

**Policy for Nominating and Electing General Assembly Commissioners**  
**Presbytery of San Francisco**  
*(Adopted April 14, 2015)*

1. The Presbytery shall use a modified rotational nomination system for teaching elder and ruling elder commissioners to General Assembly.

1.1 The number of commissioners from the Presbytery is determined by G-3.0501 of the Book of Order. Half the commissioners shall be teaching elders and half ruling elders. The alternates shall be one teaching elder and one ruling elder.

*[NOTE – included as information but not a part of the policy: In 2015, the Presbytery of San Francisco will elect six commissioners and two alternates for the 2016 General Assembly. Due to dismissals and declining membership, we anticipate that for future GAs that the Presbytery will elect a total of four commissioners and two alternates.]*

1.2 A teaching elder and ruling elder from the same congregation may not be elected.

2. The following process shall be used for the nomination of teaching elders:

2.1 Half of the persons nominated as GA commissioners by the Nominating Committee shall be teaching elders.

2.2 A rotational roll of teaching elder members shall be maintained by the Presbytery office. A teaching elder's position on the rotational roll shall be determined by the following guidelines:

2.2.1 Date of ordination or transfer into the Presbyterian Church (USA), from earliest to most recent; if a tie exists, date of earliest entrance into the Presbytery shall prevail.

2.2.2 Date of last attendance as a commissioner from the Presbytery of San Francisco to a General Assembly, from earliest to most recent. (Service more than 20 years prior will not be considered in establishing the rotation.)

2.2.3 Newly ordained teaching elder members will immediately be added to the bottom of the rotational roll, ahead of those who have previously served as commissioners.

2.3 Eligible teaching elders shall be active in the work of the Presbytery by meeting one or more of the following conditions:

2.3.1 Attendance at a minimum of half of the meetings of Presbytery in each of the two preceding years.

2.3.2 Current or recent service on a committee or working group of the Presbytery.

2.3.3 Current or recent service to a higher council of the church.

Appendix 2, Page 2

- 2.4 At least one teaching elder nominee for commissioner shall come from the top of the rotational roll; the others shall come from the entire roll of teaching elders to meet the guidance on representation within the *Book of Order* (G-3.0103).
    - 2.4.1 At least one of the teaching elder nominees for commissioner shall be currently serving in a congregation.
  - 2.5 Any teaching elder who is elected and serves as a commissioner then moves to the bottom of the rotational roll.
  - 2.6 If a nominee fails to be elected because additional nominations are made from the floor, or is elected as an alternate and does not serve, that nominee shall be eligible for re-nomination again for the next General Assembly.
  - 2.7 If a teaching elder twice fails to be elected, or is elected and declines to attend, he or she shall be placed at the bottom of the rotational roll.
3. The following process shall be used for the nomination of ruling elders:
- 3.1 Half of the persons nominated as GA commissioners by the Nominating Committee shall be ruling elders.
  - 3.2 A rotational roll of congregations shall be maintained by the Presbytery office. A congregation's position on the rotational roll shall be determined by the following guidelines:
    - 3.2.1 Date of organization as a member congregation of the Presbytery, from earliest to most recent.
    - 3.2.2 Date of last attendance of an elder from that congregation as a commissioner to a General Assembly; congregations that have an elder attend will be placed at the bottom of the rotational roll.
    - 3.2.3 New congregations will immediately be added to the bottom of the rotational roll, ahead of those that have previously sent commissioners.
  - 3.3 The Nominating Committee will contact eligible congregations and ask those sessions to submit the name of an eligible candidate.
  - 3.4 Eligible congregations are those that are actively serving and/or participating in the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and have had a ruling elder commissioner participate in at least half of the Presbytery meetings in the preceding calendar year.

Appendix 2, Page 3

- 3.5 At least one eligible congregation shall come from the top of the rotational roll; the other(s) shall come from the entire roll of congregations to help meet current guidance on representation from the Book of Order (G-3.0103).
- 3.6 Eligible ruling elder nominees shall have been active in the work of the Presbytery by serving during the last three years in at least one of the following ways:
  - 3.6.1 As a commissioner to Presbytery for a total of least three times during the last three years.
  - 3.6.2 On a Presbytery committee or a working group.
  - 3.6.3 On a higher council of the church.
- 3.7 If a nominee fails to be elected because additional nominations are made from the floor, or if the nominee is elected as alternate and does not serve, that nominee's congregation shall be eligible to nominate a ruling elder commissioner for the next General Assembly.
- 3.8 If a congregation twice fails to nominate a ruling elder commissioner, fails to be elected, or its elected elder commissioner declines to attend (or any combination of the above), it shall be placed at the bottom of the rotational roll.
4. Presbytery shall have at least one racial/ethnic commissioner to General Assembly.
  - 4.1 If none of the racial/ethnic commissioners elected are able to attend, and the alternate is not racial/ethnic, Nominating Committee in consultation with the Mission & Vision Leadership shall at a regular or special meeting elect at least one new racial/ethnic commissioner to fill that empty position.
5. Election of commissioners to General Assembly shall be held as follows:
  - 5.1 Nominations shall be made at the Presbytery meeting prior to the meeting at which the election will be held.
    - 5.1.1 The call to the Presbytery meeting for nominations shall include the list of nominees from the Nominating Committee.
    - 5.1.2 Nominees shall be introduced to Presbytery at the meeting for nominations.
    - 5.1.3 Nominations from the floor will be accepted at this meeting, and nominations shall then be closed. Nominees from the floor need not meet the requirements of either Section 2.3 or Section 3.6, above.

Appendix 2, Page 4

- 5.2 Election of commissioners shall take place at the last Presbytery meeting of the calendar year prior to a General Assembly so that commissioners' names will be submitted at least 180 days prior to GA.
  - 5.2.1 The call to that Presbytery meeting for elections shall include the list of all nominees, including floor nominees, and a brief statement of each nominee's congregation and Presbytery responsibilities.
  - 5.2.2 All nominees shall be introduced to Presbytery at this meeting for elections.
  - 5.2.3 The election of General Assembly Commissioners shall be by written ballot.
  - 5.2.4 The persons in each category with the most votes shall be elected as commissioners and the person with the next highest number of votes in each category shall be elected as the alternate.