

## **NOMINATIONS FOR 226<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Presbytery of San Jose is seeking Ministers of the Word and Sacrament/Teaching Elders Ruling Elders, and Young Adult Advisor Delegate applicants to serve as commissioners to the 226th General Assembly. This is an opportunity to help the larger church learn, discern and engage in the mission Christ is calling us to do together. We will send one RE commissioner, one TE commissioner and one YAAD.

**Submit nominations by Nov. 10 to the Stated Clerk by mail to the Presbytery office or email [Erica@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Erica@sanjosepby.org) to be considered for election at the November Presbytery**

What is the General Assembly (“GA”) ?

It is our highest governing council of the denomination that meets every two years for governance and discernment about our denominational mission and vision. Commissioners are sent from every Presbytery, representing our connectional polity.

Please see the additional information on what to expect from the 226<sup>th</sup> GA organizers.

Please see the information from the *Presbytery of San Jose Standing Rules* for the process for electing Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegates to GA.



## What *Commissioners and Advisory Delegates*

Can Expect at the  
226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2024)

### Online Committees, In-Person Plenaries

**June 25–27, 2024** All commissioners and advisory delegates will attend their assigned committees online. No travel is required (except for moderators and vice moderators of assembly committees, who will need to be in Salt Lake City, Utah). The committee schedule will be designed to accommodate multiple time zones as much as possible.

**June 29–July 4, 2024** All commissioners and advisory delegates must be in person at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah for plenary sessions where committees will make recommendations for the assembly’s discernment and vote.

***Note: All in-person meetings will be in Mountain Time.***

### Preparation

During Spring of 2024, we will offer several training opportunities on participating in the assembly – from technology to parliamentary procedure to practicing equity.

Committees will schedule pre-assembly online gatherings for their members to get to know one another, practice assembly procedures, and learn more about the business they have been assigned.

### Mark Your Calendar

**April 16–26** *2-Hour Introductory Committee Gathering to be scheduled by Committee members. Committee Leadership will schedule this gathering in early April and let you know when to be available.*

**June 10–14** *2-Hour Second Committee Gathering to be scheduled by Committee members*

**June 25–27** Hold these dates for *Online Committee Meeting Participation*

**June 28** Travel Date for Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs) and anyone needing longer travel times

**June 29** Travel Date and Evening Welcome Reception

**June 30–July 4** Plenary Sessions in Salt Lake City, Utah

## Travel Arrangements and Expenses

**We are grateful to members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) who support per capita for the national church. This support provides fully funded travel, individual accommodations, and meals for commissioners and advisory delegates while in Salt Lake City. This act of generosity removes the financial burden on those who are called to serve.** With gratitude for the church's commitment to expanding access and empowering assembly leaders, the Office of the General Assembly coordinates the travel process so that participants do not have to make their own arrangements, **making the process easier and more accessible for all.**

## Why Serve as a Commissioner or Advisory Delegate?

God calls commissioners and advisory delegates to serve the church because of the unique gifts and abilities that make up who you are. As a commissioner or advisory delegate, you will join with others in discussing important topics and issues that have the power to form and reform both the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and beyond.

Together you will discern where Christ is calling the church.

## Learning and Gathering Spaces

Opportunities to connect with the larger church will occur in many ways:

- **Mountainside Conversations** with ongoing and special committees in late Spring 2024 so anyone can learn more about specific items of business before the assembly and what they mean for the church
- A **Welcome Reception** with the Presbytery of Utah, candidates for Moderator/Vice Moderator or Co- Moderators, and representatives from agencies across the church
- **Group-Sponsored Functions** in Salt Lake City
- Informal **spaces for conversation** with representatives of Presbyterian agencies
- A **Welcome Room** near the plenary hall for the entirety of the in-person plenaries so that people can rest, be refreshed, and connect with others for conversation
- A **space for BIPOC commissioners and advisory delegates**
  - A **Lactation Room and a Family Room**
  - **...and more!** The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a large family with many members. Keep an eye out for information from other Presbyterian groups about opportunities they may be hosting around the assembly.

## Staying Updated

Stay informed about the assembly and receive regular updates in your email inbox by signing up for the *On the Road to GA* newsletter. More information coming soon. For details on the business that will come before the assembly, visit [pc-biz.org](http://pc-biz.org).

*How might God be calling you to serve the Presbyterian Church (USA)?*



Presbytery of San Jose Standing Rules regarding GA Commissions

- 8.10 Commissioners to General Assembly and Young Adult Advisory Delegates shall be elected at the November stated meeting. (Book of Order **G-3.0302a**)
- 8.11 The Stated Clerk shall enclose in the mailing of the call to the September meeting the invitation to nominate Ministers and Ruling Elders for election as commissioners.
- 8.12 To be eligible for election as a commissioner, a Minister must
- a) be an active member (Book of Order G-2.0502) of Presbytery;
  - b) have been a member of San Jose Presbytery for the previous two years;
  - c) be currently serving on a Presbytery committee/council/commission/Task Force;
  - d) be present at election;
  - e) have attended at least three of the stated meetings of Presbytery in the previous year;
  - f) be willing and able to be a resource on General Assembly in the 12 months after serving as commissioner.
- 8.13 To be eligible for election as a commissioner, a Ruling Elder must
- a) be nominated by his/her session;
  - b) have been present at least three of the stated meetings of presbytery in the preceding year;
  - c) be present at election;
  - d) be willing and able to be a resource on General Assembly in the 12 months after serving as commissioner.
- 8.14 The following shall govern the selection of Minister commissioners:
- 8.14.1 Any Minister who meets the criteria of 8.12 above may be placed in nomination. Others may be nominated from the floor, provided they are present and meet the criteria (a) through (f) of 8.12 above and provide information asked.
- 8.14.2 Presbytery shall vote for as many Minister commissioners as are allowed by the Book of Order. Those receiving the most votes shall be declared elected, if they have received a majority of the votes cast. If necessary, additional ballots shall be taken, eliminating those with fewer than 15 percent of votes cast, until a majority is reached.
- 8.15 Each eligible Minister, and each Ruling Elder nominated by his/her session, shall submit the following about her/himself, on one page, for mailing with the call to the November meeting:
- a) Personal background in the Presbyterian Church;  
Personal hopes and desires for the Church;  
Brief descriptions of several significant issues facing the Church;  
A statement that, if elected, she/he intends to be a General Assembly resource for the Presbytery in the year following service as commissioner.



## Presbytery of San Jose Standing Rules for GA Commissioner Elections

- 8.16 The following shall govern the selection of Ruling Elder commissioners: (See also 8.13 and 8.15 above.)
- 8.16.1 All churches shall be invited to nominate a Ruling Elder commissioner provided they meet criteria (a) through (d) of 8.13 above and provide information asked in 8.15 above. The Stated Clerk, with the call to the-September meeting, shall invite all churches to nominate an eligible Ruling Elder. All churches responding shall reply to the Stated Clerk with the name and information required in 8.15 above by the 10th of November.
- 8.16.2 Nominations may be made from the floor, provided nominees are present and meet criteria (a) through (d) of 8.13 above, and provide information asked in 8.15 above to the Stated Clerk by the 10th of November.
- 8.16.3 Presbytery shall vote for as many Ruling Elder commissioners as are allowed by the Book of Order. Those receiving the most votes shall be declared elected, if they have received a majority of the votes cast. If necessary, additional ballots shall be taken, eliminating those with fewer than 15 percent of the votes, until a majority is reached.
- 8.16.4 Should any elected commissioner be unable to attend the meeting of General Assembly, his/her runner-up in the election of commissioners shall be the alternate commissioner.
- 8.17 The following shall govern the selection of Young Adult Advisory Delegates to General Assembly:
- 8.17.1 Every session may nominate a person between the ages of 18 and 23<sup>1</sup> ~~17 and 23~~(on the day General Assembly convenes) for the position of Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly. Nominations must be in writing to the Stated Clerk by the 10th of November, accompanied by the same documents required of nominees for commissioner. (See 8.15 above.) The election process shall be as outlined in 8.16.3.
- 8.17.2 Should any elected Young Adult Advisory Delegate be unable to attend the meeting of General Assembly, the runner-up to the elected YAAD shall be the alternate delegate.

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<sup>1</sup> The Standing Rules of the General Assembly require that the YAAD must be between 18 and 23 on the day that the General Assembly convenes