

THE PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER NOMINEE

NAME : Gary Collins

CHURCH: St. Mark PC, Newport Beach

Local Church Experience:

Pastor, St. Mark, 1990 to present

Pastor, FPC Ferguson, MO 1984 – 1990

Pastor, Mt. Pisgah PC, Greentree, PA 1979 – 1984

Pastor, Clairton PC, Clairton, PA 1976 – 1979

Associate Pastor, Christ PC, Camp Hill, PA 1970 – 1976

Service to the Denomination: (Presbytery and beyond)

Los Ranchos COM 9 years since 1990, Moderator 2008, 2009

Los Ranchos PJC 2 years

Synod So Cal/ Hawaii commissioner, one year

Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, Church & Society Committee, 1984-1990

General Assembly Commissioner, 1982

Pittsburgh Presbytery, Social Ministry Institute (Dean) 1982

Pittsburgh Presbytery, Lay Leadership Sub Division, 1981-1982

Synod of the Trinity, Youth Cabinet, Youth and Government

Seminar (Director) 1979-1981

Please answer the following four questions with the total length of your answers to be a maximum of one page.

1. What do you believe the church is called to do in this world?

The church is called to demonstrate the Kingdom of God to the world as it was preached, embodied and promised by Jesus Christ. “To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as (God’s) reconciling community” (C-67, 9.31).

2. How do the Scriptures mold your faith?

As I study the Scriptures’ witness to Jesus Christ, his teaching and the power of his powerless love command my attention, my trust and my loyalty and provide a pattern for my life, though my ability to conform to this pattern is sadly limited.

The Scriptures ask me to name Jesus Lord of my life, which I do with deepest gratitude.

3. How have you sensed God's call to serve as a commissioner to General Assembly?

In prayer I have discerned that God's call has come through the voices of fellow presbyters who have suggested I consider standing for election as a commissioner. I sense that God would like me to make a contribution to the wider church by serving as a commissioner.

4. What do you see as the most significant issue(s) coming before the 2010 General Assembly?

- Report by Special Committee on Israel/Palestine (first draft by Dr. Fred Bush of Los Ranchos; Dr. John Huffman also a member)
- Proposed new Form of Government
- Reduced function of synods
- Standards for ordained service
- Adoption of the Belhar Confession
- Extending voice and vote to more Certified Christian Educators
- Ordination celebrated in calling presbytery
- Allowing interim associate pastors to become installed associate pastors