

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS TO 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It is once again time for sessions to consider nominating persons to be our presbytery's commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to next summer's General Assembly meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The General Assembly meeting will take place from July 3 to 10, 2010. We need to elect two minister commissioners and two elder commissioners, and alternates. Please read the presbytery bylaws, found below, regarding commissioners, but basically ministers may be nominated by the session he/she moderates, any session if the minister does not moderate a session, or by any standing committee of presbytery. Sessions may nominate one of their elders for elder commissioner, and may suggest a young person from their congregation be nominated for YAAD by the presbytery's Training and Development Committee.

Please note the portion of our presbytery's bylaws pertaining to commissioners and advisory delegates. Especially note the provisions relating to attendance at presbytery meetings. Ministers shall have attended seven out of ten of the stated meetings of presbytery over the previous two years prior to the election. Elders shall have attended four stated presbytery meetings in the previous two years prior to election. In addition, any elder whose session has failed, without accepted excuse, to be represented by an elder for more than one stated meeting of presbytery in the preceding 12 months ordinarily will not be eligible for nomination. Read the enclosed bylaws for the rest of the provisions.

If you have any questions regarding requirements for ministers or elders, please call the presbytery office.

Please return your nominations for minister and elder commissioners to the Nominating Committee by **October 1, 2009 (bylaws not withstanding)**, using the nominations form.

Excerpts from the bylaws of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery regarding the election of Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegates to General Assembly in 2010

ARTICLE IX:

SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS AND YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES

A. COMMISSIONERS TO THE SYNOD AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. The number of commissioners shall be set by the formula adopted by the Synod and the General Assembly. Commissioners shall serve for two years beginning with the convening of the General Assembly meeting to which they were elected commissioner, or until the subsequent stated General Assembly convenes. The number of alternate commissioners elected by the presbytery shall be at least equal to the number of commissioners elected.
2. The election of synod commissioners shall be by presbytery at the November meeting as needed. They shall be elected for a three-year term and are eligible to succeed themselves for a second term. The election of General Assembly commissioners shall take place at the first November meeting of presbytery following a stated meeting of the General Assembly. The Nominating Committee, upon determination that all criteria have been met, shall place the ministers in nomination.
3. The Nominating Committee shall present the nominees as required. Nominations may be made from the floor. Election in case of a contest shall be by ballot and shall require a plurality vote.
4. Minister Commissioners to General Assembly: (two positions available)

- a) A minister member of presbytery shall be nominated by either the session she/he moderates, any session if the minister member does not moderate a session, or by any standing committee of presbytery, and shall complete the form provided by the Nominating Committee of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, and return the form to the presbytery office by September 1 following a stated meeting of the General Assembly.
 - b) In addition to the submitted information, the following factors shall be taken into consideration by the Nominating Committee.
 - i. The minister shall have been a member of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery for at least 24 months prior to election.
 - ii. The minister shall not have served as a General Assembly commissioner during the previous term of the General Assembly.
 - iii. The minister shall have attended seven out of ten of the stated meetings of presbytery over the previous two years prior to election.
 - c) The list of "five major issues facing the Church today," brief biography and brief statement of faith as completed by each candidate shall be published in the packet for the presbytery meeting at which the election takes place.
 - d) Nominations may be made from the floor if the candidate has agreed to serve if elected, is in compliance with these bylaws, and has copies of her/his brief biography and brief statement of faith and answers to the questions on the application form available to be distributed to the assembled commissioners.
 - e) Voting shall be by ballot.
 - f) The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be the commissioners. The candidates receiving the third and fourth highest number of votes shall be the first and second alternate commissioners, respectively.
5. Elder commissioners to Synod:
- a) Elder nominees shall be those whose knowledge and skills will best fit the responsibilities of office.
 - b) Any elder whose session has failed, without accepted excuse, to be represented by an elder for more than one stated meeting of presbytery in the preceding 12 months ordinarily will not be eligible for nomination.
6. Elder Commissioners to General Assembly (two positions available)
- a) An elder shall be nominated by the session of the congregation of which she/he is a member and shall complete the form provided by the Nominating Committee of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, and return the form to the presbytery office by September 1 following a stated meeting of the General Assembly.
 - b) In addition to the submitted information, the following factors shall be taken into consideration by the Nominating Committee.
 - i. The elder shall have served on a committee of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery.
 - ii. The elder shall have been active in the life of his/her congregation.
 - iii. The elder shall have attended four stated meetings of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery in the previous two years prior to election.
 - iv. The congregation of membership of the elder shall not have had a General Assembly commissioner during the previous term of General Assembly.
 - c) The list of "five major issues facing the Church today," brief biography and brief statement of faith as completed by each candidate shall be published in the packet for the presbytery meeting at which the election takes place.

- d) Nominations may be made from the floor if the candidate has agreed to serve if elected and is in compliance with these bylaws, and has copies of her/his brief biography and brief statement of faith and answers to the questions on the application form available to be distributed to the assembled commissioners.
 - e) Voting shall be by ballot.
 - f) The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be the commissioners. The candidates receiving the third and fourth highest number of votes shall be the first and second alternate commissioners, respectively.
7. Questions and Answers during Election Process.
- a) All Nominees shall have the privilege of addressing the presbytery and the responsibility of responding to appropriate* questions from commissioners of the presbytery prior to the election.
 - b) Presbytery Commissioners shall have the privilege of asking appropriate* questions of the nominees prior to the election.
- *Appropriate questions are those which DO NOT seek (to discern) or determine the candidate's future position or vote.

B. ADVISORY DELEGATES TO THE SYNOD AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1. Advisory delegates as requested by the Synod or the General Assembly shall be elected by presbytery at the November meeting.
- 2. Nominations shall be made by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Training and Development Committee.