

August 15, 2023

Dear Friends and Colleagues in Cherokee Presbytery:

On behalf of the Presbytery's Committee on Representation (COR), I am sending you timely and essential information about the PC(USA) 226th General Assembly (2024). **We invite your participation in the nominating process for Commissioners/Delegates from the Presbytery.** Starting with bold headlines, the following extensive material provides details you need to know if you choose to propose to COR the names of some suggested nominees. We know it is a lot of information to digest, but it is a necessary part of this important nominating process. So, please do read on and respond accordingly.

**CALLING ALL POTENTIAL NOMINEES TO SERVE AS CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY'S
COMMISSIONERS/DELEGATES TO THE PC(USA) 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(ONLINE AND IN PERSON FROM JUNE 29 THROUGH JULY 4, 2024)**

Promising to serve in councils of the PC(USA) is a basic expectation of all church leaders. One of the highest callings is to serve as a Commissioner or Delegate to a biennial session of the General Assembly. **NOW is the time** for the presbytery's Committee on Representation (COR), as a function of its responsibility to direct the process for nominating persons who serve in presbytery's elected positions, **to secure the names of potential nominees for the 2024 General Assembly.**

Cherokee Presbytery is eligible to elect one Ruling Elder (RE), one Teaching Elder (TE), one Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD), and one Theological Student Advisory Delegate (TSAD, who is under care of our presbytery, nominated by their seminary, and subsequently elected by the presbytery). *The presbytery also is eligible to nominate and elect Alternates for each of those four positions.*

Members of Cherokee Presbytery and its congregations, working through their Sessions, are invited to submit suggested nominations of qualified church leaders, or to submit a self-nomination, for any or all of the four General Assembly positions. COR urges you to carefully and prayerfully read through this detailed letter and accompanying background fact sheets, and nomination forms. *Then, if you feel called to do so, please complete appropriate nomination form(s), secure needed approvals and references, and **submit all material to COR for receipt on or before September 22, 2023.*** You can complete and submit your forms online at the Presbytery's website, **cherokeepresbytery.org/presbyterydocs**, or by submitting your completed forms by email or USPS, to the **COR chairperson, Erma Jones at: ermaeliza@yahoo.com or 220 Boulder Drive, Roswell, GA 30075.** If needed, her phone number is 404-641-2112.

Highlighting Several Key Points:

- **All suggested nominations are due by Sept. 22, 2023, via online, email or USPS.**
- General Assembly committee meetings will be online June 25-27, 2024, using Zoom and PC-Biz, and in-person Assembly meetings will be in Salt Lake City, Utah from June 29-July 4, 2024.
- All Commissioners and Advisory Delegates, including YAADs and TSADS must be officially endorsed by the session of their church of membership, service, or attendance.
- **Persons seeking to be nominated from the floor of Presbytery, at its stated meeting of October 19, 2023, must have their forms delivered to COR on or before October 5, 2023.**
- Transportation to the General Assembly, and room and board, are paid for Commissioners and delegates in accordance with G.A. policy.
- If you have questions or concerns about the nominating process, contact RE Erma Jones, Chairperson of COR, per information cited on page one of this letter.

Noting Specifics of Cherokee Presbytery's Nominating Process for these G.A. roles:

Suggested Ruling Elder Nominees (specific form attached)

- Potential nominees may be nominated by any member of Presbytery, or they can self-nominate, but all must be officially endorsed by their church's Session. Preferably, nominees will have: a) been a member of their congregation for at least three years; and b) been a commissioner to at least two presbytery meetings in a two-year period.
- Potential nominees must submit their forms to their church's Clerk or Moderator of Session. After the Session has endorsed the suggested nomination, the Clerk or Moderator shall complete and submit the form for receipt by COR on or before September 22, 2023.
- Ruling Elders must also provide at least one (and up to three) references, which shall be sent by the person making the recommendation to the COR Chairperson.

Suggested Teaching Elder Nominees (specific form attached)

- Potential nominees may be nominated by any member of Presbytery, or they can self-nominate, with completed forms received by COR on or before September 22, 2023.
- Suggested nominees must have a minimum of three years of active membership in the presbytery, a record of regular attendance (at least half) of presbytery meetings and of demonstrated service to the presbytery.
- Teaching Elders must also provide at least one (and up to three) references, which shall be sent by the person making the recommendation to the COR Chairperson.

Suggested Young Adult Advisory Delegate Nominees (specific form attached)

- Potential nominees may be nominated by their church or other members of the Presbytery, or they can self-nominate, but all must be officially endorsed by their church's Session.
- All YAAD nomination forms must first be submitted to their church's Clerk or Moderator of Session. After the Session has endorsed the suggested nomination, the Clerk or Moderator shall submit the form for receipt by COR on or before September 22, 2023.
- YAADs must also provide at least one (and up to three) references, which shall be sent by the person making the recommendation to the COR Chairperson.

Suggested Theological Student Advisory Delegate

- Technically, potential TSADs must be nominated by their seminary, with specific forms completed by the school and then sent on to the student's Clerk or Moderator of Session.
- After the Session has endorsed the suggested nomination, the Clerk or moderator shall submit the form for receipt by COR on or before September 22, 2023. Letters of reference are welcome.

Reviewing Key Factors of Timeline, Process, and Instructions:

- All completed forms and letters of recommendation are due to the Presbytery's Committee on Representation on or before Friday, September 22, 2023. Forms can be completed and submitted online at the Presbytery's website, **cherokeepresbytery.org/documents**. Or completed forms can be sent directly to the COR Chairperson, Erma Jones at: ermaeliza@yahoo.com or 220 Boulder Drive, Roswell, GA 30075. Her phone number is 404-641-2112.
- COR will present a slate of nominees for election by the Presbytery at its stated meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023.
- Subsequently, the names and required information will be reported to the Office of the General Assembly well before the deadline of December 28, 2023!

Preparing the Presbytery and Participants

Attached are the four separate but related forms that have been cited for use in the nominating process to secure Presbytery's suggested nominees for Commissioners/ Delegates to the 226th General Assembly (2024), including for: a) Ruling Elders, b) Teaching Elders, c) Young Adult Advisory Delegates, and d) Reference letters. Please use them accordingly for COR, Presbytery, and General Assembly purposes.

Finally, attached is a ten-page document ("Information for Mid-Council Leaders Preparing the Presbytery and Participants")

This is the most current and thorough document that describes the essential who-what-when-where-how-why details about preparing for the 2024 General Assembly. Those accurate details will be needed by everyone involved in the nominating process, including suggested nominees themselves, so that COR can help Presbytery elect its best candidates for Commissioners/Delegates to the 226th General Assembly.

Please hold COR, all potential nominees, and our whole Presbytery in your prayers as we engage in this vital part of our life together in the PC(USA). With thanks in advance, we look forward to your faithful responses.

**Erma Jones (RE), Chairperson
on behalf of Cherokee Presbytery's Committee on Representation**

Please note that COR is grateful for permission from the Nominating Committee of National Capitol Presbytery to adapt and use some of their documents.