

National Capital Presbytery

Elder Commissioner to 2012 General Assembly

Nomination Form

Revised June 2011

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: October 2, 2011		
Name: Richard Wong		
Street Address: 3415 Wessynton Way		
City, State, ZIP: Alexandria, VA 22309		
Local Church: Old Presbyterian Meeting House		Member Since: 2006
Phone:		
Home: 703-306-0501	Work: 804-278-4240	Cell: 804-201-6024
Email: rwong@upsem.edu		
Year of Ordination: 1987	Year your church was represented by a Commissioner at GA: 2010	
Previous Commissioner To GA?	If Yes, what year?	What Presbytery?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

Age Range:

26-35
 36-64
 65+

Gender: F M

Racial Ethnic Identity:

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

Do you require special accommodations of any type? Y N If Yes, what kind

In the past two years, how often have you attended Presbytery meetings? **Because of my position at the Seminary, I attended several presbytery meetings at other presbyteries, which has offered me a broad exposure to the PC(USA). Unfortunately, I have not been to a meeting at National Capital Presbytery and I am looking forward to the opportunity.
Local Church Responsibilities (Past and Present) **Deacon, Elder, various chairs at another church but not at Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH). I am relatively new at OPMH. Since I commute to my Alexandria home on weekends, I have not been able to take on responsibilities at OPMH.
Presbytery Responsibilities (Past and Present) **Stewardship Task Force at the Presbytery of the James
Other Governing Body Responsibilities (Past and Present) ** None

Special skills, knowledge, expertise in relevant areas and computer competency **Strategic planning, stewardship, theology, marketing and highly skillful with computer programs.

Community Involvement (Name no more than three)**Alexandria Community Trust, International Hospital for Children (World Pediatric Program), and Virginia Secondary School Principals' Association

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

NCP selects its delegates to represent the diversity of theological opinion present among us. Recognizing that each of the statements in the couplets below may be true, please place two numbers within each of the 4 sets of statements: Place a 1 before the statement in each section with which you most agree. Assign a 2 or 3 or 4 before the statement with which you least agree, with 4 indicating the least agreement. Add comments if necessary.

Rating Number	Theological Statement
1	The Kingdom of God is realized as individuals develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
1	The realm of God is most often realized in the believing community's witness to and participation in the advancement of social justice in the world.
	Comments:**I believe it takes both statements to realize the fullness of God's realm. It starts at the individual level and then expands to connect all members as the body of Christ--with Christ at the head--in carrying out the kingdom mission. These two statements should work hand-in-hand and not in isolation. If we are only a community participating in advancing social justice and without developing a relationship with Christ (attaining the knowledge in the fullness of Christ), we are nothing but a social organization or an advocating charity--we are not the body of Christ, the church. If we only seek a personal relationship with Christ, we'll lack the richest of a faith community's support and worship experience--the church.
1	It is vitally important to affirm that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
1	To follow the teachings of Jesus is the most important witness to faith.
	Comments:**These two are undisputable statements of our reformed faith, the foundation of our church.
1	The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are nevertheless the words of humans, conditioned by the cultural and historical context in which they were written. The Spirit continually reforms our understanding of them.
3	The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are definitive for how we should live, and we ignore their explicit instructions at our peril.
	Comments:**I am not disputing the second statement, at least for the first part, but in its entirety it cheapens God's grace. We are all sinners and salvation is only through grace and not by our own deeds. I believe that the scripture "informs" and "guides" our lives but not at the micro level.
4	The goal of evangelism is to save people from eternal punishment.
1	The goal of evangelism is to offer individuals a place/role in the believing community, which exemplifies God's reconciling love and acceptance.
	Comments:**God is the sovereign God and we should leave those judgmental matters to God. Often we are quick to pronounce judgment in the name of God. Only Christ can save, the act of evangelism cannot.

Share with the committee what you believe are the key theological issues currently facing the church and society, and how they shape your experience in the church.**The key theological issue currently facing the church is our lack of understanding of the "organic" church as described in Ephesians, Chapter 4. Here is an abstract from the chapter "...beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all...for building up the body of Christ,

until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and up builds itself in love." It is very apparent that we have not heeded to the calling of one church and unity in faith. Often times we lack patience, forbearing one another in love, and in growing up in every way into Christ, the head.

The key issue of theology confronting our society probably stems from the lack of interest in Religion from the public or being perceived in its diluted form. Our Reformed Tradition has been convoluted with New Age thinking and other self-help philosophy popularized by television evangelists. The diversification of faith backgrounds of today's PC(USA) congregations doesn't help to uphold our church's fundamental beliefs--if we do not begin to strengthen our Christian education program in the church. In the view of the larger society, maybe we have lost our theological identity.

Please share why you want to represent National Capital Presbytery at the General Assembly**I have been a part of the National Capital Presbytery community for the past seven years. Even though my call to serve at the Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA has prevented me from being active on weekdays, my home on weekends is still in Alexandria. My place of worship is the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Serving as a commissioner for the National Capital allows me to serve my other constituents' churches—the alumni and alumnae churches of Union Presbyterian within NCP. As our seminary serves those NCP congregations, I am attentive to their needs and challenges. My representation at the General Assembly allows me to serve NCP, OPMH and many of our seminary's alumni/ae churches--and to learn more about churches outside of my personal experience.

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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. Yes
- Attendance and participation in the General Assembly in its entirety. Yes
- Report to and be a resource within the Presbytery following the General Assembly, and be available for two years thereafter for interpreting and assisting in the implementation of actions taken at the General Assembly. Yes
- Serve for two years on the NCP Bills and Overtures Committee. Yes
- Able to use computer before and during GA. Yes

Signature of Nominee: (Type name if submitting electronically)	Richard Wong
Signature of Moderator or Clerk of Session: (Elders must be nominated by the Session of their church) (Type name if submitting electronically)	J.C. McElveen
Date of Session Action:	October 9, 2011

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, 2011

Date Received