



## Hamilton Conference

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Date: January 5, 2017  
To: Presbytery Secretaries, Ministry Personnel and Pastoral Charges  
From: Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary  
Subject: **Nominations for Commissioners to the 43rd General Council and President-Elect, Section D 2.5 & 2.6, *The Manual 2016***

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As we draw ever closer to the 92nd Meeting of Hamilton Conference, it is time once again to ask the presbyteries, pastoral charges, and individual members of The United Church of Canada within Hamilton Conference to give prayerful consideration to who among us may have the calling, gifts, and practice of faith to serve as commissioners to the 43rd General Council and as the President-designate for Hamilton Conference.

This memo outlines the policies and procedures for nominations to each of these important leadership positions within our common life.

### **Commissioners to the 43rd General Council at UOIT (University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Durham College), Oshawa, Ontario, July 21-27, 2018**

Each Conference within the United Church has been asked to keep in mind the following considerations as we elect commissioners:

- The 43rd General Council will be called on to address matters of denominational structure and connection. We are asked to elect commissioners who can discern prayerfully how God is calling us to seek, love and walk in this time.
- As we live into our commitment to become a racially just, intercultural church, we are asked to elect commissioners that reflect the broad diversity of gifts and identities that make up the church. Conferences are encouraged to elect at least two commissioners from racialized (racial minority) and deaf communities.
- Conferences are encouraged to consider electing young adults (ages 20–30) to serve as commissioners. We are further encouraged to consider electing youth (ages 15–20) to serve as commissioners.

To serve as a Commissioner from Hamilton Conference one must be a member of the Order of Ministry or a Designated Lay Minister (Ministry Personnel Commissioner), or a confirmed member of The United Church of Canada (Lay Commissioner) resident within the bounds of Hamilton Conference. One need not be a member of presbytery nor a delegate to Conference to serve as a Commissioner. Finally, one need not be present at the Conference Meeting to be elected as a Commissioner.

Hamilton Conference is entitled to elect a total of thirty (30) commissioners to the 43rd General Council.

Section E 1, 1.1 of *The Manual 2016* states that the President-Elect and the representatives to the General Council Executive of each Conference are commissioners by virtue of their office. Hamilton Conference policy states, that in addition to these individuals, the President is also a commissioner by virtue of his or her office. We will need to leave space open for election of two youth and young adult representatives and potential candidates for Moderator of General Council at our 93rd Conference Meeting, May 25-27, 2018. This means that we have to elect 24 commissioners at this year's Annual Meeting in Port Elgin and the remainder at our Conference meeting in 2018.

**Please note:** To be a candidate for Moderator at any General Council a person must be elected as a commissioner from their Conference. A nomination for Moderator does not automatically make the individual a commissioner.

Each of the presbyteries within Hamilton Conference are entitled to nominate four people (two Lay Persons and two Ministry Personnel) for election as commissioners. The names of those individuals will appear on the ballot at the Conference Meeting with an asterisk beside them to indicate that they have been nominated by their respective presbyteries.

Should your presbytery have more than four people nominated as commissioners, we would ask that you forward all the nominations from your presbytery to the Conference Office with a clear indication as to which four people have been nominated by your presbytery. The names of the other nominees will appear on the ballot at the Conference Meeting without an asterisk.

If you are a Lay member of The United Church of Canada living within the bounds of Hamilton Conference who is not a member of presbytery, who believes you are being called to serve as a commissioner, we would ask you to discuss this with folks in your congregation and ask them to submit a nomination on your behalf.

You will find a commissioner's nomination form attached to this memo along with a brief outline of the duties of a commissioner. A link to the forms is also available on the Conference Meeting page of the Hamilton Conference website at <http://hamconf.org/administration/annual-meeting/>. Please submit a **head and shoulders photograph** with your nomination form as these will be displayed at the Conference Meeting.

There will be the opportunity to make other nominations at the Conference Meeting in Port Elgin, prior to Nomination deadline, May 26 and 27. Nomination forms and photographs received in the Hamilton Conference office prior to **Friday, May 5, 2017** will be included in a binder for Conference delegates to read prior to the election of commissioners. **We cannot guarantee** that forms and photos received after this date will be included in the binder.

There will be an orientation session for those elected as commissioners in 2018 at the Hamilton Conference Office, 1552 Highway 6 North, Carlisle, ON, times and details to follow. Folks will be able to connect via conference call and/or webinar.

### **President-Elect**

The individual elected as President-Designate at the 92nd Annual Meeting becomes the President-Elect when Heather Leffler, our current President-Elect, is installed as President at the end of the Conference Meeting in May 2017. **She or he is thereby one of the commissioners of the 43rd General Council.** Under our new Conference meeting schedule, the ninety-third Conference President will serve a two-year term as President. **See Memo Re: Nominations for President-Elect**, which can be found on the Annual Meeting page of the Hamilton Conference website at <http://hamconf.org/administration/annual-meeting/>.

A link to the position descriptions for President-Elect, President, and Past-President as well as a nomination form can be found on the Annual Meeting page of the Hamilton Conference website at <http://hamconf.org/administration/annual-meeting/>.

*Please give prayerful consideration to serving Hamilton Conference in one of these roles of connection and leadership.*

*I look forward to seeing you all in Port Elgin, May 26-28, 2017, at the 92nd Meeting of Hamilton Conference.*



The United Church of Canada, Hamilton Conference  
Nomination Form for Commissioner to General Council  
(for general use)

**Deadline for return to Hamilton Conference Office  
for inclusion in the binder: May 5, 2017**

**Please return with a head and shoulders photograph of yourself to Hamilton Conference Office, PO Box  
100, Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0 or [office@hamconf.org](mailto:office@hamconf.org)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Presbytery: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check relevant box:  Ministry Personnel (Diaconal/Ordained/DLM/CDM)  Lay Member

Age Group:  19-25  26-40  41-55  56-65  over 65

Has attended General Council before:  No  Yes

If yes, please give dates and indicate role ie. Commissioner, observer, staff

Having read the duties of a commissioner on the reverse side of this nomination form share the **Skills and Experience** you would bring to the role of commissioner.

Share a brief summary of your **Current and Recent Involvement in The United Church of Canada** (Local Pastoral Charge/Congregation, Presbytery, Conference, General Council.)

Share what is drawing you to be a commissioner, your **Sense of Call and Commitment to Serve**.

**Nominated by:** (*print full name*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** of Person Making Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent of Nominee:** I am aware of the duties as set forth below, and am willing to be a Commissioner to General Council. I am willing to attend a Conference Pre-Council Orientation Event.

Full Name: (*print*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## Duties of a Commissioner to General Council

1. To have a discerning heart, a prayerful stance and an openness to the leading of the Spirit;
2. To be knowledgeable of the procedures, organization and duties of the General Council;
3. To be familiar with the Rules of Debate and Order (Parliamentary Procedure); (See *The Manual, 2016, Appendix*, p. 211.
4. To study pre-Council documentation as received from the office of the General Council;
5. To attend a Conference pre-Council orientation event at which there will be information about the above points.
6. To attend all plenary sessions of the meeting of General Council as well as the Assigned Sessional Committee or Commission;
7. To attend a Conference post-Council event to evaluate and plan regarding reporting, accountability and implementation;
8. To be available to make reports to Pastoral Charges, Presbyteries and the Conference about the meeting and work of the General Council.

### **NOTE:**

There will be an orientation session for those elected as Commissioners in 2018 at the Hamilton Conference Office, 1552 Highway 6 North, Carlisle, Ontario, times and details to follow. Folks will be able to connect via conference call and/or webinar.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary, at the Conference Office (905) 659-3343 or email [phartmans@hamconf.org](mailto:phartmans@hamconf.org)