

TERMS OF REFERENCES

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

(A&P 1999, p. 201–203; A&P 2011, p. 220; A&P 2016, p. 221–23; A&P 2026, p. 80–81)

PURPOSE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The General Assembly itself establishes policy and the Assembly Council is responsible for the implementation of that policy.

In its role as both a coordinating body and a prophetic one, the Council will report to and be responsible to the General Assembly and shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the work of the church is carried out efficiently and effectively within the policies established by the General Assembly.

The Assembly Council will be of central importance in the life of the church. It assumed all the legal powers vested in the Administrative Council on July 1, 1992.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In all matters, the Council will carry out its business and communications in a manner that demonstrates faithfulness, openness and transparency to the membership of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and a commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the furtherance of his reconciling mission in the world.

In its coordinating role, the Assembly Council will:

- coordinate the work of the national bodies of the church, having direct links with national staff.
- recommend policy, submit short- and long-range plans, coordinate and recommend a realistic and balanced budget and generally present the current and future needs of the national agencies to the General Assembly.
- have final responsibility in matters financial under the authority of the General Assembly.
- ensure that the decisions of the General Assembly are carried out and communicated to the church.
- assist the General Assembly in making responsible decisions by ensuring that both the Council, and the Assembly, have before them all the information that is needed and that is pertinent to the matter in hand in order to make a wise decision.
- with its diverse representation from across the church, provide the broadest possible viewpoint on proposed changes in policy direction. Thus, agencies are required to inform the Council of any proposed new directions, including additional executive staff positions. The Council will advise the Assembly. In some cases, the advice of the Council will be contrary to the wishes of the Agency Committee. In such circumstances, the General Assembly, with all the information before it, will make the final decision.

In its prophetic role, the Assembly Council will:

- present a vision for the mission of a church that looks to God for continual renewal.
- dream about the future of the church and seek to be a leading edge of what the church might be in the future.
- affirm the work of the agencies of the church as they carry out a prophetic role for our denomination.
- call itself and the church to account when in need of critique.
- invite input, when helpful, from committees of the church that do not normally report through the Council, mindful of its servant role.

MEMBERSHIP

The Council consists of 25 individuals:

- 9 persons appointed by the General Assembly from the church-at-large for a term of three years (renewable once).
- 12 persons appointed by the Assembly, each for a term of three years (renewable once), to fill presbytery slots of six years duration, with Assembly Council approaching presbyteries to request the appointment of individuals with specific skillsets, remaining mindful of regional representation but without following a designated cycle of regional presbytery appointments or an alternating clergy-lay rotation.
- 4 persons, ex officio with vote, namely the President of the Atlantic Mission Society, the President of the Women's Missionary Society, Convenor of the Life and Mission Agency and the Moderator of the General Assembly.

* Members are eligible to be re-appointed once with the concurrence of the member and the Assembly Council. It is understood that among the members, a balance will be maintained, in as far as possible, between clergy and non-clergy, men and women, and reflect the ethnic diversity of our denomination. All members of the Assembly Council must be professing members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

STAFF SUPPORT

The following individuals, by office, shall attend meetings of the Assembly Council as resource and support:

- Principal Clerk who serves as Secretary of the Council
- General Secretary Life and Mission Agency
- Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
- Intercultural Liaison
- One of the heads of Colleges

COMMITTEES

To ensure that the Assembly Council can fulfil its terms of reference, the following committees will carry out much of the work of the Council and, as necessary, report through it, to the General Assembly:

1. Executive of the Assembly Council
2. Archives and Records Committee
3. Benevolences Committee (Including the responsibilities of the Fund for Ministerial Assistance)
4. Commission on Assets of Dissolved and Amalgamated Congregations
5. Ewart Endowment for Theological Education Committee
6. Finance Committee
7. Human Resource Policy Committee
8. Management Team
9. Nominating Committee

AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Assembly Council may appoint ad hoc committees as necessary.

COMMITTEES RELATED TO THE COUNCIL

1. Theological Education Liaison Group