

P7 Presbytery Bodies – Establishment and Election

PRESBYTERY BODIES

- P7.1 The Presbytery may establish continuing and short term Committees, Commissions, Working Groups and Task Groups from time to time, determine their mandate, membership, procedures and terminate such bodies when appropriate. All such bodies are always responsible and accountable to the Presbytery.

CONTINUING COMMITTEES

- P7.2 The Continuing Committees shall be
- (a) Presbytery Standing Committee;
 - (b) Pastoral Relations Committee;
 - (c) Candidates for Ministries Committee;
 - (d) Committee for Education for Discipleship and Leadership;
 - (e) Thrive Mission Committee; and
 - (f) Presbytery Property Committee.
- P7.3 The Presbytery may at any time determine to add or delete Continuing Committees by varying this Rule.

GENERAL RULES FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- P7.4
- (a) Normally, elections shall take place at the designated annual meeting of the Presbytery.
 - (b) All nominations shall be in writing, signed by the Chairperson and/or Secretary of any nominating body or by two Presbytery members and shall be signed by the nominee to indicate consent to the nomination.
 - (c) All nominations must include such biographical and other information, which may include a recent photograph, about the nominee supporting the nominee's suitability for the role, relevant experience and qualifications, past service, eligibility for election and any other information that will assist the Presbytery members in casting their ballots.
 - (d) No person shall be declared elected to any position unless that person has received the support of a majority of the voters in the election.
 - (e) In all ballots, the Presbytery members shall be given the option of not approving any of the nominations submitted and asking for further nominations to be sought.

- (f) All members of Presbytery bodies shall be members of the Church and, as far as possible, the membership shall include:
 - (i) at least one-third women and one-third men;
 - (ii) a balance of lay and ordained persons; and
 - (iii) people experienced in rural ministry, multicultural ministry and intergenerational ministry.

PRESBYTERY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

- P7.5 The Presbytery Standing Committee shall appoint members to a Presbytery Elections Committee, at its first meeting of each year, for a one year or two year term. Membership of the Presbytery Elections Committee shall consist of a Returning Officer (who shall be the Committee Chairperson) and at least two other persons. At least one of these persons shall be a member of the Standing Committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

- P7.6 The responsibilities of the Elections Committee will be:
- (a) to manage nominations for members of the Continuing Committees and any other bodies whose members are to be elected by the Presbytery; and
 - (b) to provide advice and support to the Returning Officer as appropriate.

RETURNING OFFICER

- P7.7 The Returning Officer shall arrange and oversee all elections for the membership of Continuing Committees and any other bodies whose members are to be elected by the Presbytery and, in particular, shall:
- (a) announce elections and advise the Continuing Committees, other Presbytery bodies and Presbytery members of the opening of nominations and the closing date for receipt of nominations;
 - (b) receive all nominations, confirm the eligibility of nominees, and publish nominations as received; and
 - (c) arrange any ballots necessary.

NOMINATIONS

- P7.8
- (a) Each Continuing Committee and any other body whose members are to be elected by the Presbytery will forward to the Returning Officer a list of those retiring members who have agreed to be nominated for re-election and any new nominations at least six (6) weeks prior to the Presbytery meeting.
 - (b) Church Councils may forward to the Returning Officer at least four (4) weeks prior to the Presbytery meeting any nominations for membership of any Continuing Committee or any other body whose members are to be elected by the Presbytery.

- (c) Any two members of the Presbytery may, with the consent of the person nominated, make further nominations for any committee or commission.
- (d) The Elections Committee may make further nominations.
- (e) The Returning Officer will ensure that all nominations received are published within seven (7) days of being received.
- (f) The closing date for nominations for any election shall be one (1) week before the Presbytery meeting at which the election is to take place.

BALLOTS

- P7.9
- (a) All ballots for the appointment of persons to any role shall be conducted in writing whether by paper ballot or by electronic ballot for members participating in person or by electronic means.
 - (b) The Returning Officer may appoint scrutineers to assist in the counting of ballots.
 - (c) Ballots will be declared informal if more persons are voted for than the number of positions to be filled. A ballot is not to be declared informal if fewer persons are voted for than the number of positions to be filled. A ballot is not to be declared informal if the Returning Officer can determine what the voter's intentions are whatever markings have been used.

ELECTION OUTCOMES

- P7.10
- (a) After any necessary ballots have been conducted, the Returning Officer will advise the Presbytery of the results of the election and the Chairperson shall thereupon declare the successful candidates elected.
 - (b) All appointments to Presbytery bodies will take effect at the conclusion of the Presbytery meeting except when otherwise provided in the Rules or determined by the Presbytery.

LIMITATION OF TERM OF OFFICE

- P7.11
- (a) No Chairperson of a Presbytery body will hold office for more than ten years unless the Presbytery has provided otherwise or specifically agrees that the period be extended, and then only for a specified time. A Chairperson who has completed a maximum term will be eligible for re-election after an interval of two years.
 - (b) No member of a Presbytery body, other than an ex-officio member, will hold membership of that body for more than ten years without the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and the specific approval of the Presbytery. A member who has completed a maximum term will be eligible for re-election after an interval of two years.