

FAQ on the General Assembly Nominations Process

Q: What types of nominations are there?

A: The General Assembly Nominating Committee (GANC) makes three types of nominations: at-large; presbytery or synod proposed; and ecumenical or non-Presbyterians. The majority of positions are at-large positions where any minister/teaching elder, ruling elder, or member from the church at-large can apply and serve. Others represent their mid council and are nominated only from names proposed by their presbytery or synod.

Q: How does an applicant get into the at-large pool?

A: In order to be considered for nomination a person **must file an application form**; any Presbyterian can apply. Information can be found online at www.pcusa.org/nominations. Take time to read carefully the description, skills needed, and time commitment listed for the entities for which you wish to be considered.

Q: Can someone else file an application form on my behalf?

A: No, the person wishing to be considered for nomination by the GA Nominating Committee should complete the application form. The members of the GANC will need your considered responses to specific questions that are on the application form.

If you know persons who might serve well, please encourage them to consider the possibility and complete their own application form.

Q: Does the presbytery or someone else have to endorse me for an at-large position?

A: No, applicants for at-large positions do not need the backing of someone else in order to apply. Self-endorsements are encouraged. You will need to solicit three personal references and the manager for GA Nominations will request a reference from your council of membership – from your pastor or clerk of session if you are a ruling elder or church member; from your presbytery stated clerk or executive if you are a teaching elder.

Q: Can I serve on more than one entity at a time?

A: No, generally speaking members can serve on only one board, committee, or commission at a time unless they are representing that board, committee, or commission on another entity.

Q: Who nominates the members of the General Assembly Nominating Committee?

A: The Moderator of the previous General Assembly nominates new members of the GANC for election by the commissioners at each General Assembly. Unless otherwise designated, the GA Moderator appoints members to special committees, commissions, and task forces that the General Assembly authorizes.

Q: How serious is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) about diversity on GA level entities?

A: Very serious! The *Book of Order* guarantees “full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons within its membership . . . regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction.” All members of the PCUSA have access to consideration for membership on GA level entities by completing an application form. The General Assembly Nominating Committee reviews and considers each application form received for an ongoing GA level entity; the GA Moderator reviews and considers each application form received for a special commission, committee, or task force.

Q: Is there a deadline for application materials?

A: Yes, the **application for nomination form is due by December 1, 2015**. Persons serving as your personal references must return them to the GA Nominations Office no later than January 2, 2016.

Q: What do I do if I need more information or have questions?

A: You can find additional information about the nominations process on the website pcusa.org/nominations or you can be in touch with the GA Nominating Committee member from your synod or the manager for GA Nominations.

Take time, too, to look at the website for the entity for which you wish to be considered. There you will find contact email if you would like more information that is specific to that board, committee, or commission.

Thank you for your interest in being considered for elected service at the General Assembly level!