

# **I. NOMINATION OF THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGULATIONS (REGS I 2013) (AS AMENDED BY REGS I 2020 AND REGS I 2023)**

*Edinburgh, 18 May 2013, Sess. I*

## **Definitions**

1. In these Regulations, the following definitions apply:
  - (1) 'the Committee' shall mean the Committee to Nominate the Moderator referred to in Regulation 2;
  - (2) "minister" includes an individual who has been ordained to ministry as defined in section 1(d) of the Selection and Training for Full-Time Ministry Act (Act X 2004), an individual who has been ordained to ministry as defined in the Ordained Local Ministry Act (Act IX 2011) and an individual who has been ordained to ministry as defined in the Auxiliary Ministry Act (Act XIII 2003).
  - (3) "deacon" shall mean an individual who has been ordained to ministry as defined in the Deacons Act (Act VIII 2010).
  - (4) 'elder' shall mean a person ordained to that office (whether or not he or she is a member of a Kirk Session) who is neither a minister nor a deacon; and
  - (5) 'the Moderator-Designate' shall mean the person nominated by the Committee to be Moderator of the next General Assembly.

## **Appointment of a Committee to Nominate the Moderator**

2. The Moderator of the General Assembly shall be nominated by a Committee of twelve persons comprising eleven ministers and elders nominated by Presbyteries plus one deacon selected at random by the Clerks of Assembly. The ministers and elders on the Committee shall be selected as follows: each Scottish Presbytery (provided that in the case of the Presbyteries of *Clèir Eilean I: the Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides* and of Lewis, this means the two Presbyteries working together) shall nominate one minister and one elder to populate the Committee; the Presbyteries of England and of International Charges shall nominate one minister or elder for the Committee in each alternate year, the first nomination being made in 2023 by the Presbytery of England. Nominations shall be sent to the Nomination Committee by 31 December. Upon receipt of all the nominations, the Nomination Committee shall select for appointment one or other of the nominees from each Scottish Presbytery, and shall appoint the nominee from the Presbytery of England or International Charges, with a view to creating overall a Committee which is diverse in office and gender and which is representative of the diversity of the whole Church.
3. The Committee shall be convened by the immediate past-Moderator of the General Assembly whom failing by another former Moderator of the General Assembly. Where the Committee is convened by another former Moderator, the same former Moderator shall not convene the Committee in consecutive years. The Convener of the Committee shall not be a member of the Committee. The clerk to the Committee, who shall not be a member of the Committee, shall be the Principal or Depute Clerk whom failing another suitable person selected by the Committee from outwith its membership.
4. Members of the Committee shall serve for a period of one year only. No-one may be a member of the Committee more than once in any three year period.
5. In the event of the death, resignation or supervening incapacity of persons on the Committee such that the number of persons on the Committee drops below nine, steps shall be taken to bring the number of persons back up to at least nine by seeking further recommendations of suitable appointees from the Nomination Committee.

## **Process at the Committee to Nominate the Moderator**

6. The Committee shall receive recommendations from any member of the Church of Scotland (excluding members of the Committee, who shall not be eligible to make recommendations) of names of ministers, deacons or elders proposed as the next Moderator. The Committee shall take reasonable steps to publicise its willingness to receive recommendations, which recommendations may be submitted to any member of the Committee or to the Office of the General Assembly.
7. The Committee itself shall decide how best to proceed in its task in a fair and efficient manner having due regard to confidentiality at all stages. The quorum for meetings of the Committee shall be nine persons.
8. In considering persons recommended to it, the Committee shall:
  - (1) consider the circumstances of the Church;
  - (2) having sought the advice of the immediate three past Moderators, decide the gifts, experience and other qualities which are required for the post of Moderator in order to benefit the Church and the kingdom of God and examine the candidates in the light of these requirements ;
  - (3) prepare a short-list from among the recommendations which it has received;
  - (4) obtain the consent of each person on the short list to be nominated as Moderator, if chosen, together with a full curriculum vitae and such other information as it considers to be helpful;
  - (5) meet with all persons on the short list; and
  - (6) select its nominee from among those on the short-list or, if this is not possible, prepare another short-list from which to select its nominee.
9. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the Committee shall inform the Principal Clerk of the name of the Moderator-Designate no later than 31 October each year. Thereafter, the name of the Moderator-Designate shall be made public by the Principal Clerk.
10. In the event of the death, resignation or supervening incapacity of the Moderator-Designate, the Convener of the Committee shall call an extraordinary meeting of the Committee for the purpose of nominating another person to be Moderator. The Committee shall follow Regulations 7 and 8 insofar as they are able to do so in the circumstances and shall nominate another person to be Moderator from among those recommended in terms of Regulation 6.
11. In the event of any difficulty inhibiting process in terms of these Regulations, the Committee shall have a general discretionary power to take any other steps appropriate in the circumstances to fulfil the intention of these Regulations.