

**Presbytery of Carlisle  
Leadership Handbook  
Article VIII of the Bylaws - Commissioners**

**Process for Nominating and Electing Teaching and Ruling Elders as  
General Assembly (GA) Commissioners from the Presbytery of Carlisle**

PREAMBLE

The Presbytery of Carlisle is fully committed to our participation in the meetings of the GA. 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 Nominating Committee and nominees for Commissioners and Alternates shall be presented for consideration at the December meeting of the Presbytery that occurs in the year immediately preceding the GA meeting.
2. Only those Teaching and Ruling Elders who are active in the life of the Presbytery of Carlisle and its member churches as defined below shall be nominated.
3. All GA Commissioners are expected to be fully engaged in learning how the GA process works, reading advance materials, and actively participating in your assigned committee and all plenary sessions.
4. 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.
5. 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.

TEACHING ELDERS

1. Teaching Elders seeking to serve as a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Carlisle 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 the Presbytery of Carlisle.
  - 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 the Presbytery of Carlisle.
  - b. The applicant has been a member of the Presbytery of Carlisle for a minimum of five (5) years at the date of application.
  - c. The applicant has not been a Teaching Elder Commissioner to GA from either the Presbytery of Carlisle 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 Nominating Committee of the Presbytery of Carlisle and submits the application by June 30th of the year prior to the GA.
3. The Nominating Committee shall consider the information provided on the Applications and select two (2) Teaching Elders to be designated nominees for Commissioner and two (2) Teaching Elders to be designated nominees 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 30th of the year prior to the GA.
  5. At the December stated meeting of the Presbytery, which occurs in the year immediately preceding the GA meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit the nominations for Teaching Elder Commissioners and Alternates for election.

## RULING ELDERS

1. Ruling Elders seeking to serve as a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Carlisle 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 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 Carlisle for a minimum of five (5) years 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.
  - 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 of the Presbytery of Carlisle and submits the application by June 30th of the year prior to the GA.

3. The Nominating Committee shall consider the information provided on the Applications and select two (2) Ruling Elders to be designated nominees for Commissioner and two (2) Ruling Elders to be designated nominees for Alternate Commissioner.
4. The individuals who submitted applications shall be notified of the recommendation of the Nominating Committee by September 30th of the year prior to the GA.
5. At the December stated meeting of the Presbytery, which occurs in the year immediately preceding the GA meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit the nominations for Ruling Elder Commissioners and Alternates for election.

# 2018 General Assembly (GA) Commissioner Application Teaching Elder



**Return by August 15, 2017 to:** Presbytery of Carlisle Nominating Committee  
3040 Market St., Suite 1  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

The date you became a member of the Presbytery of Carlisle \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Minimum of 5 years 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  
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)**

# 2018 General Assembly (GA) Commissioner Application Ruling Elder

**Return by August 15, 2017 to:** Presbytery of Carlisle Nominating Committee  
3040 Market St., Suite 1  
Camp Hill, PA 17011



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 5 years 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)