

**20. NOMINATING PROCESS FOR
ELECTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS**
Presbytery of St. Augustine

I. THE PLAN

All Teaching and Ruling Elders and young adults meeting the General Assembly's eligibility requirements are eligible to make application to be a commissioner or advisory delegate to a meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). All applications must be in the hands of the Nominating and Representation Team no later than the date designated by the Team. The application must be in writing on the form provided by the Team and available upon request from the presbytery office or on the presbytery website. Applications must be submitted for each General Assembly and do not carry over.

II. THE RATIONALE

The Presbytery of St. Augustine wishes to send effective and qualified commissioners to the General Assembly in a fair and equitable system. This plan represents a system which promotes competency and fairness in the representation of the presbytery in its selection of commissioners and young adult advisory delegates.

Any Ruling Elder or young adult who wishes to be a commissioner or advisory delegate to a meeting of the General Assembly must make application to attend. This will assure that the commissioner will be interested and motivated to serve.

III. THE CRITERIA

A. The Nominating Team will be guided in its selection process to meet the following criteria for full representation in any six year period, as nearly as possible:

1. Alternate young adult advisory delegates between male and female.
2. Nominate an equal number of male and female Ruling Elder commissioners.
3. Nominate at least one racial ethnic person to serve as commissioner to every other General Assembly. (Serious attention will be given to the inclusion of racial ethnic clergy in the delegation.)
4. Provide fair representation to churches of every size.
5. Provide fair representation to persons of every age.
6. Restrict commissioners to service only one time in any ten year period.
7. Take into account the date the churches were last represented and the date ministers last attended as a commissioner.
8. Take into account the years that a Teaching Elder has been ordained and has been a member of the presbytery, with longevity considered as a positive factor, particularly if the teaching elder has never before served as a commissioner.

B. The following qualifying criteria will be used by the Team for the selection of persons to be commissioners and young adult advisory delegates:

1. Active commitment to, and involvement in, the work of the presbytery through committee, commission or task force work, attendance, and support of its goals and objectives.

2. Knowledge of issues and skills in procedures as shown in their functioning in church governing bodies.
3. Willingness to accept the responsibilities involved - attendance at preparatory meetings, attendance and participation at the Assembly, effective reporting in the presbytery upon return, and willingness to continue service in the presbytery.

IV. THE STEPS

A. The steps for electing General Assembly commissioners

1. The Nominating Team will correspond with Clerks of Sessions and ministers, informing them of the following:
 - a. The dates and location of the next Assembly
 - b. Copy of the criteria and present status toward meeting them
 - c. Application forms
2. The Nominating Team will present the slate at the Fall meeting of the presbytery:
 - a. Two Teaching Elders and at least two Teaching Elder alternates
 - b. Two Ruling Elders and at least two Ruling Elder alternates
 - c. One young adult advisory delegate and at least one young adult alternate
3. The Session from which the elders and young adult are elected will be advised of the election and asked to hold a service of recognition.
4. The commissioners will be expected to report to the presbytery and to continue to serve in the life of the presbytery.

Adopted July 1987
Amended 14 July 2007
Amended 5 May 2015
Amended 1 January 2018