

## *The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys*

### **Process for Nominating and Electing General Assembly (GA) Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs)**

#### PREAMBLE

The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys is fully committed to our participation in the meetings of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) We seek to prayerfully elect Commissioners who will serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

#### PRINCIPLES

1. Applications for GA Commissioners shall be reviewed by the Committee on Representation and Nominations and nominees for Commissioners and Alternates shall be presented for consideration at the October meeting of the presbytery that occurs in the year immediately preceding the GA meeting.
2. Applications shall be widely available, including accessibility from the presbytery website, through the Valley Bridge, and shall be sent electronically to each pastor and clerk of Session. The presbytery office may also electronically send the application form upon request.
3. Only those Teaching and Ruling Elders who are active in the life of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys and its member churches as defined below shall be nominated.
4. All GA Commissioners are expected to be fully engaged in learning how the GA process works, reading advance materials, and actively participating in their assigned committee and all plenary sessions.
5. Commissioners shall interpret and communicate the actions of the GA back to the Presbytery at a regularly stated meeting of the Presbytery, and be available for interpretation to individual congregations.
6. Alternates for Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder Commissioners will not be guaranteed to be the primary commissioner to the next GA, but will be eligible to re-apply to be considered in the next nominating process.
7. Commissioners and Alternates will serve as the presbytery's Bills and Overtures Committee, for the purpose of engaging the presbytery in conversations and actions required of the presbytery by the General Assembly.

#### TEACHING ELDER COMMISSIONER

1. Teaching Elders seeking to serve as a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys to GA shall submit an application to the Nominating Committee. The application shall indicate:
  - a. The length of time the applicant has been a member of this presbytery.

- b. The date of his or her ordination or acceptance into Presbyterian Church (USA).
  - c. The length of time since he or she served as a GA Commissioner for any presbytery.
2. Application for Teaching Elder Commissioner to GA can be made provided that the following criteria are met:
  - a. The applicant is a member in good standing of this presbytery.
  - b. The applicant has been a member of this presbytery for a minimum of one (1) year at the date of application.
  - c. The applicant has not been a Teaching Elder Commissioner to GA from either the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys or another presbytery in the two (2) previous meetings of the GA.
  - d. The applicant can demonstrate active membership in the presbytery, preferably including attendance at six (6) of the last eight (8) stated meetings of the presbytery that occurred before June 30th of the year prior to the next GA.
  - e. The applicant has been endorsed either by the session she/he moderates, or any session if the Teaching Elder member does not moderate a session, or by any standing committee of the presbytery.
  - f. The applicant completes the application provided by the Committee on Representation and Nominations and submits the application by September 1 of the year prior to the GA.
3. The Committee on Representation and Nominations shall consider the information provided on the Applications and select one (1) Teaching Elder to be the designated nominee for Commissioner and one (1) Teaching Elder to be the designated nominee for Alternate Commissioner. At least one of the Teaching Elders nominated for Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner shall be serving in an installed pastoral position.
4. The individuals who submitted applications shall be notified of the recommendation of the Nominating Committee by September 30 of the year prior to the GA.
5. At the October stated meeting of the Presbytery, which occurs in the year immediately preceding the GA meeting, the Committee on Representation and Nominations shall submit the nominations for Teaching Elder Commissioner and Alternate for election.

#### RULING ELDER COMMISSIONER

1. Ruling Elders seeking to serve as a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys to GA shall submit an application to the Committee on Representation and Nominations. The application shall indicate:
  - a. The length of time the applicant has been a member of their Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation.
  - b. The date of his or her ordination as a Ruling Elder.
  - c. The length of time since he or she served as a GA Commissioner for any presbytery.
2. Application for Ruling Elder Commissioner to GA can be made provided that the following criteria are met:
  - a. The applicant has been an active member of a congregation in the Presbytery of

- Minnesota Valleys for a minimum of one (1) year at the date of application.
- b. The congregation to which the applicant belongs has not sent a Ruling Elder Commissioner to GA in the two (2) previous meetings. If there an insufficient quantity of applicants as of September 15 of the year prior to GA, the Nominating Committee may consider applicants from any congregation in the presbytery.
  - c. The applicant can demonstrate active participation in the presbytery, preferably including official attendance at two (2) of the last eight (8) stated meetings of the presbytery that occurred before June 30th of the year prior to the next GA.
  - d. The church where they are an active member preferably must have been represented by at least one (1) Ruling Elder Commissioner at six (6) of the last (8) stated meetings of the presbytery that occurred before June 30th of the year prior to the next GA.
  - e. The applicant has been endorsed by her/his session.
  - f. The applicant completes the application provided by the Nominating Committee and submits the application by September 1 of the year prior to the GA.
3. The Committee on Representation and Nominations shall consider the information provided on the Applications and select one (1) Ruling Elder to be the designated nominee for Commissioner and one (1) Ruling Elder to be the designated nominee for Alternate Commissioner.
  4. The individuals who submitted applications shall be notified of the recommendation of the Committee on Representation and Nominations by September 30 of the year prior to the GA.
  5. At the October stated meeting of the presbytery, which occurs in the year immediately preceding the GA meeting, the Committee on Representation and Nominations shall submit the nominations for Ruling Elder Commissioners and Alternates for election.

#### YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES

1. Young Adults (between the ages of 17 and 23 on the day GA convenes) seeking to serve as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate from the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys to GA shall submit an application to the Nominating Committee. The application shall indicate:
  - a. The length of time the applicant has been a member of their Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation.
  - b. The length of time since he or she served as a YAAD for any presbytery.
2. Application for YAADs to GA can be made provided that the following criteria are met:
  - a. The applicant has been an active member of a congregation in this presbytery for a minimum of one (1) year at the date of application.
  - b. The congregation to which the applicant belongs has not sent a YAAD to GA in the two (2) previous meetings. If there an insufficient quantity of applicants as of September 15 of the year prior to GA, the Committee on Representation and Nominations may consider applicants from any congregation in the Presbytery.
  - c. The applicant has been endorsed by her/his session.
  - d. The applicant completes the application provided by the Nominating Committee and submits the application by September 1 of the year prior to the GA.

**2016 General Assembly (GA)  
Commissioner Application**



**Return by September 1, 2015 to:** The Presbytery Minnesota Valleys Committee on Representation and Nominations  
4055 Abbott Drive SE, Willmar, MN 56201  
Email: karen@minnesotavalleys.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position \_\_\_\_\_

The date you became a member of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys \_\_\_\_\_  
***(Minimum of 1 year at date of application)***

The date of your ordination or acceptance into the P.C. (U.S.A.) \_\_\_\_\_

The year that you previously served as a GA Commissioner for any presbytery \_\_\_\_\_  
***(Minimum of 4 years)***

**Please answer using a separate attached sheet:**

1. Tell us about yourself.
2. What excites you and/or concerns you about the church today?
3. What issues are important in the church today?
4. What gifts/abilities will you bring to your role as Commissioner to the GA?

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ENDORSEMENT by Session or Standing Committee of Presbytery**

Entity providing the endorsement: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Signature and Title)**

**2016 General Assembly (GA)  
Commissioner Application**

**Ruling Elder**

**Return by September 1, 2015 to:** The Presbytery Minnesota Valleys Committee on Representation and Nominations  
4055 Abbott Drive SE, Willmar, MN 56201  
Email: karen@minnesotavalleys.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

The date you became a member of a P.C. (U.S.A.) congregation  
*(Minimum of 1 year at date of application)* \_\_\_\_\_

The date of your ordination as a Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_

The year a Ruling Elder from your congregation previously served as a GA  
Commissioner *(Minimum 4 years)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer using a separate attached sheet:**

1. Tell us about yourself.
2. What excites you and/or concerns you about the church today?
3. What issues are important in the church today?
4. What gifts/abilities will you bring to your role as Commissioner to the GA?

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ENDORSEMENT by Session**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Signature and Title)**

**2016 General Assembly (GA)  
Commissioner Application**

**Young Adult Advisory Delegate**

**Return by September 1, 2015 to:** The Presbytery Minnesota Valleys Committee on Representation and Nominations  
4055 Abbott Drive SE, Willmar, MN 56201  
Email: karen@minnesotavalleys.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

The date you became a member of a P.C. (U.S.A.) congregation (**Minimum of 1 year at date of application**) \_\_\_\_\_

The year a member from your congregation previously served as a GA YAAD (**Minimum 4 years**) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer using a separate attached sheet:**

1. Tell us about yourself.
2. What excites you and/or concerns you about the church today?
3. What issues are important in the church today?
4. What gifts/abilities will you bring to your role as a YAAD to the GA?

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ENDORSEMENT by Session**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Signature and Title)**