

Nominating Committee Report to Presbytery – May 28, 2019

The Nominating Committee presents for a **Second Reading and moves approval of** an addition to “Article VIII –Commissioners” of the Bylaws of Carlisle Presbytery as shown below. This section deals with the Election of General Assembly Commissioners.

E. Lack of Applications

In the event an insufficient number of applications are received for either Ruling or Teaching Elder Commissioners by the deadline established by the committee, the Nominating Committee will seek to recruit and nominate candidates they believe best suited to serve as commissioners.

Rationale

In 2014 the Presbytery of Carlisle put in place a new application-based process for nominating commissioners to the General Assembly. Prior to this, ruling elders were chosen on a rotating basis from the congregations in the presbytery and teaching elder commissioners were chosen using a points-based system determined by years of ordination and service to the presbytery.

In June of odd numbered years (i.e. the year before General Assembly convenes) the Nominating Committee begins the process of distributing applications. Each clerk of session receives, by mail, a letter along with a copy of the policy from the by-laws and an application with questions that candidates are asked to answer in writing. Clerks are asked to share this information with their sessions. The same information is distributed to all teaching elders by mail. Several reminders are also sent electronically before the application due date (usually the end of September) and the information is also posted on the presbytery website.

After two full cycles of receiving applications and proposing nominations to the presbytery, we have discovered that the new process works well in many respects. Ruling elders have been especially responsive. We have struggled to receive a sufficient number of applications for teaching elders however. In 2015 only three teaching elders applied to be commissioners and in 2017 only two teaching elders applied. Consequently, in 2018 we were unable to have alternate commissioners ready in case of illness or emergency.

The Nominating Committee is proposing this change to the process for nominating and electing GA commissioners to ensure we have a sufficient number of dedicated, qualified candidates to serve as commissioners and alternate commissioners so that the Presbytery of Carlisle is fully represented at meetings of the General Assembly.