

Report to Synod 2017
Committee to Nominate Standing Committees

I began the work of my three year appointment with a conference call in September of 2016 and then met in person as per our mandate for two days in late March of this year. September is primarily a time for orientation and addressing any business left from the June Assembly. In March based on the number of vacancies, the nominations submitted and the mandated criteria for diversity we seek to recommend a slate for consideration by the upcoming General Assembly. The file of all nominees is circulated about a week prior to the Spring meeting. We also met by phone during Assembly to consider amendments proposed by the Commissioners.

The most 'popular' committees this past year were The Committee and Church Doctrine and The Life and Mission Agency. [Aside: as it turned out they also were the most 'popular' reports at the 143rd G.A.] In a couple of cases the committee members had to generate candidates to consider either because there were insufficient nominations received or to pursue the goal of diversity.

Currently the Assembly council is shrinking in numbers and there are procedural issues involved in achieving that goal. However, I would encourage nominations of able lay women as they are under-represented in the 'at large' category. As regards the gifts and skills needed there is usually an outline of each Committee's responsibilities in the A&P. It is important to use the 'proper' form available on line and to provide some rationale for the nominee's selection. I encourage members of the Synod to avail themselves of opportunities to offer nominees.

Year one was a good experience. For future reference, members of this committee need to have skills in assimilating a large amount of information in a brief time and able to engage in respectful debate with strength. In the past decade the process for this committee's work has become much more centralized in the Assembly office. There is some discussion about asking Synods for two nominees to this Committee, one male, one female and then allowing the existing Committee to select one. I personally quibble with the wisdom and now restricting choices to only two genders may not even be socially acceptable.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Shaw