

4.920 COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY: COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

4.921 Guidelines for Electing Pastor Nominating Committees

- A. Suggested Model for Electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (G-14.0502).
When a church is without a pastor, or after the effective date of the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, congregation shall, with the guidance and permission of the Committee on Ministry (G-11.0502d), proceed to elect a pastor in the following manner:
1. The session shall call a congregational meeting to elect a nominating committee, which shall be representative of the whole congregation. This committee's duty shall be to nominate a minister to the congregation for election as pastor.
 2. Public notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be given at least ten (10) days in advance, which shall include two (2) successive Sundays.
 3. The Nominating Committee shall confer with the Committee on Ministry as provided in G-11.0502d and when seeking an associate pastor or co-pastor, with the pastor or any continuing co-pastors.
 4. Care must be taken to consider candidates without regard to race, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, age, or disabilities.
- B. Suggested Guidelines (Not Part of the Book of Order)
1. Session meets to set date and time for congregation to meet to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
 - a. Ten (10) days notice must be given including two (2) successive Sundays.
 - b. Session could suggest size of committee and recommend to congregation, though final authority for PNC rests with congregation.
 2. Nominations for the PNC are best made by the church-wide Nominating Committee (the group that nominates the congregation's elders, deacons and trustees) for the following reasons:
 - a. The Committee is ordinarily already established with an active elder as Chairperson.
 - b. The Committee is itself representative of the congregation.
 - c. The Committee is familiar with the nominations process.
 - d. The Committee likely knows the members of the congregation and the groups they represent as well as their race, ethnic origin, sex, and marital status.

3. The Nominating Committee should provide a mechanism for receiving input of names from the congregation.
4. The Committee's slate should be representative of the whole congregation.
5. The PNC shall determine before nominated if they will serve if elected.
6. Ballot should be prepared in advance with space for nominations from the floor. Care must be taken that persons nominated from the floor are present and have agreed to serve, or that they have consented in advance.
7. Committee on Ministry representative should moderate congregational meeting (or be present to advise) when PNC is elected.
8. PNC meets briefly following congregational meeting to elect a convener and to set date and time for their first meeting.
9. Committee on Ministry representative should be present to provide guidance at the first meeting of the PNC.