

E-News for 6/7/2023

Clerk's Corner Serving in Councils

When Ruling Elders are ordained, they promise that they will “share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?” (W-4.0404i(1)). Teaching elders answer a very similar question (W-4.0404i(3)) that asks them to be “active” rather than “share in” governance denoting a difference in our expectation that all pastors (as members of the presbytery) will participate in some form of governance beyond the local session while not all ruling elders may be called to so. With that said, one of the core principals of our polity that leadership is shared by ruling and teaching elders. Indeed, while sessions are usually made up of one teaching elder and about a dozen ruling elders (yes, installed pastors are members of the session with a vote!) the leadership of most groups at the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly level are made up of half of each. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) cannot function without the gifts and talents of those ruling elders who say “I will with God’s help” when the Nominating Committee calls and asks them to serve! One of those opportunities is to serve as a commissioner or advisory delegate to the General Assembly. The 226th General Assembly will meet in late June/early July 2024 to discern the will of Christ and make decisions for our common ministry. Assembly Committees will meet via Zoom June 25-27 and then commissioners will gather in-person in Salt Lake City June 30-July 4. Eastminster Presbytery can send one Teaching Elder and one Ruling Elder Commissioner and one Young Adult Advisory Delegate. The Committee on Nominations & Representation invites you prayerfully consider if you are feeling called to be part of the 226th General Assembly. [If you are, click here to complete the self-nominating form!](#)

Attending General Assembly is not the only way to get involved with the larger Church. The General Assembly Nominating Committee is also seeking people to serve on a variety of committees and commissions including the search committee for the next Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), the Committee that oversees the Self-Development of People Program, a review of the work of the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program, and more. [Click here to find out more about the opportunities to nominate yourself to serve!](#)

I have attended the General Assembly three times (as a Youth Advisory Delegate, a seminary student observer, and a Teaching Elder Commissioner) and years ago I served on a taskforce related to mental health and youth ministry. I found all these opportunities to serve to be both challenging and meaningful. I encourage you to consider how you might be called to share your thoughts and experience to benefit the work of Jesus Christ not just at your congregation or in Eastminster Presbytery but in the larger Church as well. If you have questions about serving, I would be happy to discuss it so please reach out!

May the Peace of Christ be with you,
Barry