

June, 2019

Greetings in Christ,

Your presbytery desires your discerning assistance as we look toward God's promised future. At the April presbytery meeting a new policy was adopted for the selection of Commissioners to General Assembly. Next year's General Assembly will meet in Baltimore from June 20-27, 2020. You will find the application information included below. With this new policy your Nominating Committee has a request:

1. Your Session is invited to discuss and discern what ruling elder in your church might have a sense of call to fill this significant position. Provide this information to them and encourage them to apply.
2. Your Session is also encouraged to approach a youth in your church who would benefit by being a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD). The YAAD must be between 17 and 23 years of age when General Assembly convenes.
3. Finally, teaching elders are encouraged to also apply, using the same application.

In November the Presbytery of Lake Erie will elect a ruling elder commissioner, a teaching elder commissioner and a young adult advisory delegate. Alternate commissioners will also be selected in case the principal commissioner is unable to attend. **Due date for applications is August 31.**  
**Applications are to be sent electronically to the presbytery office at Melinda Wingenbach (adminasst@pbylakeerie.org).**

This is a unique opportunity to participate in larger church. The week is packed with hard work, long hours and significant conversations. It is also a time when you can encounter the breadth and depth of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Who in your midst might pursue God's call to apply to serve as a commissioner? In addition to the policy and application below you will also find testimonials from the three who served this presbytery in 2018. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Your Presbytery Nominating Committee

#### **Testimonials from 2018 Commissioners:**

As someone who faithfully watches General Assembly each year on the live stream, it was a wonderful experience to be able to attend as a commissioner. The thought, work, and prayer that goes into the decision-making for the PC(USA) is both intense and spiritual work. It was an honor to be a small part of it.

Emily Zeig Lindsey, Fairview Presbyterian Church,  
Clergy Commissioner

Serving as a delegate to General Assembly provided a powerful faith experience to me personally and a fulfilling way to serve my church. Meeting with students my age from across the country, I made lasting friendships and saw how faith is lived out through my peers' lives. On committee and in plenary sessions, I was continually impressed by how Presbyterian polity and cordiality allowed the church to tackle problems and value the voices of a wide array of people. My experience at General Assembly is one that still affects me, and it is a great opportunity to anyone who wishes to play a role in the church.

Ben Fugate, Church of the Cross,  
Young Adult Advisory Delegate

I had the privilege to be a Commissioner to the 2018 General Assembly in St. Louis. While it is an experience that's hard to define, I can say that it can potentially be physically and emotionally exhausting. It can be extraordinarily fulfilling as well. I believe it's one of those situations where the more you put in, the more you get out. My recommendations to anyone planning on participating are as follows: Read the information pertaining to your committee ahead of time. Make sure to take a little time for you while there – it recharges your batteries. Marvel in the human connections that happen while you're there. It's an amazing experience. Highly recommended.

Doug Lee, Fairview Presbyterian Church,  
Ruling Elder Commissioner

### **Process for Electing Commissioners to General Assembly Presbytery Lake Erie**

The Nominating Committee will recommend one Minister of Word and Sacrament and one Ruling Elder for election by the Presbytery of Lake Erie to serve as the presbytery's commissioners to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Election will take place at the November meeting of the presbytery the year before the General Assembly meets (November 2019 for the 2020 General Assembly).

Ministers and Ruling Elders interested in serving as commissioners must apply to serve. The Nominating Committee will recommend one minister and one ruling elder for election by the presbytery from among those who apply. The Nomination Committee will determine deadlines for applications.

Ministers and Ruling Elders who wish to serve as commissioners must be active in their congregation and in the Presbytery of Lake Erie. Years of ordained service and years of service in the Presbytery of Lake Erie will be taken into consideration but will not be determinative in the selection process. The Nominating Committee reserves the right to search for applicants.

Service as a General Assembly commissioner is rigorous, requiring many hours of preparation and orientation prior to the General Assembly, long hours of service during the meeting of the General Assembly, and a commitment to interpret the work of the General Assembly to the presbytery and its

congregations (upon request) after the General Assembly. Those wishing to serve should take these responsibilities into consideration when applying.

*Note: the 224th General Assembly meets in Baltimore, MD, June 20-27, 2020.*

**Application to be a Commissioner to the 224th General Assembly  
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
June 20-27, 2020.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Minister of Word and Sacrament \_\_\_\_, Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_, or Young Adult Advisory Delegate \_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Years ordained: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in the Presbytery of Lake Erie: \_\_\_\_\_

Current position/occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list below ways that you are active in your home church:

Please list below ways that you are active in the Presbytery of Lake Erie.

Please list below ways that you are active in other councils or ministries of the PC(USA):

Have you attended any previous General Assemblies? When?

Why do you want to be a General Assembly commissioner?

What factors will guide you as you make decisions at General Assembly?

What do you love about the Presbyterian Church? Why?

What is one important issue facing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that you care deeply about? Why?