

## *YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

We receive questions from a number of presbyteries about selecting these delegates. The following guidelines from the Office of the General Assembly are based on the response to Overture 01-30 from Genessee Valley Presbytery, and the counsel of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries staff of the General Assembly Mission Council.

The Office of the General Assembly affirms the value of the participation of young adult advisory delegates in the General Assembly. That participation is enhanced when care has been given to their selection and to their orientation to the General Assembly.

Young adult advisory delegates are not attending a youth conference. YAADs are full participants in the General Assembly meeting, with responsibility for becoming familiar with the business coming before it and taking part in the deliberations. They are seated with the presbytery commissioners in the plenary sessions, and are assigned to assembly committees. YAADs have voice in plenary sessions, and vote in their committee.

The Stated Clerk assigns assembly assistants to serve as YAAD advisors; they provide guidance for the 173 YAADs, but there is limited adult supervision. YAADs are housed in one of the assembly hotels, and generally share a room with another YAAD. YAADs should be self-motivated and responsible.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- In accordance with Standing Rule B.2.d.(1), the young adult advisory delegate “shall be between the ages of seventeen and twenty-three years on the date the General Assembly convenes.”
- The potential young adult advisory delegate should be active in their local congregation and presbytery or campus ministry.
- The young adult advisory delegate should be mature; the demands of the assembly require responsible decision-making, as well as being away from home for a week and managing their time and work with limited adult assistance.
- Reference checks should be made with their pastor, campus minister or chaplain, or other local congregational leaders.
- The potential young adult advisory delegate should be able to attend the full General Assembly meeting.

### FOLLOW-UP AFTER THEIR ELECTION

- If the young adult advisory delegate will be under the age of 18 when they will begin their travel to the assembly site, the Permission/Medical Authorization form must be signed by a parent, notarized and returned to the OGA. (It can be downloaded at [pcusa.org/ga219](http://pcusa.org/ga219)).
- Provide the e-mail address and the best US Mail address (school or home) for the YAAD, to ensure that he/she receives the important and time-sensitive assembly information without delay.
- Be sure that the YAAD is aware of the responsibility to be present for the full assembly, and if possible, to arrive early (on Thursday) to be able to attend the YAAD orientation that will Friday morning.
- Talk with the YAAD and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) (as appropriate) about travel arrangements to the assembly; for those with little or no experience with air travel, consider coordinating their flights

with those of one of the commissioners. (Work with the G.A. Meeting Service staff and the assembly travel agency.)

- Follow up with the YAAD by telephone or email during the spring to ensure that they are receiving the mailings, that they understand their responsibilities and are completing the registration procedures.
  
- Ensure that the YAAD has valid medical insurance. (Insurance bought through school systems may end at the end of the school year.)
- Inform the YAAD and his/her parent/guardian (as appropriate) that the presbytery staff person in attendance at General Assembly will be called upon to deal with emergencies.

On-site, the G.A. Office, staffed by the Office of the General Assembly, is the place to report problems or concerns and seek assistance.