

GUIDELINES FOR THE NOMINATION OF RULING ELDER (RE) AND TEACHING ELDER (TE) COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF LAKE ERIE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

Ruling Elder (RE)

Rationale:

This system for ordering and nominating Ruling Elder (RE) commissioners to General Assembly (GA) is designed to give opportunity to RE's of congregations who have not recently had participants at General Assembly and to emphasize representation of congregations in the life of the Presbytery.

Requirements for Eligibility:

1. Ruling Elder commissioners shall be nominated based on a rotation of church sessions. The church from which the RE commissioner is selected shall have been represented at three of the last five Stated Meetings of Presbytery.
2. If a congregation is given the opportunity to supply a RE commissioner for nomination and declines, that congregation shall be placed at the bottom of the rotation list.
3. Should a nominated RE commissioner decide not to attend due to extreme circumstances (such as illness), an alternate Ruling Elder shall attend. The nominated Ruling Elder commissioner shall become the commissioner for the next General Assembly (for one time only). The committee shall notify the session and the nominee in writing of any action regarding his/her nomination.

Inquirers and Candidates

Inquirers and candidates for the ministry shall not be considered as commissioners to GA

Teaching Elder (TE)

Rationale:

This system for ordering and nominating Teaching Elder (TE) commissioners to General Assembly (GA) is designed to give opportunity to those who have never attended GA, to set a minimum time one must be a member of Presbytery before being eligible to attend, and to emphasize participation in the life of the Presbytery.

Requirements for Eligibility:

1. To be eligible, the TE must have been a member of the Presbytery of Lake Erie for at least 5 years. (This total membership does include years of past membership in the Presbytery of Lake Erie.)
2. To be eligible, the TE person must have attended at least 7 of the last 10 meetings of the Presbytery of Lake Erie prior to his or her nomination. (Attendance exceptions will be made for extenuating circumstances. The Nominating Committee will determine what qualifies as extenuating circumstances on an individual basis.)
3. Those who were not able to attend based on extraordinary circumstances will be reconsidered by the Nominating Committee for the next GA meeting.
4. For one time only, a TE may decline for other circumstances, and if desired, be considered for commissioner to the next General Assembly. Those who decline to attend for the second time will be placed in the category with those who have attended based on the year they decline for the second time.

5. A TE who declines to attend GA and does not desire to be considered for the next GA will also be placed in the category with those who have attended based on the year they decline.

Categories:

This system initially divides all eligible Teaching Elder members into **two categories**: (A) *those who have not* and (B) *those who have attended General Assembly as a Teaching Elder commissioner in the past*. Each category is then ranked separately based on the ranking system described below.

Ranking Point System for Category A:

1. Each eligible TE is awarded 1 point for each year of service to the PCUSA since the date of his or her ordination. If the TE was serving in a PCUSA church but was a member of another denomination, the person receives 1 point per year of service. If the TE was a member of the PCUSA but served a church in another denomination, the person receives 1 point per year of service. If the TE was a member of another denomination and served a church in another denomination, the person receives 0.5 point for each year of service.
2. Each eligible TE is awarded 1 point for each year of service to the Presbytery of Lake Erie. This number includes all past years of service to the Presbytery of Lake Erie whether or not consecutive.

Ranking Point System for Category B:

1. Each eligible TE is awarded 1 point for each year since the last time they attended GA as a TE commissioner. If the TE was serving in a PCUSA church but was a member of another denomination, the person receives 1 point per year of service. If the TE was a member of the PCUSA but served a church in of another denomination, the person receives 1 point per year of service. If the TE was a member of another denomination and served a church in another denomination, the person receives 0.5 point for each year of service.
2. Each eligible TE is awarded 1 point for each year of service to the Presbytery of Lake Erie since the last time they attended GA. This number includes all past years of service to the Presbytery of Lake Erie whether or not consecutive.

Notes:

1. The ranking of Teaching Elders begins at the top of Category A and then moves down through A to the bottom of A. If there are no eligible persons in Category A, the rank order will begin at the top of Category B and then move down through Category B. (In other words, the rank order flows top down A to B.) The commissioners, the number of whom is determined by the GA, will be nominated in order of rank with an equal number of alternates. Being an alternate one year does not guarantee that a person will be nominated as a commissioner for the next GA meeting.
2. If two or more Teaching Elders in Category A have the same final number of points, the one with the earlier ordination date will be selected. If two or more people in Category B have the same final number of points, the one with the earlier date of last attendance at GA as a TE commissioner will be selected.
3. Any situation that arises which is not covered by these guidelines will be referred to the Nominating Committee for a decision and recommendation to Presbytery.
4. The rotation list of congregations and Teaching Elders shall be published once a year. While this procedure governs the Nominating Committee's process of nomination, the Presbytery, of course, maintains the constitutional right to nominate from the floor.