
Proposal #2 Process for Election of General Council Commissioners

Title: Election of General Council Commissioners

Origin: Executive

What is the issue?

In the spring of 2027, the regional council will elect its Commissioners to the 46th General Council which runs from the start in St. Catherines in July 2028 through till 2031.

This will be the third time the regional council has elected Commissioners. The first time, the regional council adopted a method for electing Commissioners at its fall meeting in 2020, there were some problems with this process. For starters, in naming specific diverse groups the regional council overlooked that individuals may have multiple ways of identifying, i.e. racialized and queer, youth and Indigenous, etc.

Secondly, the deadline for nominations was during the meeting resulting in a scramble to distribute sufficient background information on nominees for regional council representatives to feel ready to make informed decisions.

Lastly, despite its good intentions, this system does not provide a diverse slate of commissioners. It unfolds quickly relying on the nominations in hand. There is little opportunity to consider the slate as a whole or to recruit people not already nominated to broaden diversity.

The second time the Regional Council elected General Council Commissioners, it was done via a slate that was created by the recruitment team. This process, while streamlining the selections at the Regional Council meeting, also was met with some challenges and was considered more of a rubber stamping of a previous decision. For this year, a mix of the previous 2 methods is being suggested.

Why is this important?

The decisions of the General Council impact all communities of faith and ministry personnel. It is important for the Commissioners to be people of vision and commitment who can bring diverse perspectives to lead to bold and daring decisions (to borrow from the Call of the Strategic Plan).

Regional Council representatives were frustrated with how voting went in 2020 and no one wants to repeat that experience. The process in 2024 went much smoother with some challenges still being present.

What might the regional council do?

The regional council might agree to:

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- a) To close nominations for Commissioners to General Council 46 as of midnight April 16th, 2027; to publicize the deadline in advance (website, newsletter, with registration materials)
 - b) To direct the Executive to create a list of up to 26 General Council 46 applicants to be brought to the 2027 Spring Meeting of the HFRC making sure to:
 - i) Ensure a diverse cohort of applicants who bring both experience and new energy to the role and who are committed to the preparation and online prior requirements for General Council;
 - ii) Recruit nominees to address gaps in representation.
 - c) To elect the Horseshoe Falls General Council 46 Representatives out of the list presented by the Executive, at the spring 2027 regional council meeting.