

Criteria for Nominating General Assembly Commissioners National Capital Presbytery

From the *Book of Order*:

G-13.0102b “When the General Assembly meets biennially, it shall consist of equal numbers of elders and ministers from each presbytery, in the following proportion: Each presbytery consisting of not more than 8,000 members shall elect one elder and one minister. Presbyteries consisting of more than 8,000 members shall elect one additional elder and one additional minister for each additional 8,000 members, so that:

Presbyteries of 8,001 to 16,000 members shall elect 2 elders and 2 ministers;

Presbyteries of 16,001 to 24,000 members shall elect 3 elders and 3 ministers;

Presbyteries of 24,001 to 32,000 members shall elect 4 elders and 4 ministers;

Presbyteries of 32,001 to 40,000 members shall elect 5 elders and 5 ministers....”

G-4.0403 “The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall give full expression to the rich diversity within its membership and shall provide means which will assure a greater inclusiveness leading to wholeness in its emerging life. Persons of all racial ethnic groups, different ages, both sexes, various disabilities, diverse geographical areas, different theological positions consistent with the Reformed tradition, as well as different marital conditions (married, single, widowed, or divorced) shall be guaranteed full participation and access to representation in the decision making of the church. (G-9.0104a)”

G-9.0104a “Governing bodies of the church shall be responsible for implementing the church’s commitment to inclusiveness and participation as stated in G-4.0403....”

I. Requirements

A. Elders

1. Unless serving as the National Capital Presbytery (NCP) moderator or vice-moderator during the year of the General Assembly (GA), elders must be nominated by the Session of their congregation.

2. Preferably will have been a member of their congregation for at least three years.

3. Preferably will have attended at least 2 presbytery meetings in a two-year period as an observer or commissioner (self-reported; not tabulated by staff).

B. Clergy

1. Nomination by peer or self.

2. Minimum of 3 years of membership in the presbytery and a record of regular attendance (at least ½ of stated meetings since the last GA) at presbytery meetings. (The Clerk’s office should have record of attendance).

3. Must have some demonstrated service to NCP.

II. Criteria for the Nominating Committee to use when identifying candidates to recommend

when the number of nominations exceeds the number to go to the floor of presbytery.

A. For Elders

1. Fair representation of all racial ethnic groups, different ages, both sexes, various disabilities, diverse geographical areas and different sizes of congregations, different marital conditions (married, single, widowed or divorced), and different theological positions consistent with the Reformed tradition.

2. Number of years since their congregation has sent an elder to GA as a commissioner, with priority given to those that have not been represented. If a previous commissioner sent from a congregation was by virtue of office held then it would *not* be counted as prior representation.

3. Ability to be an effective commissioner, based on the following criteria:

a. Nature and extent of service to a specific church and/or presbytery or other PC(USA) bodies.

b. Willing and able to spend the time and energy to read the materials and understand the issues both before and during the GA. **Should have at least some computer literacy in order to be able to read and write in an electronic format.**

c. Have demonstrated fairness and a willingness to listen to a diversity of views and learn.

d. Willing and able to communicate effectively after GA about what was done there.

e. Willing to serve on the presbytery Bills and Overtures Committee until the next

GA.

B. For Clergy

1. Fair representation of all racial ethnic groups, different ages, both sexes, various disabilities, diverse geographical areas and different sizes of congregations, different marital conditions (married, single, widowed or divorced), and different theological positions consistent with the Reformed tradition.

2. Priority will be given to anyone who has not been to GA as a commissioner.

3. Ability to be an effective commissioner, based on the following criteria:

a. Nature and extent of service to a specific presbytery or other PC(USA) bodies.

b. Willing and able to spend the time and energy to read the materials and understand the issues both before and during the GA. **Should have at least some computer literacy in order to be able to read and write in an electronic format.**

c. Have demonstrated fairness and a willingness to listen to a diversity of views and learn.

d. Willing and able to communicate effectively after GA about what was done there.

e. Willing to serve on the presbytery Bills and Overtures Committee until the next

GA.

III. Process

A. The Nominating Form will be available online by May 1. All nominations are due in

to the Nominating Committee by September 29. The Nominating Committee will select a slate and include their Nominating Forms in the materials available online before the November presbytery meeting.

B. The slate will be posted online by October 30.

C. Nominations from the floor will be required to submit a completed Nominating Form to the presbytery office two weeks before the November presbytery meeting so that they can also be included in the online packet.

IV. Electing Procedure

The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of clergy and elder nominees equal to the number of commissioners as we are entitled to by the General Assembly (less two slots for appointed commissioners: Moderator and Vice-Moderator of N.C.P.) plus two alternates and a Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD). (BO G-11.0103 d and G -13.0102 b) This slate shall be posted online by November 1 and the election shall be held at the November presbytery meeting. The Nominating Committee slate shall be considered along with any other nominations from the floor and included in the presbytery packet as outlined in III. Process C.

When the number of nominees equals the number of commissioners to be elected, the presbytery may vote by voice vote or show of hands. When the number of nominees is greater than the number to be elected, the presbytery shall vote by secret ballot. A majority of all the voters present and voting shall be required to elect. (cf. BO G -14.0204 b) The principal commissioners shall be those nominees receiving the largest number of votes and in the order of their totals. Alternates shall be ranked upon the number of votes received and in the order of their totals and if necessary will be chosen to serve consistent with the needs to assure full participation and diversity. The results shall be made known if practicable to the presbytery that same evening and posted on the presbytery's website the next business day.

Adopted June 26, 2007 by National Capital Presbytery and amended September 25, 2007.