The Presbyterian Church in Canada

L'Église presbytérienne au Canada

MODERATOR OF THE 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Mary M. Fontaine, M.Div.

August 16, 2023

To: **Clerks of Presbytery**

From: **The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim, Clerk of Assembly**

Re: **Nominations for Moderator of the 2024 General Assembly**
See: Regulations, A&P, 1973, p. 407–08
       Recommendation No. 4, A&P, 1977, p. 216
       Recommendation No. 4, A&P, 1979, p. 217 and 86

Dear Friends in Christ,

The deadline for presbyteries to submit nominations for Moderator of the 2024 General Assembly is November 30, 2023. Each presbytery may make up to two nominations. A biographical sketch of not more than 100 words should be submitted for each nominee.

As per Book of Forms 258.3, it is important to note that candidates for Moderator must be on the constituent roll of the commissioning presbytery, or a session within the bounds of that presbytery, when the General Assembly convenes.

The 2023 General Assembly adopted Recommendation CLK-008, authorizing the Clerks of Assembly and the Committee to Advise the Moderator to continue to facilitate online voting for the nominee for Moderator of the 2024 General Assembly. Therefore, the Clerks of Assembly will distribute ballots, biographical sketches, etc., both electronically and in paper format, to presbyteries before December 31, 2023. The deadline for returning the ballots, attested by the Presbytery Clerk, is Monday, April 1, 2024. 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 No. 16, as amended, p. 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 74th 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)

The 2024 General Assembly will meet at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, beginning on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Any updates to this will be immediately communicated to all presbyteries.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry and may God's blessing be with you.

The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim
Principal Clerk