

ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICE ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES AND AGENCIES

I. Types of General Assembly Committees and Agencies

Permanent Committees (BCO 14-1,12, RAO 4-2, “PCA Corporate Bylaws” V-G.). [Elected by the Assembly]

- Administrative Committee (AC)
- Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM)
- Mission to the World (MTW)
- Mission to North America (MNA)
- Reformed University Ministries (RUM)

Agencies (RAO 4-3, “PCA Corporate Bylaws” V-G.). [Elected by the Assembly]

- Covenant Theological Seminary (CTS)
- Covenant College (CC)
- PCA Foundation (PCAF)
- Ridge Haven Conference Center (RH)
- Geneva Benefits

Special Committees (RAO 4-4)

- Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) [Elected by the General Assembly]
- Committee on Constitutional Business (CCB) [Elected by the General Assembly]
- Theological Examining Committee (TEC) [Elected by the General Assembly]
- Nominating Committee (NC) [RAO 8-4, BCO 14-1,11. Elected by Presbyteries assigned to a class by Stated Clerk based on date of formation of Presbytery]
- Committee on Review of Presbytery Records (RPR) [RAO 8-5, BCO 14-1,11. Elected by Presbyteries assigned to a class by Stated Clerk based on date of formation of Presbytery].

Committees of Commissioners (RAO 14-2) [Elected by Presbyteries according to formula established by the Stated Clerk]

Ad Interim Committees (RAO Article IX) [Appointed by Moderator or elected by the General Assembly]

II. Standing Judicial Commission

The SJC is unique. It is not a BCO 14-1, 12 permanent committee or agency of the General Assembly. It is not an RAO 4-4 special committee. It is not a sub-committee of the Administrative Committee but is funded by the AC (RAO 17-1). It is a standing commission of the General Assembly, directly elected by the Assembly (BCO 15-4).

III. Exclusions

RAO 8-4, i. “The nominee is to give consent to only one nomination.” [Note: this is contrary to Robert’s Rules of Order, Ch. XIV, § 46, Tenth edition, p 418, ll. 13-17. However, the RAO is of higher parliamentary authority than RRO].

BCO 15-4. “No person may serve concurrently on the General Assembly's Standing Judicial Commission and any of the General Assembly's permanent committees.”

BCO 14-1, 12. "Persons who have served for a full term, or for at least two years of a partial term, on one of the Assembly's permanent committees or agencies shall not be eligible for re-election to an Assembly committee until one year has elapsed. (Exceptions may be permitted in agency bylaws approved by the Assembly)."

RAO 4-6. "No individual shall serve on more than one Assembly committee, or agency at one time, except those who serve as permanent committee representatives on the Administrative Committee of General Assembly and those who serve on Ad Interim Committees."

RAO 4-7. "Employees of the Assembly's committees or agencies are not eligible for office on an Assembly's committee or agency which administers matters directly related to their area of employment."

RAO 14-2. "Each presbytery shall, prior to the meeting of the Assembly, elect one of its commissioners to each of these committees of commissioners (cf. 14-1), dividing them as to ruling and teaching elders by a formula established by the Stated Clerk. In the event that presbytery does not have sufficient teaching elders to supply the committees thus assigned, the presbytery may, at its own discretion, elect ruling elders to these committees (or vice versa, may elect teaching elders for insufficient ruling elders)... Commissioners serving on permanent Committees or Agencies or sub-committees of the Assembly or the staffs thereof are not eligible to serve on any of these committees of commissioners. For the purpose of defining those ineligible for service in committees of commissioners, permanent Committee or Agency "staff" is to be understood as persons required to be examined by the Theological Examining Committee (BCO 14-1.12.) and all permanent RULES OF ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS Committee and Agency support personnel. All commissioners should bear in mind Robert's Rules of Order regarding abstaining from voting on a question of direct personal interest (RONR (12th ed.) § 45:4-5)."

RAO 4-5. "The membership of committees or agencies shall be limited to the same constitutional provisions (BCO 14-1, 12) as those of the permanent committees: namely, that those who have served for at least a full term, or at least two years of a partial term on one of the Assembly's permanent committees or agencies shall not be eligible for reelection to an Assembly committee or agency until one year has elapsed, unless provision has been approved by the agency Bylaws. Nominations shall be handled according to the BCO 14-1, 11. These provisions shall not apply to Ad Interim committees, study committees or other committees appointed."

IV. Specified Permission

Sub-Committees of Permanent Committees may include non-elected members

RAO 4-10, a. "Membership of subcommittees may include persons not elected to the permanent committee, provided the subcommittee chairman is a permanent committee member."

Permanent or Special Committee Members May Serve on Review of Presbytery Records

RAO 8-5 a. The Committee on Review of Presbytery Records shall be comprised of one representative from each presbytery elected by the Presbytery in the manner set forth in BCO 14-1, 11 for the election of the Nominating Committee. A person who is serving as a member of or on the staff of one of the permanent or special committees, or boards of the General Assembly shall be eligible to serve on this committee.

V. Length of Terms

Three-year Terms

IRC (RAO 8-1)
 NC (BCO 14-1, 11)
 TEC (BCO 14-1, 14)
 RPR (RAO 8-5, BCO 14-1, 11)

Four-year Terms

AC (BCO 14-1, 12)
 CC ("PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-2)
 CCB (RAO 8-2)
 CTS ("PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-3)
 GENEVA ("PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-1)
 PCAF ("PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-5)
 SJC (BCO 15-4)

Five-Year Terms

CDM (BCO 14-1, 12)
 MNA (BCO 14-1, 12)
 MTW (BCO 14-1, 12)
 RUM (BCO 14-1, 12)
 RH ("PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-4)

VI. Immediate Re-election or Successive Terms

Interchurch Relations Committee (Two consecutive three-year terms)

RAO 8-1. There shall be an Interchurch Relations Committee composed of three teaching elders and three ruling elders who may serve two consecutive, three-year terms of office. There shall be a ruling elder and a teaching elder to serve as alternates.

Geneva (Two consecutive four-year terms)

"PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-1. Trustees shall be eligible for re-election to a second four-year term after which there must be a one-year interval before further re-election.

Geneva's Corporate Bylaws (3.05) were amended in 2010 to define a partial term to be less than 36 months (3 years), instead of the 2 years prescribed in the BCO (14-1.12).

CC (Two consecutive four-year terms)

"PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-2. A Trustee shall be eligible at the end of any full four-year term for re-election to a second four-year term, after which there must be a one-year interval before re-election.

CTS (Two consecutive four-year terms)

"PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-3. A Trustee shall be eligible at the end of any full four-year term for re-election to a second four-year term, after which there must be a one-year interval before re-election.

RH (Two consecutive four-year terms)

"PCA Corporate Bylaws" VI-4. Directors shall be eligible for reelection to a second five-year term after which there must be a one year interval before further reelection.

PCAF (Two consecutive four-year terms)

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-5. Directors shall be eligible for reelection to a second four-year term after which there must be a one-year interval before further election.

PCAF’s Corporate Bylaws state that RAO 4-5 does not apply to them; thus, men who would otherwise be required to take a sabbatical leave from committee service may serve on PCAF. M29GA, p. 154.

Standing Judicial Commission

There is no statement in the BCO or RAO requiring a year off after serving a term or prohibiting successive terms.

VII. Resignations

RAO 8-4, k. “In the event of the resignation of any member of an Assembly elected committee or agency, such resignation should be presented to the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. The Stated Clerk, shall, after consultation with the Chairman of the respective committee or board, be authorized to accept such resignation on behalf of the Assembly. He is to report such actions to the next General Assembly, and arrange for the nomination of a replacement by the Assembly's Nominating Committee, where such replacement is appropriate.”

VIII. Recommendation of Candidates by Agencies

GENEVA

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-1. The Board may make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific men to the Board and may submit to the General Assembly Nominating Committee letters of recommendation concerning particular nominees from the Presbyteries.

CC

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-2. In addition, the Board may make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific men to the Board and may submit to the Assembly Nominating Committee letters of recommendation concerning particular nominees from the presbyteries.

CTS

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-3. In addition, the Board may make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific men to the Board and may submit to the Assembly Nominating Committee letters of recommendation concerning particular nominees from the presbyteries.

RH

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-4. In addition, the Ridge Haven Board may make request to presbyteries to nominate specific men to the Board and may submit to the Assembly Nominating Committee letters of recommendation concerning particular nominees from presbyteries.

PCAF

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-5. As stated above, the Directors shall be elected through the standard nomination and election procedures, except that the Board of Directors may make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific men for election as Directors, and may submit to the Assembly Nominating Committee letters of recommendation concerning particular nominees for election as Directors from the Presbyteries.

IX. Geographical Distribution of Members

Recommended but not Absolutely Required for Committees and Agencies –

BCO 14-1, 9. “The Assembly's committees are to include proportionate representation of all presbyteries, wherever possible.”

RAO 8-4, b. The Nominating Committee should be reminded of paragraph BCO 14-1, 9 regarding proportionate representation wherever possible [emphasis added].

RAO 8-4, c. No presbytery shall ordinarily [emphasis added] be represented by more than one person nominated for any given Committee. This includes alternates.

Required for the Standing Judicial Commission -

BCO 15-4. “No person may be elected if there is already a member of the commission from the same Presbytery; but if a person is elected and changes Presbytery, he may continue to serve his full term. No person may serve concurrently on the General Assembly's Standing Judicial Commission and any of the General Assembly's permanent committees.”

Specifically Exempted

RH

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-4. The members of the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven are not subject to the BCO Chapter 14 relating to proportionate representation of all Presbyteries or for equal representation of Teaching and Ruling Elders.

X. Parity of Elders. Deacons, and Non-PCA Members Serving

Parity of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders in Most Cases

BCO 14-1, 10. The committees are to be established on the basis of an equal number between teaching and ruling elders.

Parity of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders not Required

GENEVA

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-1. The Trustees are not subject to the provisions of the BCO, Chapter 15 relating to proportionate representation of all Presbyteries or for equal representation of Teaching and Ruling Elders.

CC

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-2. There is no required formula for dividing the members of a class between teaching and ruling elders

CTS

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-3. There is no required formula for dividing the members of a class between teaching and ruling elders.

RH

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-4. The members of the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven are not subject to the BCO Chapter 14 relating to proportionate representation of all Presbyteries or for equal representation of Teaching and Ruling Elders.

PCAF

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-5. All members of the Board of Directors shall be either Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders or Deacons, and at least one-half of such members shall be Ruling Elders and Deacons.

Deacons Eligible

GENEVA

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-1. Each member of the Trustees must be either a Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder or Deacon in the Presbyterian Church in America.

PCAF

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-5. All of the members of the Board of Directors shall be either Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders or Deacons, and at least one-half of such members shall be Ruling Elders and Deacons.

Non-PCA members Allowed

CC

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-2. Up to four men of denominations with which the PCA is in ecclesiastical fellowship may be elected, one to each class. . . . Furthermore, the Board may recommend one nominee per class from another NAPARC member denomination for consideration by the Assembly Nominating Committee, with a maximum of two such members permitted on the Board at one time.

CTS

“PCA Corporate Bylaws” VI-3. Each Trustee shall be an ordained teaching or ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church in America and elected by the General Assembly, except that up to two members of each class may be elders of denominations with which the PCA is in ecclesiastical fellowship. . . . Furthermore, the Board may recommend one nominee per class from another NAPARC member denomination for consideration by the Assembly Nominating Committee, with a maximum of two such members permitted on the Board at one time.

XI. Automatic Nomination of Alternates to a Full Term

BCO 14-11, 11. (RAO 8-4, g.). “In addition to the new nominees from the Presbyteries, alternates not assuming any vacancies during a year will be automatically considered by the Nominating Committee as candidates for nomination to that same committee.”

XII. Partial Terms

General Regulations

BCO 14-1, 12. “Persons who have served for a full term, or for at least two years of a partial term, on one of the Assembly's permanent committees or agencies shall not be eligible for re-election to an Assembly committee until one year has elapsed. (Exceptions may be permitted in agency bylaws approved by the Assembly).”

RAO 4-5. “The membership of committees or agencies shall be limited to the same constitutional provisions (BCO 14-1, 12) as those of the permanent committees: namely, that those who have served for at least a full term, or at least two years of a partial term on one of the Assembly's permanent committees or agencies shall not be eligible for reelection to an Assembly committee or agency until one year has elapsed, unless provision has been approved by the agency Bylaws. Nominations shall be handled according to the BCO 14-1, 11. These provisions shall not apply to Ad Interim committees, study committees or other committees appointed.”

Exceptions

RH

“RH Bylaws”, V-3. Vacancies. A vacancy on the Board of Directors because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled by the directors for the unexpired portion of the term subject to the approval of the next General Assembly.

GENEVA

“Geneva Corporate Bylaws”, “A director may serve two consecutive “full terms,” after which there must be a one-year interval before he may be re-elected. A term constituting less than thirty-six months, such as for a director elected to fill a vacancy, does not constitute a “full term” for the sake of the foregoing sentence. Therefore a director completing a “partial term” of less than thirty-six months may then be elected to two “full terms” thereafter prior to being required to spend at least one year off the board.”

Note: Term years conclude each year at the General Assembly’s close of business. The Class of 2005, for instance, ended its term on June 17, 2005.