

Blackhawk Presbytery Policy for Determining
Commissioners to General Assembly

Who is eligible for election as commissioner?

Any **Minister of Word and Sacrament**, who is a member in good standing in Blackhawk Presbytery – whether they are actively serving or honorably retired- and who has not served as a commissioner for any of the previous six (6) General Assemblies.

Or any **Ruling Elder**, who is a member in good standing in their home congregation-whether they are currently serving on that church's Session or not – and whose home church has not had an elder serve as a commissioner for any of the previous six (6) General Assemblies.

Please note that anyone who has served as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) or a Theological Seminary Advisory Delegate within the time frames above will not have that fact impact their eligibility for election as a commissioner.

For determining how long it has been since any Minister of Word of Sacrament has served at General Assembly or any congregation has sent a ruling elder, the presbytery will be responsible for creating and maintaining a cumulative list of Blackhawk commissioners to General Assembly. That list will be readily available on the presbytery website and/or in any other readily accessible format.

Anyone who wishes to be considered as a candidate must complete an application form in the appropriate category- Either Minister of Word and Sacrament or Ruling Elder. Ministers of Word and Sacrament may submit their forms directly to Blackhawk Presbytery's nominating committee. Ruling Elders must submit their forms to the Session of their local congregation. The Session is asked to discuss the form with the candidate and then vote on whether to endorse his/her application. No Ruling Elder application may be submitted to the presbytery

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without the endorsement of the candidate's Session. In addition, no Session may endorse more than one candidate, Ruling Elder or YAAD-in any given year.

After the Session has endorsed a Ruling Elder candidate, their application-with their signature of the Clerk of Session-is sent to Blackhawk Presbytery's nominating committee. Those applications must be submitted by September 30th in the year prior to General Assembly. Blackhawk Presbytery is allowed two (2) minister members and two (2) ruling elders plus one YAAD.

If there are more than four (4) application forms turned in by either Ruling Elder or Minister candidates, the Nominating Committee will work to reduce that number to four candidates for each type of commissioner. This reduction may be done through the answers that candidates give on their application form, as well as by answers to questions posed to the candidates in person or via phone/Zoom interviews or email responses, followed by voting of the members of the committee. The Nominating Committee is charged to make their selections keeping in mind the need for balanced representation in regard to race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography or theological conviction.

If there are less than two (2) candidates in either category, the Nominating Committee will be charged with recruiting eligible candidates to fill the slate of candidates.

The Nominating Committee would then be responsible for forwarding a maximum of four (4) Minister nominees and four (4) Ruling Elder nominees onto the Presbytery. The application forms of those candidates will be distributed to presbytery commissioners prior to the November presbytery meeting.

Each of those nominees will have the opportunity to make a brief personal statement at the presbytery assembly meeting, if they choose to do so. Those statements will be limited to two (2) minutes per person.

After any personal statements are given, a prayer of guidance will be given by the moderator or his/her designee, then paper ballots will be distributed to the presbytery commissioners. The ballots will have the names of the candidates printed in alphabetical order by last name. Each commissioner will be given the right to vote for one (1) Minister candidate and one (1) Ruling Elder candidate.

The ballots will then be tallied, and the results announced at the meeting. The top vote getters in each category will be elected commissioners. The second highest in each category will serve as alternates. In the event of a tie, only those candidates involved in the tie will have their names placed in a runoff election.