A statement of the length and nature of the ruling elder-applicant's and YAAD-applicant's service to his/her local church within this Presbytery.
5. A description of the applicant's activities and service within the structures of this Presbytery and other Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) governing bodies.

6. A brief paragraph describing the applicant's understanding of the nature and work of the GA.
7. A single page with biographical information and a response to the questions:
Why do you want to go to General Assembly?
What gifts would you bring to the work of the General Assembly?
8. A statement as to whether or not the applicant will be willing to attend the GA as an alternate.
9. For YAADs, a recommendation from the YAAD's session, signed by the clerk of session.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The Committee on Nominations shall nominate three (3) teaching elders and three (3) ruling elders as principal commissioners and three (3) teaching elders and three (3) ruling elders as alternate commissioners through the application process. It shall also nominate one YADD and one alternate. When making its nominations, it shall seek to identify those who will best serve the needs of the GA and the Presbytery and shall consider eligibility and applications. The Committee will give priority to ruling elders from churches that have not provided a ruling elder commissioner to any of the previous five General Assemblies and teaching elders who have not been a commissioner to any of the previous five General Assemblies. It will give consideration to congregation size and representation from the several Nominating Regions of the Presbytery. When presenting its nominees to the Presbytery, the Committee shall provide brief biographical information of those being nominated.