

## **Proposed Revised Process for Electing GA Commissioners**

The following individuals met on Sunday, October 30, 2011 for the purpose of reviewing the Presbytery of Los Ranchos procedures for electing commissioners to General Assembly, to compare that process with that used by other presbyteries, and, if appropriate, to propose a possible new process to meet the current realities of this presbytery.

Rev. Kathy Sizer, Moderator of Presbytery; Rev. Rick Headley, Moderator of the Nominating Committee; Rev. Cheryl Raine, former commissioner; Ruling Elder Neal Wells, St. Andrew's PC; Ruling Elder Sue Currie, Tustin; Rev. Keith Geckeler, staff.

### Key Goals:

- Increase the number of individuals actively seeking to become a commissioner.
- To bring to presbytery the best representatives of the presbytery possible (i.e. our "best and brightest")
- To bring to the presbytery people who have a sense of "call" to serve as a commissioner. {Either personal sense of call or community validated call.}
- To make sure potential commissioners clearly understand the expectations of serving as a commissioner.
- To insure that candidates represent the diversity of the presbytery.

### I. There shall be a two-fold process for creating a pool of potential commissioners.

#### A. Open Opportunity

1. In the Fall prior to General Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall send to all session moderators and clerks a request to be pro-active in inviting ruling elders who feel so called to submit to the session an application to become a commissioner. The session would then act to endorse the application to the Nominating Committee.
2. In the Fall prior to General Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall send to all teaching elders a request, should they feel so called, to submit a commissioner application to the Presbytery Nominating Committee.

#### B. Corporate Discernment

1. In the Fall prior to General Assembly, the Nominating Committee shall designate four of their members to serve on the GA Commissioner Nominating Team. The four shall then recruit three additional members from among commissioners who attended one of the three most recent General Assemblies. The seven individuals should be representative of the presbytery. A Presbytery Pastor shall staff this Team.
2. This group shall create a "rotational" listing of congregations from which they shall seek to discern leaders whom they believe would make excellent GA commissioners. [These persons may come from those who come to the committee's attention through A1 above—or from any other process able to identify the best possible persons.] This list shall include up to 5 small congregations (up to average worship of 100), 5 medium

sized congregations (average worship up to 250), and 5 large churches (average worship above 250) to encourage representation of congregations.

a. These names shall be divided among team members and presbytery pastoral staff and personal calls made to invite and encourage these teaching and ruling and elders to submit applications (if they have not already done so).

## II. Discernment Process

- A. In the preliminary process of reviewing applications, the Nominating Team shall review individuals for the following
  - Computer Skills (essential for commissioners)
  - Organized/Self Disciplined (too much information and details)
  - Regular attendance (either at presbytery or in session)
  - Ability and readiness for public speaking (at GA and interpreting when return home)
  - Commitment to training and preparation
- B. The committee shall also 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.)
- C. All candidates must have been a member of the presbytery for at least two years—but there are no other length-of-service requirements.
- D. Ordinarily no congregation shall have more than one candidate for commissioner.

## III. Interview

The Nominating Team shall invite all potential candidates to an interview/meeting prior to selecting final nominations. The purpose shall be to meet the potential candidates, make sure they understand the expectations, to interview them regarding various aspects of their service to the church and presbytery, and to ascertain their familiarity with General Assembly and the issues before it.

## IV. Nominations

- A. The Nominating Team shall bring to the presbytery two names for each commissioner opening. (e.g. four names if there are two commissioner positions; six if there are three.) The list of candidates shall comply with the requirements of F-1.0403, including age consideration.
- B. The nominees shall be introduced via the endorsement letter from their session—and time during Open Space for personal introductions, speeches and questions from the Nominating Team.
- C. Nominations from the floor are permitted—provided the individual nominated has agreed to serve. If the nominate 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.
- D. Presbyters shall vote for the permitted number of teaching elders and permitted number of ruling elders.

- E. 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.

This means the final group of six elected commissioners may not be as representative as hoped for—but that is the presbytery's prerogative

V. YAD's

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

Representational Factors for Nominating Committee to Consider in Discernment

Age---Gender---Size of Congregation---Disability—Theological Conviction—Ethnicity—  
Service to Congregation/Presbytery—Types of Ministry (e.g. HR and Validated)