

## **Election of General Council Commissioners for the 2022 Meeting of the General Council**

**Please see the nominations form here:**

<https://ucceast.ca/61209-44th-general-council-commissioner-form-fsldw/>

Currently, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters is eligible to elect thirteen (13) commissioners, to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council to be held online July 22-26, 2022. The Regional President is automatically a Commissioner and therefore we will have a total of fourteen (14) commissioners. 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, orientation, racial and cultural identities as well as regional geographical diversity.

**We will elect five (5) ministry personnel and five (5) lay representatives, as well as their alternatives. One position will be saved for the Regions Youth Pilgrim (process of selection to be determined by GC). We will elect two (2) youth/young adult (15-35) commissioners. It is important when nominating commissioners, you pay particular attention to the diversity of our Region.**

**The procedure for electing thirteen (13) commissioners at the 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 May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 11:59pm Atlantic. At this time nominations for the thirteen (13) commissioners 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 the Region. The Nominations Committee will make a formal nomination at the annual 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. All nominees will speak to the council at a preparatory webinar.
- A ballot will be created with all of the nominated names (one list for ministry personnel, one for lay commissioners and one for youth). This ballot will be distributed to all voting members who are present to the Annual Meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 through electronic means. Voters will be asked to choose from the list those who they think will best represent the Region.
- The votes will be tallied. The Nominations Committee will present the top five (5) names for Ministry personnel and lay representatives to be elected as commissioners. The next five (5) highest votes, for both ministry personnel and lay representatives will be elected as the alternates. The Nominations Committee will present the top two (2) names for the youth commissioner positions and the next two (2) will be the alternates.
- If there is a nomination for Moderator from our Region, then one of the positions for commissioner will need to be given to that nominee.

## **General Council Commissioners Role:**

*As the voting members of a General Council, Commissioners serve an essential role in The United Church of Canada. Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit present in our gatherings, Commissioners set policy and take action on a wide-range of questions including those of doctrine, worship, governance, and public-witness. Commissioners elect the Moderator who will serve as the spiritual leader of the church until the next regular meeting. Being a Commissioner is a significant commitment of both time and energy. For most people, it is also an enriching and faith-deepening one.*

### **A. Commissioners**

- are voting members of the General Council as outlined in *The Manual 2021* Section D.1.1
- serve for three years, starting at the beginning of the General Council triennial meeting for which they were elected/chosen and ending with the beginning of the next General Council triennial meeting
- make policy and governance decisions for the United Church as both a denomination and a legal corporation as outlined in *The Manual, 2021*, Section D.2
- an individual may become a commissioner in one of the following ways:
  - each regional council elects a prescribed number of commissioners consisting of a balance of lay members and ministry personnel (204)
  - by virtue of office, including the Leading Elder or presiding officer of each regional council
  - 15 members as chosen by the National Indigenous Organization
  - members of the Executive of the General Council who will be continuing to serve on the executive
  - members elected by the Executive of the General Council

### **B. Expectations of Commissioners**

The current process for dealing with business before the General Council triennial meeting involves three separate parts:

- Listening/Learning – webinars intended to impart information to commissioners on proposals;
- Discussions – commissioner small group discussions about proposals;
- Decision Making – Facilitation Group reports on the information collected from all the discussion sessions and makes recommendations for commissioners to consider and take action on.

Please note preparation for the General Council will take place early in 2022.

It is important for commissioners to be aware of how their regional council feels about an issue that is coming before the General Council; however, a commissioner is not required to reflect the will of the regional council in how they vote on any issue. Commissioners must approach the business of the General Council with an open mind and heart and be willing to be moved by the Spirit as they hear and learn from others.

Working under this model, Commissioners are expected to prepare for and participate in the General Council triennial meeting, and other General Council meetings that take place during their term as follows:

1. Arrive at the General Council triennial meeting fully informed about the business before them, having:
  - Participated in/watched the Listening/Learning sessions;
  - Participated in all Discussion sessions about proposals;
  - Read all background material provided.Note that the Listening/Learning and Discussion sessions may take place up to 12 months prior to the start of the meeting.
2. During the General Council triennial meeting, attend and participate in all Decision-making sessions
3. For the duration of the three-year term:
  - Prepare for and participate in the Annual Meeting of the General Council (currently a virtual meeting held in the fall);
  - Prepare for and participate in any special meetings of the General Council that may be called;
  - Report on meetings of the General Council to communities of faith and clusters within the regional council, and to the regional council, as may be required by the regional council.

Expenses incurred as part of attendance at in-person meetings will be covered within policy limits.

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 Rose-Hannah Gaskin, [rosehannah.gaskin@gmail.com](mailto:rosehannah.gaskin@gmail.com)