

Guidelines for Electing GA Commissioners

The process for creating a pool of potential commissioners

- I. Open Opportunity
 - A. In the Summer prior to General Assembly, the Stated Clerk should send to all session moderators and clerks a request to be proactive in inviting ruling elders who feel so called to submit to the Presbytery Nominating Committee a *Biographical Information Form*¹ indicating interest in being considered for General Assembly Commissioner.
 - B. In the Summer prior to General Assembly, the Stated Clerk should send to all teaching elders a request, should they feel so called, to submit to the Presbytery Nominating Committee a *Biographical Information Form*¹ indicating interest in being considered for General Assembly Commissioner.
 - C. The following Guidelines² will be put forth to inform those considering serving as a Commissioner to the General Assembly as to the requirements of the task:
 1. Have been a member of a church within the Presbytery of Los Ranchos and ordained as an elder at least two years as of the date of nomination.
 2. Have demonstrated interest and commitment to the larger church by service and participation in various governing bodies.
 3. Have an understanding of parliamentary procedure as well as the operational procedure, functions, and responsibilities of various governing bodies.
 4. Computer skills are essential as all business before the plenary Session is managed through a closed intranet system and voting is either handled through a special device or through a cell phone link.
 5. Are willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next meeting of the General Assembly, including pre-Assembly reading and preparation.
 6. Will be able to attend the General Assembly in its entirety from start to finish, including assigned committee meetings.
 7. Will be available and willing to report on the General Assembly at a presbytery meeting and, if requested, to congregations within the presbytery. Also, be willing to serve as a resource in the election of delegates for succeeding General Assemblies.
 8. Teaching Elders are eligible for nomination using the same criteria as those listed for elders, except for item a., which for clergy reads: Have been a member of The Presbytery of Los Ranchos at least two years as of the date of nomination.
- II. Corporate Discernment
 - A. In the Summer prior to General Assembly, the Nominating Committee should designate at least three of their members to serve on the GA Commissioner Nominating Team. They should then recruit three additional members from among commissioners who attended one

of the three most recent General Assemblies. These individuals should be representative of the presbytery. The Stated Clerk should resource this team.

III. Discernment Process

- A. The GA Commissioner Nominating Team should review all applications with an eye toward being able to present candidates for commissioner who fulfill the requirements of F-1.0403 (diversity and inclusiveness.) no later than the November Presbytery meeting of the year preceding GA.
- B. Some Considerations:
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Size of Congregation
 - Disability
 - Theological Conviction
 - Ethnicity
 - Service to Congregation/Presbytery
 - Types of Ministry e.g. HR and Validated

IV. Nominations

- A. The Nominating Team should bring to the Presbytery the names of people seeking to serve as Commissioner to General Assembly.
- B. Nominations from the floor are permitted—provided the individual nominated has agreed to serve. If the nominee has not provided the same documents as other candidates prior to the day of voting, such oversight shall be called to the attention of the body.
- C. Presbyters shall vote for the permitted number of teaching elders and permitted number of ruling elders.
- D. The permitted number receiving the most votes shall be elected commissioners. Those receiving the next most shall be first alternate and the next most shall be second alternate.
 - 1. This means the final group of elected commissioners may not be as representative as hoped for—but that is the presbytery's prerogative

V. Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD)

- A. YAAD's shall be elected via a process of soliciting names from sessions, review per above, and nomination to the floor of presbytery.

1) The Biographical Information Form serves as an application for those submitting their names for nomination as General Assembly Commissioner

2) The Guidelines for Determining Eligibility to be a General Assembly Commissioner are available from the Office of the Stated Clerk, along with a health note regarding the endurance required for participation in GA as well as information on provision for dependent care.