

National Capital Presbytery
Young Adult Advisory Delegate to 2018 General Assembly
Nomination Form

Revised May 2017

This form has been developed following F-1.0403 Unity in Diversity, to help the Nominating Committee give full expression to the rich diversity within our presbytery.

Date: 10-7-17		
Name: Sarah Golemon-Mercer		
Street Address: 200 Yoakum Pkwy #213		
City, State, ZIP: Alexandria, VA 22304		
Local Church Affiliation: Old Presbyterian Meeting House		Member Since: 2006
Phone Home: N/A	Work: N/A	Cell: 703-470-1779
Email: golemo1@stolaf.edu		
If ordained, Year of Ordination: 2014	Year your church was last represented by a YAAD Commissioner at GA: <u>N/A</u>	
Previous YAAD Delegate to GA? Yes No	If Yes, what year:	What Presbytery:

Age: <u>19</u>		Racial/Ethnic Identity:	
Gender:	<u>Female</u>	Male	African-American (AfrA)
			Asian-American (AA)
			Hispanic/Latino (H/L)
			Middle Eastern (ME)
			Native American (NA)
			Caucasian (C) <u>X</u>

Other (O) (Please specify)	
-------------------------------	--

Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability? Yes **No**

Do you require special accommodations of any kind? Yes **No** If Yes, what kind.

In the past two years, how often have you attended Presbytery meetings?

Local church responsibilities: (Past and Present)

- OPMH Youth Group active member (2009-2016)
- Served on the Education Ministry Committee (2014-2015)
- Two internships under Rev. Katherine Stanford (research, sermons, individual projects)
 - June 2016: 4 weeks
 - August 2017: 2 weeks

Presbytery responsibilities: (Past and Present)

- Served as the Youth Elder on Session (2014-2015)
- Youth Triennium 2013

Other governing body responsibilities: (Present and Past)

Special skills, knowledge, expertise in relevant areas and computer competency include language(s) other than English:

Community involvement: (Name no more than three):

- Outreach work and member of the Open Table community: homeless breakfast ministry (Thursdays, 2014-2016)
- Unpaid internship with Interplay, Oakland CA: 6 weeks, Summer 2017– art and social change workshop (specific work on racial justice)
- Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity at St. Olaf College (2016-2017)

NCP selects its delegates to represent the diversity of theological opinion present among us, as required by the General Assembly.

On the continuum below, please click the box that best represents where you place yourself.

THEOLOGICAL SPECTRUM

Conservative
Liberal

Moderate

Why did you place yourself on the spectrum where you did?

I do not intend to mean "liberal" in a socio-political sense. My theological liberalism stems from an honest yearning to listen and understand every thought or belief that I encounter, no matter how different they may be to my present ethical and theological values. I remain liberal not just for the safety and comfort of others, but for my own personal growth. As a crucial aspect of my spiritual practice, I genuinely attempt to listen to every soul, in the hopes that bridges will be built between peoples/groups, even if just within an intimate conversation between two.

I do not believe Christianity is the only way to have relationship with the Holy, but I have found that I have come to understand the Holy most profoundly through the Christian faith tradition. I feel that Christ has called to me to follow him specifically, and in a very specific way. While my spiritual life has been deeply nurtured by the Christian community, I tend to favor action rooted in ethically and morally conscious framework over decision based simply in traditional Christian doctrine.

Please share with the committee what you believe are the key theological/social issues currently facing the church and society, and how they shape your experience in the church:

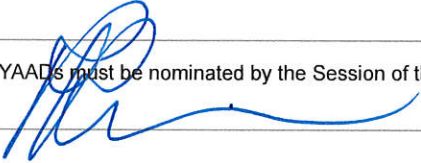
Although I am passionate about many theological and social issues, I am profoundly concerned that racist and white supremacist values plague both the church and our global society. These values are deeply engrained within our political, educational, social, and theological systems, so much so that the core Christian values of love and compassion for humankind are undermined by hierarchical, hateful systems of oppression that we are not even always aware of within and around us. Racial inclusion and representation within the Church are huge concerns of mine that have affected my ability to share communion, engage in conversation, and form relationship with people of other races and ethnicities than my own within my church community. As an immediate extension of racial tension, the recurrence of gun violence and refusal to reform gun laws within the US has allowed our society to grow numb to what it means to actually end a person's life for reasons constructed by our very own society. As a community of resources, power, and great size, I believe Christianity has a unique educational opportunity to encourage political and social awareness surrounding gun laws. I envision a world in which the remarkable doctrine of lifting up the lowly and loving one's neighbor is the driving force behind every single word and action of the church.

Please indicate why you want to represent National Capital Presbytery at the General Assembly:

I am a religion and political science double major at St. Olaf College in Minnesota (2020). I have been extremely engaged in the church almost my entire life, and as I've grown older, I've come to understand that my vocation involves active participation in the life of the church. I believe representing the National Capitol Presbytery at the GA will both allow me to further my involvement with the church, and also give me the opportunity to have a voice within the community I love. I plan to bring unique perspective as a millennial leader. I truly believe the future of the world lies in the hearts and souls of passionate, spiritual, and educated folks. This incredible community, I am convinced, has a great potential to affect change, and I aim to be a part of that change.

A commissioner to 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
- When possible, 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
- Able to use computer before and during GA. Yes

I agree to be a nominee: <u>Yes</u>
Moderator or Clerk of Session: (Ruling Elders and YAADs must be nominated by the Session of their church) <i>Robert R. Laha, Jr. Mod</i> 
Date of Session Action: <i>10/9/2017</i>

Send the form electronically to Jochebed Jordan, Chair of Nominating Committee, at jochebedjordan@comcast.net

- Elders and those seeking to be YAADs will complete the form and send it electronically to their Clerk or Moderator of Session. The Clerk or Moderator shall complete the form after the Session has endorsed the nomination and send the form electronically to Jochebed Jordan as an email attachment.
- Reference forms (required for elder and YAAD nominees, and recommended for minister nominees) are to be submitted by the person writing the recommendation and sent as an email attachment.
- A photograph of each nominee should be sent electronically to Jochebed Jordan.
- To fill out the form, put your cursor in the gray area and type; click in the appropriate box for yes/no, age, racial/ethnic, etc. items.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FORMS ARE DUE ELECTRONICALLY
BY SEPTEMBER 29, 2017.**