

Presbytery of the Cascades

Policy on Nomination and Election of General Assembly Commissioners

Principles

1. The process below strives to respect three Presbyterian Principles:
 - a. “The election of the persons to exercise authority, in any particular society, is in that society.” [F-3.0106] Presbytery itself elects commissioners by majority vote.
 - b. “Presbyters are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ.” [F-3.0204]
 - c. “The Presbyterian Church shall guarantee full participation or representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership.” [F-1.0403]
2. Nomination by the Nominating Committee is by application. Applications will be submitted to the Nominating Committee for review. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Presbytery meeting or by petition as allowed in the Presbytery’s standing rules provided that the nominee has indicated willingness to serve.
3. Election will be held at the November Presbytery meeting preceding GA. The two Minister of Word and Sacrament nominees receiving the highest number of votes will serve as Presbytery’s Minister Commissioners to General Assembly. Alternates shall be the next chosen in the order of votes received. The two Ruling Elder nominees receiving the highest number of votes will serve as Presbytery’s elder commissioners to General Assembly. Alternates shall be the next chosen in the order of votes received.

Selection Considerations for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

1. Membership in good standing in the presbytery.
2. Previous Service – Has not previously served as a G.A. Commissioner for Presbytery of the Cascades or another Presbytery.
3. Service to the Presbytery – one or more of the following conditions:
 - a. Presbytery meeting attendance for the past two years.
 - b. Recent service on a Commission or Committee of the Presbytery.
 - c. Current or recent service to a higher council of the church.
4. Congregational Participation – participation in the life of a presbytery congregation if not a pastor or associate pastor (e.g. regular worship attendance, adult education, etc.)
5. Representation – Nominating committee will submit a slate of candidates with the intention of providing the broadest representation possible as outlined in the manual of operations for the Nominating Committee.

Selection Considerations for Ruling Elder

1. Participation by congregation in stated meetings of the presbytery. Congregation has not sent a Ruling Elder commissioner to three previous assemblies.
2. Service to the Presbytery by applicant (including):
 - a. Presbytery meeting attendance over past two years
 - b. Recent service on a Commission or Committee of the Presbytery.
 - c. Current or recent service to a higher council of the church.
3. **(Required)** Must be endorsed by his or her session.
4. Representation – Nominating committee will submit a slate of candidates with the intention of providing the broadest representation possible as outlined in the manual of operations for the Nominating Committee.