

**Title:** Amendments to the Standing Rules: Section 9 - A Process for Re-Election of the General Minister and President

**Origin:** Governance Committee

**Background and Information:**

After the 2009 General Assembly, General Minister and President Sharon Watkins, requested that Larry Brown, Moderator (2009-2011) and Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and Vice President, review the process approved by the General Board in 1998 to recommend re-election of a General Minister and President. Using GB-98-1584, *Proposed Process for Re-Election of a General Minister and President*, approved in January 1998, as the foundation for their review, Larry Brown and Todd Adams submitted business item AC-09-2017, *Amendments to the Process for Re-election and Calling of a General Minister and President*, to the Administrative Committee at their October 2009 meeting. The business item, which contained updates and changes to the 1998 process, was approved.

There are three goals of the re-election process.

1. To provide members of the Administrative Committee with information from across the life of our church to assist it in making the decision regarding whether or not to recommend the re-election of the current General Minister and President (GMP).
2. To provide the current GMP with input from across the life of our church, concerning vision, style of work, and priorities, including recommendations for the next term of service (if elected).
3. To provide an opportunity to introduce, or re-introduce, to the whole church the GMP and her/his vision for our church as it has developed over her/his first term of service.

It was also recommended at the October 2009 Administrative Committee, meeting, that the process be forwarded to the Governance Committee of the General Board for addition to the General Board's Standing Rules. The Governance Committee recommends that the following process be added as Section 9 of the General Board's Standing Rules.

**9. Process for Re-election of a General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)****9.1. The Role of the Administrative Committee regarding the Review/Search and Call Committee:**

- 9.1.1. Receive from the General Minister and President a statement declaring her/his intent to stand before the church for re-election.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> It is assumed the General Minister and President discernment process will include consultation with church leaders including the Pastoral Table.

9.1.2. Declare itself in executive session, including non-voting members, for the purposes of:

9.1.2.1. Voting to initiate or not initiate the re-election process, including a review of the timeline for implementation.

9.1.2.2. Initiating the process outlined in Section 8.2 to establish the Review/Search and Call Committee.

## **9.2. The Role of the Administrative Committee Regarding Forwarding the Name**

9.2.1. For the purpose of nominating the candidate, the Administrative Committee shall:

9.2.1.1. Declare itself in executive session including non-voting members and the Review/Search and Call Committee. All other guests shall be excused.

9.2.1.2. Meet with the General Minister and President to review the information from the Review/Search and Call committee, before excusing the Review/Search and Call Committee and the General Minister and President.

9.2.1.3. Use the following process:

9.2.1.3.1. Allot time for discussion.

9.2.1.3.2. Use a secret ballot to vote to confirm or not confirm the re-election of the current General Minister and President.

9.2.1.3.3. If the candidate does not receive the necessary two-thirds majority, the Administrative Committee shall request the Search and Call Committee<sup>2</sup> to commence a search for a new candidate who can serve a full term, using the process outlined in Section 8.

9.2.1.3.4. If the candidate is approved by a two-thirds majority vote, a business item should be forwarded to the General Board and General Assembly<sup>3</sup> as outlined in sections 9.5ff.

## **9.3. Role of the Review / Search Committee**

9.3.1. The Review Committee shall be established like a Search Committee as described in Section 8.2 so that the Review Committee can serve as a Search and Call Committee, if needed.

9.3.2. Forward a questionnaire to at least the following:

9.3.2.1. All members of the General Board who served during the GMP's first term.

9.3.2.2. All regional ministers and General Ministry Presidents, the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation, the National Hispanic Pastor, and the Executive Pastor of North American Pacific Asian Disciples.

9.3.2.3. Elected President or Chair of the following constituency groups: International Disciples Women, General Conference of Disciples Men, General Youth Council, and Young Adult Commission.

9.3.2.4. Chief executive officers of Disciples-related theological education institutions that receive Disciples Mission Fund support.

9.1.1.1. Chief Executive Officers of Disciples-related undergraduate institutions that receive Disciples Mission Fund support.

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<sup>2</sup> Formerly referred to as the Review/Search and Call Committee.

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 44 of *The Design*

- 9.1.1.2. All former Moderators and Vice-Moderators who have served during the GMP's current term.
- 9.1.1.3. 5 ecumenical peers
- 9.1.1.4. Members from 25 local congregations. In selecting the congregations, the Review/Search and Call Committee shall give consideration to racial/ethnic diversity, age of the congregation, geographic location, and ministry setting.
- 9.1.2. The questionnaire shall be designed in such a manner as to evaluate the GMP's leadership and shall include topics such as:
  - 9.1.2.1. Pastoral/Spiritual leadership;
  - 9.1.2.2. Administrative leadership;
  - 9.1.2.3. Communication skills;
  - 9.1.2.4. Vision for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
  - 9.1.2.5. Other information to share with the Review/Search and Call Committee; and
  - 9.1.2.6. Recommendations to the GMP regarding the next term.
- 9.2. The Role of the General Board Regarding the Review/Search and Call Committee**
  - 9.2.1. Confirms the members of the Review/Search and Call Committee.
  - 9.2.2. If the General Board does not confirm the committee, the Administrative Committee shall reconvene to name a new committee as per Section 8.2 of these rules.
- 9.3. The Role of the General Board Regarding the Candidate for Re-election**
  - 9.3.1. The General Board shall convene in Executive Session and include all ex-officio members of the General Board and the Review/Search and Call Committee. The General Board shall use the following process regarding the Administrative Committee's nominee:
    - 9.3.1.1. The chairperson of the Search Committee shall present for the General Board a detailed summary of the process to this point, present the recommendation of the Administrative Committee regarding re-election, and field all questions in discussion and debate.
    - 9.3.1.2. The nominee shall address the General Board regarding re-election and her/his goals for the next term of service.
    - 9.3.1.3. Members of the General Board shall engage in dialogue with the nominee.
    - 9.3.1.4. The vote to "forward the name" to the General Assembly for re-election shall be taken via secret ballot.
    - 9.3.1.5. The vote requires a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.
  - 9.3.2. When a nominee is selected the General Board shall communicate its decision to the church.
  - 9.3.3. The General Board, by a two-thirds vote, may forward the name directly to the General Assembly, in the case of unusual circumstances that prevented congregations from being notified.
  - 9.3.4. Failure to Approve
    - If the General Board does not approve the nominee, the Administrative Committee shall follow the steps in Section 8.7ff.

#### **9.4. The Role of General Assembly Regarding the Nominee**

- 9.4.1. As an Order of the Day on the General Assembly business agenda,
  - 9.4.1.1. The chairperson of the Search Committee shall:
    - 9.4.1.1.1. Present a detailed summary of the re-election process,
    - 9.4.1.1.2. Share the biography and credentials of the nominee,
    - 9.4.1.1.3. Invite the nominee to speak to the Assembly about her/his plans for another term,
    - 9.4.1.1.4. Answer questions in discussion and debate.<sup>4</sup>
  - 9.4.1.2. The Moderator shall proceed to a ballot vote on the business item.
  - 9.4.1.3. A two-thirds majority of votes cast by ballot shall be required for election.
  - 9.4.1.4. In the event a two-thirds majority vote is not reached by the assembly, the Administrative Committee shall:
    - 9.4.1.4.1. Inform the nominee of the failure to be re-elected
    - 9.4.1.4.2. Appoint a person who shall serve as General Minister and President to serve until the next General Assembly.<sup>5</sup>
    - 9.4.1.4.3. Take the necessary steps, according to *The Design*, to select another nominee for presentation to the next General Assembly.

#### **Recommended Action:**

That section 9 – A Process for Re-Election of the General Minister and President be added to the General Board Standing Rules.

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<sup>4</sup> See Section 7 of the Special Rules for Procedure of the General Assembly.

<sup>5</sup> Reference Design para re: qualifications of the GMP