

National Capital Presbytery Elder Commissioner to General Assembly Nomination Form

revised May 2009

This form has been developed following G-4.0400 Diversity and Inclusiveness, to help the Nominating Committee give full expression to the rich diversity within our presbytery.

Date September 5, 2009

Name: Sara Porter		
Street Address: 4005 Forge Drive		
City, State, ZIP: Woodbridge, VA 22193		
Local Church: First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City		Member Since: 1975
Phone: Home: 703-670-8737	Work: N/A	Cell: 703-819-5044
Email: Saraporter@comcast.net		
Year of Ordination: 1985	Year Church was last represented at GA by an Elder: 1995	
Previous Commissioner to GA? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If Yes, what year?	What Presbytery?

Age Range:

- 25 and under (youth)
 26-35 (young adults)
 36-64 (adult)
 65+ (older adult)

Racial Ethnic Identity:

- Asian-American (AA)
 African-American (AfrA)
 Hispanic/Latino (H/L)
 Middle Eastern (ME)
 Native American (NA)
 Caucasian (C)
 Other (O)

Gender F M

Disability? Y N Is building accessibility a concern? Y N

In the past two years, how often did you attend Presbytery meetings? I usually attend 5 of the 6 stated meetings; I have attended presbytery regularly since 2001.
Local Church Responsibilities (Past and Present) Served on Session (1985-87, 1989-91, 1999-2004), Deacon (1997-1999), Stephen Minister since 2007, Worship Committee since 1976, Chancel Choir since 1975, Handbell ringer since 1992, directed Handbells and Chimes (7 years), Bible Study leader (Kerygma, Horizons Women's study, and others), VBS teacher and other Christian Education committee responsibilities, various other committees as needed, weekly office volunteer since 2000.
Presbytery Responsibilities (Past and Present) Glenkirk committee (1996-98), NCP Visioning Task Force (2004-05), NCP Worship & Theology Committee (2005-present)
Other Governing Body Responsibilities (Past and Present) Commissioner from NCP to Synod (2001, 2002, 2004, 2005)

Special skills, knowledge, expertise in relevant areas and computer competency

I am a retired middle school teacher, used to organizing, keeping to a schedule, working with others collaboratively, taking initiative, and meeting deadlines. I have been interested in the connectional church for many years, and regularly read Presbyterian Outlook and Presbyterians Today to keep up with events and issues in the PC(USA). Having been a commissioner to Synod, and having attended the 1995 and 2004 General Assemblies as an observer has given me experience and insight into how our higher courts operate.

I have good basic competency with computers, and am willing to work to upgrade my skills if needed to be an effective commissioner.

Community Involvement (Name no more than three)

Delta Kappa Gamma organization for Women Educators, supporter of Action in the Community Through Service (Prince William County). I was active in various community youth organizations while raising my children.

**If filling out form manually, use extra pages where necessary.

General Assembly 2010

Elder Commissioner Nomination Form

G-4.0403 “...Persons of all racial ethnic groups, different ages, both sexes, various disabilities, diverse geographical areas, different theological positions consistent with the Reformed tradition...shall be guaranteed full participation and access to representation...”

**To help the Nominating Committee further understand you, briefly describe your theology.

I believe in the triune God, Father Son and Holy Spirit. I see God the Father as the Creator of our universe who has trusted us with the stewardship of all that is in our world, and the care of the people who live in it, his children. God also loves his children so much that he sent his son, Jesus, to teach us of the Father's love and care. Jesus lived on earth as fully human, yet fully divine to show us the Father. Jesus willingly gave his life on the cross for our salvation from sin. He rose from the grave, making eternal life possible for those who believe in him as Lord and Savior, and reigns in Heaven with the Father. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the church at Pentecost to be our guide and companion. The Spirit is present with us individually and corporately (as in worship, prayer, meditation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly meetings). The church is God's hands, feet, mouths, and resources to carry out the task of spreading the gospel to God's children and witnessing our faith by the way we live.

**Please share why you want to represent National Capital Presbytery at the General Assembly.

I have had the opportunity to serve several terms on session in my local church, and to be a commissioner to presbytery meetings since 1985. I was designated to attend presbytery meetings and communicate information about the larger church to our session for five years, and found that I enjoyed knowing about and keeping up with presbytery and the denomination as a whole. Since I retired, I have been able to be a regular attender at presbytery and have found that very helpful in being a commissioner as I can follow issues from meeting to meeting. I have appreciated the opportunities to serve as a synod commissioner and on presbytery committees, and would very much appreciate the opportunity to serve as a commissioner to General Assembly.

**If filling out form manually, use extra pages where necessary.

A commissioner to the General Assembly recognizes the importance of the following responsibilities and is willing to accept each.

- Attendance at preparatory meetings and briefings. X (yes)
- Attendance and participation in the General Assembly in its entirety X (yes)
- Report to and be a resource within the Presbytery following the General Assembly, and be available for two years thereafter for the purpose of interpreting and assisting in the implementation of actions taken at the General Assembly. X (yes)
- Serve for two years on the NCP Bills and Overtures Committee. X (yes)

- Able to use computer before and during GA. X(yes)

Signature of Nominee: Sara Porter

Signature of Moderator or Clerk of Session: (Elders must be nominated by the Session of their church)
(Type name if submitting electronically)

Fred Menke, Clerk of Session

Date of Session Action: 9/15/2009

Please return to Nominating Committee Chair, **Betty Douglass**, ebdouglass@verizon.net or
313 W. Columbia Street
Falls Church, VA 22046

Please provide your picture either digitally or by hard copy

Nomination Deadline: September 30, 2009

Date Received _____

September 15, 2009

Betty Douglass
NCP Nominating Committee Chair
313 West Columbia Street
Falls Church, VA 22046

Dear Ms. Douglass,

I have known Elder Sara Porter for the past ten years as her pastor and can attest to her Christ-like sensitivity to the least and last as well as her passionate commitment to the welfare of the PCUSA. National Capital Presbytery would be well served by electing Sara as an elder commissioner to the 2010 General Assembly.

First United Church is a theologically diverse congregation and Sara has shown herself repeatedly to be a voice of moderation and decorum, a pacifying presence on the various committees upon which she has served and a kind and gentle soul to the weak and wounded in our midst.

Throughout all of the theological and polity debates our denomination and presbytery have been engaged in recent years, Sara has voiced her opinion with respect to others, conviction as to her own position and always with an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit within the Body. This is the reason Sara is so highly regarded by the folk of our congregation. Because she listens to others, those around her at FUPC listen to her when she speaks at educational forums and congregational gatherings.

Sara has shown exceptional care and love to one particularly troubled member (among others) and is quick to give of her time not simply as a PW Bible study leader, choir member, bell ringer, committee member, presbytery servant....the list is well-nigh infinite.

Most importantly, Sara has a keen concern for the health and wholeness of the PCUSA. She is vitally interested not simply in church organizational issues but in the spiritual vitality of the Presbyterian fold within our Savior's world-wide flock.

Sara is conscious of and informed about a diverse set of issues, from eco-justice to social justice, from biblical faithfulness in personal stewardship to issues confronting the world-wide fellowship of Christ.

Sara has joyfully shared with me material gleaned from her GA observation experiences, her years as a Synod commissioner and her yearly sojourn to Montreat for the Worship and Music Conference. Thus, as a sharp, energetic and articulate Christian, Sara will certainly be able to effectively communicate both her enthusiasm for what God is doing through and with and in the PCUSA as a GA commissioner. She will be very adept at stirring up enthusiasm among those who hear her reports because she is, in so many ways, "primed" for this opportunity to serve as a GA commissioner.

It has been 15 years since NCP has had a commissioner from FUPC attend GA. In a sense, it would be a fitting demonstration of Presbytery diversity that Sara be nominated as a commissioner to the 2010 GA.

I would be pleased to amplify and expand upon this unconditional commendation of Elder Sara Porter at your convenience.

Yours in Christ,

Robert A. Edmunds
Pastor
First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City