

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
Committee on Nominations
**Guidelines for the Nomination of
Commissioners to Synod and General Assembly
Revised Version – March 25, 2017**

Rationale:

Whereas the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina uses a rotation system to select the delegates to attend the General assembly, and

Whereas there are now only 23,601 members in 186 churches in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and only six delegates are to be selected, and
[**Note:** In 2016, Presbytery membership declined below 24,000 members – see G-3.0501]

Whereas there is a need to afford greater opportunities for a more representative delegation, and

Whereas there is a need to select those with extraordinary gifts to attend regardless of the rotation,

Therefore, on March 25, 2017, the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina adopted this revised policy for the nomination and the election of presbytery commissioners to the Synod and General Assembly.

I. General

- A. Commissioners to meetings of the Synod Mid-Atlantic and to biennial meetings of the General Assembly (even-numbered years) will be nominated by the Committee on Nominations for election by Presbytery. At the present time the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina is authorized to send two commissioners to the Synod Assembly and six commissioners and one Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly.
- B. Two commissioners (one teaching elder and one ruling elder) will be selected from each of the three communities. Teaching elder commissioners must meet the criteria for teaching elders listed below. The churches from which the ruling elder commissioners will be chosen must meet the criteria for churches listed below (II. C. 1.) and the ruling elders must meet the criteria for ruling elder listed below (II. C. 2).
- C. The Presbytery Youth Council will recommend a young adult to serve as the Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) based on a system of rotation among the three communities of the Presbytery. Young Adult Advisory Delegates must be between the ages of 17 and 23 on the date General Assembly begins.
- D. Alternate commissioners to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and to General Assembly shall be nominated from the same communities as the principal commissioners.
- E. Persons elected as commissioners who must withdraw or who decline to serve will have their names placed at the bottom of the eligibility list.
- F. The nomination of commissioners shall be in accordance with the *Book of Order* F-1.0403 and G-3.0103.

- G. Commissioners and Delegates for Synod and General Assembly will be as balanced between teaching and ruling elders and women and men as possible and attention shall be given to assure inclusion of racial ethnic and age representation.
- H. All candidates for nomination as commissioners to the General Assembly or as a YAAD shall complete the application provided by the Committee on Nominations.
- I. Commissioners must commit to attending General Assembly training offered by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and attending sessions during the entire General Assembly period. Any commissioner who cannot make this commitment will relinquish his/her position to the alternate commissioner.
- J. No person who has attended the General Assembly as a commissioner in the prior ten year period will be eligible for consideration by the Nominating Committee to be a commissioner.

II. Criteria for Selection of Nominees

- A. All Candidates for Nomination as Commissioners to the General Assembly must:
 - 1. be willing to commit to:
 - a. read over 1,000 pages of reports and overtures provided to them electronically before the General Assembly begins
 - b. attend Presbytery sponsored orientation meeting(s).
 - c. attend the committee meetings and plenary sessions of the General Assembly
 - d. being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they vote on the issues before the Assembly
 - e. report back to the Presbytery on the actions taken by the General Assembly and on their experiences as a commissioner to a meeting of the Presbytery and, when possible, to congregations upon their request.
 - 2. be able to use effectively electronic devices (laptop computers, smart tablets, etc.) to read documents and take notes before and during the General Assembly.
- B. Teaching Elder Commissioners
 - 1. Those teaching elders who are eligible for consideration for nomination shall ordinarily be considered on a seniority basis. The following factors shall be used in determining seniority:
 - a. Length of membership in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.
 - b. Length of service since ordination.
 - c. Date of last General Assembly or Synod attended.
 - d. In case of a tie, service within the structures of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be the determining factor.
 - e. Only ministers in validated ministry or honorably retired will be considered in accordance with the *Book of Order* G-2.0503.
 - 2. To be eligible for consideration as a candidate for nomination as a commissioner the teaching elder must:
 - a. have been a member of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina for at least five years
 - b. have participated on a committee or sub-committee of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina or one of its Missional Communities, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, or

the General Assembly at some point in the last ~~five~~ six years prior to be nominated and have attended at least four meetings of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina or of its Community Gatherings over the past two years.

- c. the church which the teaching elder serves (if in active pastoral service) must have remitted to the Presbytery of coastal Carolina the full asking of *per capita* apportionment and made a contribution to the shared mission budget of the Presbytery for the two years prior to being nominated.

C. Ruling Elder Commissioners

1. The churches from which the ruling elder commissioners will be chosen shall ordinarily be considered on a seniority basis. The following factors shall be used in determining seniority:
 - a. The last year, since the inception of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, that the congregation sent a ruling elder as a commissioner to the General Assembly.
 - b. In the case of a tie in seniority, the Committee on Nominations will take into account the congregation's record of support of and interest in the work of the Presbytery.
2. To be eligible for consideration to suggest a ruling elder to be nominated as a commissioner the congregation must:
 - a. have had a ruling elder commissioner attend at least four meetings of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina or its Community Gatherings over the past two years.
 - b. have remitted to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina the full asking of *per capita* apportionment and made a contribution to the shared mission budget of the Presbytery for the two years prior to being selected to suggest a ruling elder as a commissioner to the General Assembly
 - c. have had at least one member participated on a committee or sub-committee of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina or one of its Missional Communities, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, or the General Assembly at some point in the last ~~five~~ six years prior to ~~be~~ being asked to nominate a ruling elder as a delegate or commissioner.

D. Alternate Commissioners

1. Alternate commissioners shall be selected in the same manner as commissioners
2. Alternate commissioners shall ordinarily become the principal commissioners to the next General Assembly *if* they have not replaced their principal at the previous Assembly *and* if they still meet the criteria outlined above.

III. Implementation

A. Lists of Teaching Elders and Congregations

1. The Committee on Nominations shall form a list of all ministers currently enrolled in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, ordering the list of eligibility for election according to II. B. 1. above.
 - a. The list shall be updated as ministers enter and leave the Presbytery.
 - b. Ministers failing to provide the requested information necessary for the compiling of this list will not be included for consideration.

2. The Committee on Nominations shall form a list of congregations making up the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, ordering the list of eligibility for election according to II. C. 1. above.
 - a. This list shall be updated following each meeting of the General Assembly and Synod Assembly.
 - b. Congregations failing to provide the requested information necessary for the compiling of this list will not be included for consideration.
 3. These lists, as compiled, shall be kept in the Committee on Nominations files in the office of Presbytery and shall be available for inspection upon request.
- B. Solicitation of Applications
1. Early in the year before the next biennial General Assembly the Committee on Nominations will develop a list of those teaching elders eligible for nomination as commissioners to the General Assembly and of those congregations eligible to suggest a ruling elder for nomination as a commissioner to the General Assembly.
 2. Each teaching elder and session of a congregation that is eligible to apply for nomination will be contacted and asked if they wish to be considered.
 3. Those teaching elders willing to be considered and any ruling elder(s) suggested by the session of an eligible congregation shall fill out the Application Form developed by the Committee for this purpose.
- C. Nomination and Election
1. The Committee on Nominations will review the applications received from teaching and ruling elders and establish a slate of nominees to be presented to the Presbytery for election based on the criteria of seniority and the needs of balance and diversity called for in the *Book of Order*.
 2. This slate will be announced at the Summer Gatherings of the Missional Communities in the year before the General Assembly meets. The election of the commissioners will occur at the last stated meeting of the Presbytery of that year.
 3. The right of the members of the Presbytery to nominate persons from the floor shall be maintained when the vote takes place.

First adopted on June 26, 1998

Revised on December 7, 2006

Revised on June 12, 2014

Revised on March 25, 2017