

Nominating Commissioners to General Assembly

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Revised Procedures and Criteria for Nominating Commissioners to the General Assembly (Adopted February 11, 1992 Revised November, 1998)

A. PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATING COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Nominating Committee will distribute the procedures and Criteria, together with recommendation and application forms, in the Call papers for the two meetings of Presbytery prior to elections, and will make these available to all committee members.
2. The Moderator of Presbytery will automatically be a commissioner during his or her term.
3. The clergy and elder nominations will each have a fair representation according to age, sex, and membership in minority group, size and location of churches, and a balance between parish and specialized clergy.
4. Six nominations will be made for clergy and six for elders, of whom four clergy and four elders are to be elected for a total of eight. Two clergy and two elders will serve as alternates. The Moderator of Presbytery will be included automatically among the eight elected.
5. The two clergy and two elders elected as alternates will be included automatically among the commissioners nominated the following year, unless they attended the year they were elected as alternates. If one or more of them attended as alternates, those whose places they took will be automatically nominated the following year. Persons elected as alternates the previous year, or those whose places they took, will be so designated on the ballot when they are nominated again.
6. Nominations can be made from the floor if biographical information is at hand to be distributed to all commissioners.

B. CRITERIA FOR NOMINATIONS

CLERGY Requirements

1. Competence to contribute to the life and work of the General Assembly.
2. Competence to represent the Presbytery of Chicago.
3. Readiness to deal seriously with General Assembly issues.
4. Active in some aspect of the life of the Presbytery. (Service in Divisions, Committees, Task Forces, etc.)
5. Has been faithful in attendance at Presbytery meetings (Present for at least 4 meetings in previous year or justifiably excused).
6. Has been member of Presbytery for at least one year prior to nomination.
7. Has not been commissioner to General Assembly during past 5 years. (Except current Moderator)
8. Is not minister of a church from which an elder is being nominated as commissioner.

Further Criteria

9. Assuming that the above requirements are met, preference will be given to clergy;
10. Who have never attended a general Assembly as commissioner.
11. Who have attended a General Assembly once as a commissioner but not from Chicago.
12. In order of the Number of years that have passed since going as General Assembly commissioner before.
13. In order of the length of years of ordination.

ELDERS Requirements

1. Competence to contribute to the life and work of the General Assembly.
2. Competence to represent the Presbytery of Chicago.
3. Readiness to deal seriously with General Assembly issues.
4. Active in some aspect of the life of the Presbytery. (Service in Divisions, Committees, Task Forces, etc.)
5. Has been active member of the church of his/her present membership for at least one year.
6. Has not been commissioner to General Assembly during past 5 years. (Except current Moderator)
7. Belongs to church that has had no elder commissioner to General Assembly in the past 5 years.
8. Does not belong to church whose minister is being nominated as commissioner.

Further Criteria

9. Preference will be given to elders in the order of the length of years since their church last had a commissioner to the General Assembly.
10. Taking into consideration the "one person - one vote" principle, large churches will receive consideration more frequently than small churches.