

IV • Commissioners & Youth Advisory Delegates

4.01 Guidelines for Selection of General Assembly and Synod Commissioners

All GA and synod commissioners are elders and ministers who possess certain qualities and who commit themselves to participate in the church's life in certain ways:

- Strong personal faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ
- Strong commitment to Presbyterian polity
- Personal integrity
- Spiritual maturity
- Knowledge of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at all levels
- Active in the Presbytery of Wyoming (as well as in their particular church)
- Awareness of issues facing GA and synod
- Willingness to read, study and learn about issues to be considered
- Ability to listen to others – and to show respect for those with different viewpoints
- Ability to work with others in group settings
- Ability to attend training events, if needed
- Commitment to attend committee and assembly meetings
- Ability/willingness to report on the work of higher governing bodies, and the issues facing those bodies

Presbytery responsibilities & nominating process

- Presbytery will encourage all ministers and elders to participate in the work of GA and synod – as commissioners and in other elected positions.
- GA and synod nominating materials will be readily available to elders and ministers; and completion of application forms will be encouraged.
- Elders and ministers will be urged to complete profile forms for the nominating committee and to submit applications for service as commissioners to GA and synod.
- Nominating committee will present nominees based on the established criteria.
- Commissioner nominees will be encouraged to attend a presbytery meeting and address the body about their interest in serving.
- Nominees for GA commissioner ordinarily will be elected to serve as alternate commissioner for a General Assembly, and then serve as principal commissioner the following General Assembly.
- If a commissioner is unable to attend and the alternate becomes the commissioner, a new alternate commissioner will be elected at the next presbytery meeting.
- If persons completing applications do not meet the criteria, the committee may encourage others to consider service as commissioners.

- Insofar as possible, nomination of commissioners will demonstrate inclusiveness with respect to age, sex, ethnic origin, and theological orientation.

The stated clerk will publish the following lists in the Spring Presbytery packet in conjunction with the election of commissioners:

- Minister members of the presbytery, showing date of ordination and service as commissioner to GA and synod
- Previous elder commissioners, with names of churches and dates of service, and number of years since the church was last represented by an elder commissioner to GA and synod

Selection of minister commissioners (especially for GA) will take into account these factors:

- Date of ordination
- Whether the minister has served as a commissioner – if so, the number of times
- Time elapsed since last service as a commissioner
- Involvement in presbytery, synod and GA (including service in other presbyteries and synods)

Selection of elder commissioners (especially for GA) will take into account these factors:

- Date of ordination
- Whether the elder has served as a commissioner – if so, the number of times
- Time elapsed since last service as a commissioner
- Involvement in presbytery, synod and GA (including service in other presbyteries and synods)
- Last date the church of which the elder is a member had an elder commissioner (to GA/synod, depending on the position being considered)

4.02 Guidelines for Selection Youth Advisory Delegates

GA youth advisory delegates possess certain qualities and who commit themselves to participate in the church's life in certain ways:

- Growing faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ
- Basic understanding of and commitment to Presbyterian polity
- Personal integrity
- Spiritual maturity
- Active membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – with consideration given to participation in presbytery, synod and GA youth events
- Active in their particular church
- Consideration given to awareness of issues facing GA and synod
- Willingness to read, study and learn about issues to be considered
- Ability to listen to others – and to show respect for those with different viewpoints
- Ability to work with others in group settings
- Ability to attend training events, if needed
- Commitment to attend committee and assembly meetings
- Ability/willingness to report on the work of higher governing bodies, and the issues facing those bodies

In addition to characteristics listed above, selection of youth advisory delegates will take into account these factors:

- Level of participation in one's local church, presbytery, synod and GA
- Last date the church of which the applicant is a member had youth advisory delegate

Presbytery responsibilities & nominating process

- Presbytery will encourage all youth (ordained and non-ordained) to participate in the work of GA and synod and presbytery.
- Information about youth events will be readily available; and participation will be encouraged.
- Persons in the designated age group will be urged to submit applications for service as a GA youth advisory delegate.
- References from persons in the local church and community (as well as references from presbytery, synod and GA) will be considered in the selection process.
- Council will present a nominee based on the established criteria.
- Insofar as possible, nomination of youth advisory delegates will demonstrate inclusiveness with respect to age (within the specified range), sex, ethnic origin, and theological orientation.

4.03 Observers at General Assembly

In order to develop effective commissioner participation and to encourage good communication between the presbytery and General Assembly, council may approve reimbursement of expenses for observers at General Assembly. Alternate commissioners and advisory delegates, advocates for presbytery-sponsored overtures, presbytery officers and other presbytery leader may apply to council for reimbursement of expenses. The amount of reimbursement will depend on the number of observers and funds available.