

Election of General Council Commissioners for the 2021 Meeting of the General Council

Please see the nominations form here:

<https://ucceast.ca/58700-44thgeneralcouncilcommissionerform/>

Currently, Region 15 is eligible to elect fifteen (15) commissioners, along with the President of the Region to the 44th General Council in Calgary, AB, in 2021. A minimum of 1/3 of the commissioners must be ministry personnel, and a minimum of 1/3 of the commissioners must be lay personnel. Attention should be given to diversity of age, gender, racial and cultural identities, and sexual expressions.

We will elect five (5) ministry personnel and five (5) lay representatives, as well as their alternatives, at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Region 15, on June 10, 2020 by Zoom meeting. The remaining five (5) commissioners would be elected at the 2021 Annual Meeting and would include the Youth Pilgrim, and four (4) others to offer balance and diversity. This would also allow for the ability to elect a commissioner who may be nominated for Moderator.

The procedure for electing 10 commissioners at the June 10, 2020 annual meeting are as follows:

- Nominations will be collected by electronic form which is available through the link above on the Regional Council website until June 1, 2020 at 11:59pm Atlantic. At this time nominations for the ten (10) commissioners to be elected this year will close. Each Nomination must be moved and seconded by someone other than the Nominee (no self-nominations). These persons must be members of a community of faith within the bounds of Region 15. The Nominations Committee will make a formal nomination at the June 10, 2020 meeting to recognize the entire group of Nominees.
- Biographical information collected from the Nominations process will be posted on the Regional Council website for all attendees of the Annual Meeting to review before the meeting.
- A ballot will be created with all of the nominated names (one list for ministry personnel, and another for lay representatives). This ballot will be distributed to all voting members who are present to the Annual Meeting on June 10, 2020 through electronic means. Voters will be asked to choose 5 names from the list who they think will best represent the diversity and values of the Region.
- The votes will be tallied. The Nominations Committee will present the top five (5) names for both Ministry personnel and lay representatives to be elected as commissioners (for a total of ten (10)). The next five (5) highest votes, for both ministry personnel and lay representatives will be elected as the alternates (for a total to a maximum of ten (10), depending on the number of nominations submitted).
- The remaining five (5) members will be elected at the 2021 annual meeting, with criteria to be determined following the election of the initial ten (10) commissioners, to ensure balance of gender, age, cultural and racial identity, and sexual expression.

General Council Commissioners Role:

Commissioners begin their appointment with the General Council and are appointed to serve until the start of the next General Council, a three-year term. During that time they may receive updates, communications, and carry out their responsibilities in various ways during their term. The General Council reconvenes each fall for a virtual meeting.

Once you have attended the General Council and return to your Region you are asked to find opportunities to report on the meeting in your local community of faith, clusters of communities of faith, and regional council.

It is important for commissioners to be aware of how their region feels about an issue that is coming before the General Council; however, a commissioner is not required to vote on behalf of the Region. The United Church is a conciliar church and while Commissioners hear what those from their Region share with them, they must come with an open mind and heart and be willing to be moved by the Spirit of the Council as they hear and learn from others and vote as their conscience and the spirit leads.

The Commissioners are responsible for reading all material and taking part in all pre-General Council webinars and training in order to be fully informed and prepared to engage in the General Council meeting.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration to serve you church in this meaningful way.

If you have, any question please be in touch with the Nominations committee chair Alicia Cox, aliciadawncox@msn.com.