

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.

This is a change in Policy, not Standing Rules, so does not require two readings.

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 invite 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 to the session a commissioner application. The session shall then send the endorsed application to the 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 elders to submit applications (if they have not already done so).

II. Discernment Process

- A. All potential commissioners will be invited to attend a discernment event that clearly identifies the recommended skills and abilities as well as responsibilities of commissioners to be elected by Los Ranchos Presbytery. Here is a preliminary list of skills and abilities as well as responsibilities:
- i. Computer Skills (All business is conducted electronically)
 - ii. Organized/Self Disciplined (volume of information and details)
 - iii. Ability and readiness for public speaking (at GA and interpreting GA decisions within Los Ranchos)
 - iv. Commissioner duties as assigned within the Presbytery until the following GA (up to two years)
 - v. Commitment to training and preparation for the GA
- B. The committee shall also bring to the candidates' attention 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. Nominations

- A. The Nominating Team shall bring to the presbytery the list of candidates who participated in this process, presenting them according to the requirements of F-1.0403.
- B. The nominees shall be introduced via the endorsement letter from their session—and time during Open Space will be given for personal introductions, speeches and questions from the Presbytery.
- C. Nominations from the floor are permitted—provided the individual nominated has agreed to serve. If the nominee 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 prior to election.
- 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.

IV. 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)

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