

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Peter Bush

August 24, 2017

TO: Clerks of Presbytery

FROM: Stephen Kendall, Clerk of Assembly

RE: Nominations for Moderator of the 2018 General Assembly
See: Regulations, A&P, 1973, pages 407–08
Recommendation No. 4, A&P, 1977, page 216
Recommendation No. 4, A&P, 1979, pages 217 and 86

I wish to remind you that the deadline for presbyteries to submit nominations for Moderator of the 2018 General Assembly is November 30, 2017. Each presbytery may make up to two nominations. A biographical sketch of not more than 100 words should be submitted for each nominee.

Please note: Since the advent of elders serving as Moderator, it is important to note that elder candidates for the office of Moderator must be acting members of a session, since their eligibility to be a commissioner to General Assembly depends on their being a member of a session. (see sections 278.5, 258.3)

The Clerks of Assembly will distribute to presbyteries before December 31, 2017, ballots, biographical sketches, etc. The deadline for returning the ballots, attested by the Presbytery Clerk, is March 30, 2018. Those received after 11:59 p.m. on that day will not be counted. Your assistance in returning the ballots before the deadline will be greatly appreciated.

Your attention is directed to the decision of the 111th General Assembly: that presbyteries be instructed not to forward nominations for positions within boards, committees, colleges and other agencies of the Church, without informing the persons being nominated (A&P 1985, Clerks of Assembly Recommendation 16 as amended, page 52). While this does not specifically mention Moderator, I am sure those being nominated would appreciate this courtesy.

An overture submitted to the 74th General Assembly (1948) requested that presbyteries not correspond with each other in order to not influence other presbyteries in the nomination of moderators. Subsequent Assemblies have not changed the position taken by the 78th Assembly, and so I draw this concern to your attention.

The current voting procedures were established in 1973 when the method was changed from “vote for one and count to see who has the most votes” to “The counting shall proceed until one nominee receives an overall majority, with the low nominee being dropped and his (sic) votes distributed according to the preference indicated.” (A&P 1973, p. 407).

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall and The Rev. Donald Muir