INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IN 2027

NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE/AGENCY: Committee to Nominate the Moderator	
CONVENER/CHAIR:	Immediate past-Moderator of the General Assembly, whom failing another former Moderator of the General Assembly
VICE-CONVENER(S):	Not applicable
SECRETARY:	The Principal Clerk or Depute Clerk

REMIT:

- To receive recommendations of names of ministers, deacons or elders proposed as the next Moderator.
- To prayerfully discern and decide on the gifts, experience and other qualities which are required of the Moderator in this season and in accordance with the Regulations of the General Assembly relating to the Office of Moderator.
- To prepare a shortlist from among the recommendations which the Committee has received, meet, in person, with all persons on the shortlist; and select a nominee from among those on the shortlist.
- To inform the Principal Clerk of the name of the Moderator-Designate no later than 31 October each year.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT AT THIS TIME:

- Knowledge of the role and duties of the Moderator.
- Knowledge of the diversity of the Church across Scotland.
- Awareness of the current circumstances of the Church.

EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS:

- Willingness to work with others with an open mind to make a recommendation of a person who would be a suitable choice as Moderator from May 2028.
- Attendance at online meetings in June and August 2027 and then at an in-person meeting in September 2027. These meetings have been set for the following dates: Tuesday 22 June, Thursday 26 August and Friday 17 September, all 2027.
- Maintaining strict confidentiality in respect of all Committee information and process, both during the process and thereafter.

MEMBERSHIP AND ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:
The Committee comprises twelve persons: 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 are selected as follows: each Scottish Presbytery (provided that in the case of the Presbyteries of Clèir Eilean Ì: 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 the Channel Islands and of International Charges shall nominate one minister or elder for the Committee in each alternate year, the nomination being made in 2026 by the Presbytery of International Charges. 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 and the Channel Islands or International Charges, with a view to creating overall a Committee which is diverse in office and representative of the diversity of the whole Church.

Each person serves on the Committee for one year only. No-one may be a member of the Committee more than once in any three year period.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:
The Committee first meets before the end of June and advertisements seeking recommendations from the membership of the Church are then issued. The Committee meets again in the second half of August to select persons for interview and finally in September to conduct interviews and bring forward a nomination for the Moderator by 31 October. The September meeting is normally an all-day in person meeting to allow time to meet the short-listed candidates.
See above as to 2027 dates.

DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/GROUPS:
Not applicable

FURTHER DETAILS:
Please see the relevant regulations which can be found on the Church of Scotland website:

Nomination of the Moderator of the General Assembly Regulations: Regs II 2013

Office of the Moderator of the General Assembly Regulations: Regs II 2013