

Title: Amendments to Section 8 of the General Board Standing Rules

Origin: Governance Committee

Background and Information:

The Governance Committee at its February 28-March 2, 2010 meeting worked to create Section 9 regarding the re-election of the General Minister and President. The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the time limits for each step of the process. The Governance Committee recommends that instead of the rules indicated how much time can be spent on each step that the leadership be trusted to have the spiritual maturity to discern how much time is needed to build consensus toward faithful decisions. The following amendments substitute the word time for references to the number of hours or minutes.

8. Procedures for the Calling and Election of the General Minister and President

8.1. Role of the Administrative Committee

- 8.1.1. Select the members of the Search Committee (See 8.2).
- 8.1.2. Establish the qualifications of the General Minister and President.
- 8.1.3. Receive the list of candidates from the Search Committee and conduct interviews of candidates (See 8.6).
- 8.1.4. Nominate a candidate to the General Board for approval and forwarding the candidate to the General Assembly for calling and election.
- 8.1.5. Carry out these functions (7.1.1, 2, 3, 4) in the following manner:
 - 8.1.5.1. The Administrative Committee shall docket ~~2 hours~~ an appropriate amount of time in Executive Session to be used in seeking God's counsel for the future direction and leadership of the church.
 - 8.1.5.2. At the beginning of the Executive Session of the Administrative Committee, the outgoing General Minister and President shall be asked to briefly address the Administrative Committee.

8.2. The Membership of the Search Committee for the Selection of Nominees for General Minister and President

- 8.2.1. The Search Committee shall consist of 11 persons and 1 alternate with at least 6 of these 12 being persons of color¹ as consistent with the Executive Search Model.²
- 8.2.2. Shall be composed as follows:
 - 8.2.2.1. The Moderators of the General Assembly.
 - 8.2.2.2. Three members of the Administrative Committee's continuing class as elected by the Administrative Committee, one of whom shall be appointed chair by the Moderator.
 - 8.2.2.3. Five members of the General Board nominated as follows:

¹ Consideration of persons of color should include (but is not limited to) participation in the recognized racial / ethnic ministries.

² The Executive Search Model is a policy of the General Board.

8.2.2.3.1. The Moderators will nominate a list of 10 members of the General Board's continuing class, of which The Administrative Committee will elect 5 plus 1 alternate in the following manner:

8.2.2.3.1.1. Each Administrative Committee member will vote for 5 candidates. If 5 candidates receive a majority of the votes, those candidates are elected. If more than 5 receive a majority of total votes then the top five candidates are elected. If less than 5 receive a majority, those receiving a majority are elected, the remaining members are voted for the open position(s) with each Administrative Committee member having a number of votes equal to the number of open positions. This process continues until all 5 positions are filled in accordance 7.2.1.

8.2.2.4. An Alternate

8.2.2.4.1. The person from among the 10 General Board nominees receiving the largest vote total, but not otherwise elected for the Search Committee shall be designated as alternate without vote.

8.2.2.4.2. The alternate shall attend all meetings and serve in the event of the death or resignation of 1 of the 11 voting members.

8.3. Search Committee Process

8.3.1. The Search Committee shall use the Executive Search Model as approved by the General Board.

8.3.2. Gathering of Information:

8.3.2.1. The Search Committee shall seek input from members of the Council of General Ministries, the College of Regional Ministers, and congregations.

8.3.2.2. Staff from the General Office shall be excused from any participation in this or any other phase of the search, nomination, and election process, except where specifically requested by the Search Committee.

8.3.3. The Search Committee shall employ its own staff and shall have funds made available through the Office of the General Minister and President.

8.4. Soliciting of Names

8.4.1. The Search Committee shall solicit names from general ministries, institutions, regions, and members of the church at large.

8.4.2. The Search Committee, through denominational publications including but not limited to general and regional church communications, shall make requests for receiving written suggestions of names.

8.4.3. Potential candidates must be in the Search and Call system of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

8.5. Interviews

8.5.1. The Search Committee shall interview as many persons as it deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

8.5.2. Written statements, the content of which is determined by the Search Committee, are required from persons selected for interviews and forwarded to the appropriate bodies.

8.6. Search Committee Nominees

- 8.6.1. The Search Committee shall forward a list of at least 2 but not more than 5 nominees to the Administrative Committee.
- 8.6.2. The Search Committee shall forward to the Administrative Committee each nominee's written statement, a concise statement of qualifications, and biographical information including a physician's letter indicating fitness for duty based on the General Minister and Presidents job description.
- 8.6.3. The screener's report as required by the Executive Search Model shall be provided to the Administrative Committee on the proposed candidates.
- 8.6.4. This information is to be sent to the Administrative Committee as soon as possible, but no less than seven days before Administrative Committee voting, thus enabling voters to maximize their knowledge of the nominees.

8.7. The Administrative Committee Nominating Process

- 8.7.1. For the purpose of nominating the candidate, the Administrative Committee shall:
 - 8.7.1.1. Declare itself in executive session. With the exception of the Search Committee, all other guests, non-voting members and the General Minister and President shall be excused.
 - 8.7.1.2. The Executive Session will take place at an appropriate mid-place in its meeting agenda for the purpose of selecting a nominee.
 - 8.7.1.3. Interview each of the persons presented by the Search Committee
 - 8.7.1.4. Select a nominee by ballot, with a two-thirds majority of the votes of those present being required for nomination as follows:
 - 8.7.1.4.1. ~~Up to 45 minutes~~Time is allotted for discussion with each member of the Administrative Committee casting a secret ballot for his/her first choice.
 - 8.7.1.4.2. If a candidate receives two-thirds vote or more of the votes cast, that person is the nominee.
 - 8.7.1.4.3. If there are more than two candidates and there is no two-thirds vote, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the ballot and a new ballot taken on those who remain.
 - 8.7.1.4.4. Re-balloting shall continue if necessary, and the persons with the fewest votes will be removed from the ballot each time until only two candidates remain.
 - 8.7.1.4.5. In this process of arriving at two candidates, a tie for the fewest votes would mean a new vote among those tied to see which shall continue as a candidate.
 - 8.7.1.4.6. When the ballot is between two candidates and neither receives a two-thirds majority, ~~up to 45 minutes~~time shall be allotted for additional consideration of the candidates prior to a second ballot between the two.
 - 8.7.1.4.7. If a third ballot is required, ~~up to 30 minutes~~time shall be allotted for discussion.
 - 8.7.1.4.8. When no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds majority, the Administrative Committee shall request the Search

Committee to present a new list of persons willing and qualified to serve as General Minister and President.

8.7.1.4.9. Upon receipt of the names, the process shall be repeated (See Section 7.4, 5, 6, 7).

8.8. When the Administrative Committee has a nominee

8.8.1. Before submitting the name to the General Board, provisional negotiations concerning terms of employment and transition may begin.

8.8.2. The Moderators shall be authorized to conduct confidential negotiations with the candidate and the candidate's employer.

8.8.3. The Moderators shall consult with the appropriate staff member in the Office of the General Minister and President regarding personnel policies and the Employment Agreement with the candidate.

8.8.4. The Moderators shall forward to the General Board within two days of the Administrative Committee's decision the written statement, biographical description, and concise statement of qualifications.

8.9. The Role of the General Board Regarding the Search Committee

8.9.1. Confirms the members of the Search Committee.

8.9.2. If the General Board does not confirm the committee.

8.9.2.1. The Administrative Committee shall reconvene to name a new committee as per Section 7.2 of these rules.

8.10. The Role of the General Board Regarding the Candidate

8.10.1. The General Board shall convene in Executive Session, and include all ex-officio members of the General Board and the Search Committee. At the beginning of the Executive Session, the outgoing General Minister and President shall be asked to briefly address the General Board.

8.10.2. The General Board shall use the following process regarding the Administrative Committee's nominee:

8.10.2.1. Review the nominee's written statement, and the concise statement of qualifications and biographical information as provided by the Search Committee.

8.10.2.2. At an appropriate mid-place on the Board's docket, the chairperson of the Search Committee shall present for the General Board a detailed summary of the process to this point, present the nominee of the Administrative Committee, and field all questions in discussion and debate.

8.10.2.3. The General Board shall provide an opportunity for members of the General Board to engage in dialogue with the candidate.

8.10.2.4. The vote to "forward the name" of the nominee to the General Assembly for election and call to ministry shall be taken.

8.10.2.5. The vote requires a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

8.10.2.6. The vote shall be by ballot.

8.10.2.7. Following a favorable vote the nominee shall be invited to make formal remarks to the General Board.

8.10.3. When a nominee has been selected by the General Board, normal procedures of notification of congregations shall be followed.³

8.10.4. If, in unusual circumstances, it is impossible to notify congregations, the General Board by a two-thirds vote may forward the name directly to the General Assembly.

8.11. Failure to Approve

If the General Board does not approve the nominee, then the Administrative Committee shall take immediate steps to present another nominee. (See Section 7.7ff)

8.12. The Role of General Assembly Regarding the Nominee

8.12.1. As an Order of the Day the General Assembly business agenda, the chairperson of the Search Committee shall:

8.12.1.1. Present a detailed summary of the process,

8.12.1.2. Share the biography and credentials of the nominee and

8.12.1.3. Answer all questions in discussion and debate.

8.12.1.4. The Moderator shall proceed to a ballot vote on the business item.

8.12.1.5. A two-thirds majority of votes cast by ballot shall be required for election.

8.12.1.6. Upon election, the General Minister and President-elect shall be given time to address the General Assembly.

8.12.1.7. In the event a two-thirds majority vote is not reached by the assembly, the Administrative Committee shall be responsible under *The Design* for taking the necessary steps to select another nominee for presentation to the next General Assembly.

8.12.1.8. The Administrative Committee shall proceed to name a General Minister and President to act until the next General Assembly.

Recommended Action:

That the General Board approves the Governance Committee's recommendations and modifies the Standing Rules of the General Board.

³ Paragraph 44 of *The Design*