

2012 Commissioner Candidates

**General Assembly Commissioner
Nomination Form for Elders**

Name: James C. Allison

Church: Pines _____ Member of this church since 1988 _____

Give a brief statement of faith:

At its core, my faith reflects two foundational affirmations, each with an accompanying duty. First, God is Sovereign; our proper response is therefore worship and obedience. Second, God created all that is, going so far as to create human beings in his own image; our proper response is to provide to every other aspect of creation the respect and care properly due the creation (and property) of the Sovereign; in particular, we owe every other human being the respect and care due one created in God's image. In Jesus we see the exemplar of a human who lives up to the dual requirements of obedience and justice. Even more shockingly, in Jesus we also see God – God incarnate. Although we are in the image of God, we are not God, and we have sinned. Having sinned, we are unable on our own to fulfill the dual requirements. But God is gracious beyond our comprehension, and forgives our sins, calling us to both salvation and service.

List service in your congregation:

Ordained as an Elder at Pines, have served three terms on session. Have led the training for elders-elect for the last 8 years.

Currently a Trustee. Have taught an adult Sunday School class for 20 years. Play with the Pines orchestra.

List service in New Covenant Presbytery:

Member, Equipping Ministry (two terms, Moderator for two years)

Member Permanent Judicial Committee

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? No _____ When? _____

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly by attending the presbytery's commissioner training, studying the materials for your assigned committee, taking an active part in GA committee deliberations and voting on all overtures and elections during GA Plenary session when you become a GA commissioner?
Yes ___

Are you willing to attend the full time the General Assembly is in session? Yes _____

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions? Yes _____

N.B. If you are selected by the Nominations Committee to stand for election at the October 2011 Presbytery meeting, the above information will be provided to all delegates to the presbytery meeting in advance of the election.

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer? Yes _

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected?

Why would you like to be a Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly?

I have frequently been a commissioner to Presbytery meetings even while not serving on session, and have participated in the controversial discussions that have consumed so much of our energy. I am concerned that we as a denomination have not succeeded in focusing on obedience and justice simultaneously, and I hope to help Presbyterians discover and engage in practices of discernment so that we can focus our attention more on our ministry.

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know?

N.B. If you are selected by the Nominations Committee to stand for election at the October 2011 Presbytery meeting, the above information will be provided to all delegates to the presbytery meeting in advance of the election.

General Assembly Commissioner
Nomination Form for Elders

Name: JASON REED

Church: FPC PASADENA, TX Member of this church since 2011

Give a brief statement of faith:
SEE ATTACHED

List service in your congregation:
HAVE SERVED ON (2) SESSIONS, (1) PNC, CARING COMMITTEE CHAIR, PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, VISION DISCERNMENT TEAM, SS TEACHER, CLERK OF SESSION
List service in New Covenant Presbytery:
ELDER COMMISSIONER

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? NO When? _____

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly by attending the presbytery's commissioner training, studying the materials for your assigned committee, taking an active part in GA committee deliberations and voting on all overtures and elections during GA Plenary session when you become a GA commissioner?
YES

Are you willing to attend the full time the General Assembly is in session? YES

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions? YES

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer? YES

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected?
FPC PASADENA HAS HAD IT'S SHARE OF PASTORAL TURNOVER AND ^{TURMOIL} ~~TURNOVER~~ OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS. I THINK I COULD BRING SOME INSIGHT INTO TRANSITIONS WITHIN CHURCHES.

Why would you like to be a Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly?
I LOVE OUR DENOMINATION AND WORRY ABOUT IT'S FUTURE. I WANT TO DO ALL I CAN TO HELP PRESERVE WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE.

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know?

N.B. If you are selected by the Nominations Committee to stand for election at the October 2011 Presbytery meeting, the above information will be provided to all delegates to the presbytery meeting in advance of the election.

Brief Statement of Faith

By Jason Reed

I ran from or ignored the role that God plays in my life for the majority of my life. I was raised in a Christian family but one with a multitude of denominations/religious affiliations which thrived on the "My way or the Highway" mentality. Unfortunately, this mentality pushed me away from God as it, unfortunately, continues to do so to many yearning for the love and understanding that comes with Jesus Christ

My true life as a Christian began in October of 2001 when my oldest son (now twelve years old) and I were baptized at First Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, Texas. Though I have bouts of what I call "Faith Troughs" where my faith is tested, my love for Jesus Christ continues to grow. As a result, I was ordained an Elder in 2004 and have served on (2) Sessions, a PNC and various committees/ministries. Before taking a break this past fall, I had facilitated an Adult Sunday School class for 7 years.

Who is Jesus Christ to me? Jesus Christ is the nucleus of my life that makes all things possible. Jesus' love for us is as true today as it was when the Scriptures were written. Those that love and honor Him while attempting to live the Christ-like life shall be rewarded here on Earth as well as Heaven. I believe that Jesus died on the cross not so we can point out the differences between us. He died on the cross so we could love one another in spite of these differences. That is the Jesus Christ that I believe in.

General Assembly Commissioner Nomination Form for Ministers

Name: Rev. Blake Brinegar _____

Church: Westminster, Houston _____

Member of New Covenant Presbytery since August, 2003 _____

Give a brief a statement of faith:

See Attached

List title and responsibilities in your congregation:

I am the Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. I lead worship weekly, preach weekly, teach a Bible Study to women of the church, lead Sr. Hi Sunday School, serve as a Youth Advisor, provide Pastoral Care and Counseling, Moderate the Session, Resource the teams in our church. Assist in the Food Pantry, work with the Mother's Day Out program in our Church.

List service in New Covenant Presbytery and/or previous presbyteries:

Currently, I chair the Ministries Division Steering Committee, I am a member of General Council, the Vision Steering Team, the Stewardship Committee, and the Audit Committee.

I have served on the Senior Adult Ministries Committee, Connecting Ministries, Congregational Resourcing Team, and was a Presbytery Representative for Older Adult Ministries for Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network. I was also the chair of Congregational Resourcing Team for a couple of years. I also served on the planning team for the Church Officer Enrichment for two years.

I have moderated the Sessions of FPC, Sealy, and currently moderate the Session of Heritage Presbyterian Church. I serve on the Transition Team at Heritage Presbyterian Church as well.

I have taught classes at Christian Connections and Church Officer Enrichment.

I have led worship for the Presbytery staff, at a Small Church Conference, and presided at the Lord's Table at Heritage Presbyterian Church.

I have been a resource to other Teaching Elders in our Presbytery who have found themselves moving to part-time or are contemplating moving to part-time.

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? No **When?** _____

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly?
Yes

Are you willing to attend the full-time the General Assembly is in session? Yes

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions?
Yes

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer? Yes

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected?

I have a desire to see the Presbyterian Church USA stay together as much as this is possible. I have worked with groups from all different perspectives within the denomination, and have done the best I can to understand where the different perspectives are coming from, what their concerns are, and have a desire to do what I can to address those concerns. Even if it means presenting them, when I may or may not share those concerns. I see this as an opportunity to listen to the movement of the Holy Spirit, and discern the Will of God at the time of the vote. I will listen to what is said, both for and against, an amendment and prayerfully consider what God is leading the denomination to do at the time of the vote, and not arrive in Pittsburgh with my mind made up. This is a very difficult time in the life of the denomination, and I seem to be attracted to the difficult situations, and enjoy working in the midst of difficulty and opposition.

Why would you like to be a Minister Commissioner to the General Assembly?

I believe in the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church USA and want to be a part of that process. I would love to be a representative of this Presbytery at the General Assembly, and continuing my service to this denomination at the highest level. This is probably one of the greatest honors to be bestowed on individuals and was very excited to be asked, and given the opportunity to serve at this level. I also see this opportunity as a gift from God, a call from God to serve at this level, and will take it seriously.

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know?

Statement of Faith Blake Brinegar

I believe in God the Father, the creator of all things, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit. I believe God is not finished with creation, as scripture reminds us, "That the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." I experience God as caring, nurturing, accepting, and slow to anger. I believe and experience most encounters with God through ordinary order and structure. Our faith and relationship with God is a lifelong process, not something to be accomplished but a continual process of deepening one's relationship with God.

The manifestation of God is through the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was fully human, fully divine, the incarnate Son of God. The ministry of Jesus was to spread the Good News of God's will for the world. Jesus accepted all that was asked or expected of him, including death on a cross, dying for the forgiveness of sins. I celebrate in the assurance of Jesus' resurrection, showing that God is ultimately victorious over sin and death. Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. We turn away from God and try to separate ourselves from the love of God. I believe nothing can separate us from the love of God, as is illustrated in Jesus' life and ministry-God is always with us.

God is with us through the Holy Spirit. I experience God's communication with God's children through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is what guides, nurtures, and challenges us to live an acceptable life. In remembering we have God's presence with us and we are children of God, we are to spread the spirit and the Good News of the Gospel to the world. We are charged, as disciples, to continue to offer the gift of God in Jesus Christ by making new disciples. We do this through mission work with those in our community, our country, and around the world.

Besides Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we also experience God through the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which have stood the test of time. This is the Word of God as it speaks to every one of us. The Bible should be interpreted with humility and love for one another. I believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God, an authoritative guide of how we are to live.

Throughout human history, God has related to humanity, first by leading the Israelites then in the Incarnation of Jesus. God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. God's purpose and power are endless, which adds to God's mystery and awesomeness. God, having created us in God's image, challenges us to use our minds and faith in relating to all of humanity. We are called to be good stewards of what God has given us. We have been entrusted with the responsibility of caring for God's creation.

In addition to relating to humanity, God works through the church, the body of Christ. Our Justification, our no longer being separated from God by sin, is secured based on our faith, rather than works or merit. I do not believe we earn God's love, but that it is a freely given gift bestowed on us in Grace. The function of the community of believers is multi-faceted. We are a means through which God works. The community helps us help each other live lives that are more faithful. We are to work on issues of social justice, ensuring all peoples the basic necessities of a life of dignity.

Through our life together in congregations, presbyteries, and as Presbyterians we are not alone. We belong to the larger community of believers, the church universal, comprised of believers around the world and throughout time. The outward way we indicate our entrance into this community is through the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is the sign God first chose us, even before we could make our own profession.

The Lord's Table does not belong to a specific church, but rather to Jesus. When we partake in the Lord's Supper, the pastor on behalf of Jesus Christ offers the invitation. Jesus is spiritually present in the elements. As the bread is broken and the cup poured, we are reminded of the brokenness of Christ's body on the cross. In this act, we share with the faithful around the world, which joins us together, including the saints who have gone before us. In this Sacrament, we seek reconciliation with those around us, as well rededicate ourselves afresh to follow Christ.

[Type text]

General Assembly Commissioner Nomination Form for Minister

Name: Robert F. Murphy, Jr.

Church: FPC, Conroe, TX Member of New Covenant Presbytery since 2007

Give a brief a statement of faith:

I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who is actively involved in the church and world. I believe the Holy Spirit sustains and guides us. I believe Scripture is God's Word, revealing God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. I believe the church is the body of Christ at work in the world, reconciling the world by God's mercy. I believe I am a sinner, forgiven by God's saving act in Jesus Christ and, therefore, I am called to share the Good News with others.

List title and responsibilities in your congregation: Interim Pastor

- A. Plan, lead, and preach in Sunday worship services.
- B. Provide pastoral care to sick and homebound.
- C. Plan and moderate Session and congregational meetings.
- D. Work with Session, committees and church organizations.
- E. Train newly elected officers.
- F. Supervise the various staff members with the Personnel Committee.
- G. Exercise general oversight of church facilities through the Session.
- H. Represent the church with presbytery, church, and community organizations.

List service in New Covenant Presbytery and/or previous presbyteries:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Committee on Ministry – South Alabama
Presbytery moderator – South Alabama

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? Yes When? 1990, 2002

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly? Yes

Are you willing to attend the full-time the General Assembly is in session? Yes

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions? Yes

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer?
Yes

[Type text]

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected?
I believe in God's reconciling power to work within the church, and I have a deep hope and love for the PC(USA).

Why would you like to be a Minister Commissioner to the General Assembly?
I want to be a witness to God's reforming activity in the church, and I would like to be an effective leader in working toward peace and hope in the denomination. I believe I can hear and speak to all viewpoints.

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know?
I would be honored to serve Christ and the Church as a commissioner. Also, I would welcome being an ambassador between the General Assembly and Presbytery.

General Assembly Commissioner Nomination Form for Ministers

Name: Jeffery H Smith

Church: St. Andrew's Houston

Member of New Covenant Presbytery since 2002

Give a brief a statement of faith:

I believe in the one and only all-sufficient, mysterious, eternal triune God- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that our intimate organic relationship with this God comes through the Son, Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. I trust in our Scripture. Since by the power of the Holy Spirit Scripture comes alive in the heart of the believer, it is utterly trustworthy as a tool for guidance in answer to all this life has to offer. Through the gift of faith I am indelibly connected to the community of Christ's Body: the Church. The cardinal activity of the Church is ensuring the divine worship of the triune God through the preaching of the Word and the administering of the sacraments; the signs and seals of salvation made visible in Baptism and the Eucharist. This Body is not a place for people who think they are perfect to boast in their spiritual and moral successes. Rather, it is a place for alienated, hurting, broken, imperfect and self-conscious children to come to a perfect, self-sacrificing, all-loving God to be reconciled and healed by the sacrifice of the Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore the Church's mission in any age is to reveal to the world this reconciliation and Life made available in Jesus Christ.

List title and responsibilities in your congregation:

Head pastor, responsible for prayerfully working in conjunction with session to remain in step with the Spirit as we seek to usher in His Kingdom. Responsibilities include: moderator of session, preaching, pastoral care, managing staff, teaching, visioning, prayer, study

List service in New Covenant Presbytery and/or previous presbyteries:

Served as chair of Evangelism Renewal Committee 2009, 2010

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? No When? _____

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly? Yes

Are you willing to attend the full-time the General Assembly is in session? Yes

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions? Yes

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer? yes

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected? None

Why would you like to be a Minister Commissioner to the General Assembly?

To learn and understand more of how our denomination functions at the national level. To prayerfully participate in the decision making that God is calling our denomination to consider.

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know?

It would be my privilege to represent New Covenant Presbytery at the 2012 General Assembly.

General Assembly Commissioner Nomination Form for Elders

Name: Jennifer Carr

Church: Webster Presbyterian Church **Member of this church since** 1966

Give a brief statement of faith:

I grew up in Webster Presbyterian church and church life has always been a large part of my upbringing. I believe in the Holy Trinity. I believe it is not only duty but my privilege to serve as an elder in the church and represent the will of Christ. I believe that we are all children of God, embraced by God and we all bring our diversities to the table regardless of race or sexual orientation. I believe we are each encouraged to use our gifts or means to strengthen the church and we should all share each others burdens.

List service in your congregation:

Served as elder for Stewardship & Finance for 2 years and elder for Fellowship for 1 year in my first term on Session. I started my second term on Session in January and am elder for Fellowship. I have served on the Fellowship team since 2002 as well as been involved with the Mission committee in bringing Family Promise to Webster.

List service in New Covenant Presbytery:

I am on the board of More Light Presbyterians and have served for the past 5 years.

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? NO When? _____

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly by attending the presbytery's commissioner training, studying the materials for your assigned committee, taking an active part in GA committee deliberations and voting on all overtures and elections during GA Plenary session when you become a GA commissioner? YES

Are you willing to attend the full time the General Assembly is in session? YES

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions? YES

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer? YES

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected?

I think I bring fresh eyes, ears and ideas to GA and I believe anyone who seeks to serve his/her faith in this way ought to have the opportunity to serve.

Why would you like to be an Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly?

This will be my first experience as a commissioner, but I have attended 2 past GA's as an observer in 2006 & 2008. I am very excited to be able to serve my faith in this way and am looking forward to hearing and learning more about how all things Presbyterian work.

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know?

N.B. If you are selected by the Nominations Committee to stand for election at the October 2011 Presbytery meeting, the above information will be provided to all delegates to the presbytery meeting in advance of the election.

**General Assembly Commissioner
Nomination Form for Ministers**

Name: Mary Miller Currie

Church: FPC, Navasota

Member of New Covenant Presbytery since 1995

Give a brief a statement of faith:

Genesis and the Gospel of John both remind us "In the beginning...God..." The Creator God whose Spirit moves over the chaos as God's Word is spoken to bring order and purpose to that chaos is the God who holds all of creation and all of time in his almighty hands. God describes himself this way: I am the Alpha and the Omega--the Beginning and the End; I am Who I am--I will be Who I will be. That means God--Creator, Redeemer and Spirit--still holds all of creation and all of time in his almighty hands. God can see our beginning and our end--our lives in their entirety, for he holds them in his almighty hands. God can see our joys and sorrows our struggles and our fears--and He knows what He is going to do about them.

In a day and time when the future of the church and the future of our lives seem uncertain and fearful, God is still in control. In a day and time when we argue in the church whether others say the right things with the right words; God is still in control. In a day and time when our faith seems to be trivialized, threatened, scorned or ignored, God is still in control. As it was in the beginning, so it is now: God still breathes his Spirit over the chaos of our lives, God still speaks his Word of salvation, still calls us to follow him, still has in mind for us his future and his hope. God knows what he has in mind for us to do next as people of faith, as followers of Christ--and he is calling us to dare to follow. There's no promise our lives of faith will be easy--but they will be full: Moses and Paul who also lived in fearful and uncertain times had it right: nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ for we are still being held up by those everlasting arms.

List title and responsibilities in your congregation: Interim Pastor--resolving conflict and preparing the congregation for a healthy pastorate to follow

List service in New Covenant Presbytery and/or previous presbyteries: New Covenant: present: General Council, Volunteer in Mission for Committee on Ministry (doing GA paperwork for ministers as they move, candidates, church changes, etc.) Past: nominating committee, Congregational Resourcing Committee, initial Ike recovery work; Connectional Ministries; Small Church network (Presbytery & Synod levels), investigative committees, conflict management/reconciliation work, Lay Academy (first organizer and director; first CLP research for PCUSA)

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? yes When? 1998 (vice-chair of evangelism committee), 1988 (Mission Presbytery) 1978 (PCUS assembly as seminary page)

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly? yes

Are you willing to attend the full-time the General Assembly is in session? yes

General Assembly Commissioner Nomination Form for Ministers

Name: Victoria Jones

Church: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Houston

Member of New Covenant Presbytery since: 1986

Give a brief a statement of faith:

This world – and certainly we ourselves – exist in order to give glory to God revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was out of God's love that the world was created, in Christ, and in that love – actually in Him - it is redeemed and sustained. At the center of this history is the cross, where a great reversal was needed because of sin – Jesus's righteousness exchanged for our sin, his taking our place of punishment so that we might live even now as God's adopted sons and daughters exhibiting a new Christ-centered reality and kingdom to the world in acts of witness and compassion. Our work is in this world and to its people and yet we are always encouraged because we look with eagerness and hope toward the full revelation of this love story not only when we each might see God clearly, face to face, but as well when the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ.

List title and responsibilities in your congregation:

Associate Pastor, Equipping Ministries – Adult Education Sunday morning and mid-week classes, Senior Ministries, small groups, MDPC Books

List service in New Covenant Presbytery and/or previous presbyteries:

2011-	Synod Commissioner, Governance Work Group
2006-2007	Synod Commissioner, Operations Work Group
1999-2004	Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of New Covenant
1995-1998	Chair and Member, GA Advisory Committee for International Evangelism
1991-1998	Coordinator of Mission, Presbytery of New Covenant
1990-1991	Coordinator, Interim Pastor monthly gatherings
1988-1990	Member of PNC Mediator Team

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? Yes When? 1984

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly? Yes

Are you willing to attend the full-time the General Assembly is in session? Yes

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions? Yes

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer?
Yes

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected?

I look forward to working as a commissioner on important governance and theological issues in light of the overarching responsibility of the PCUSA to be salt and light to a new generation in our communities and in the world.

Why would you like to be a Minister Commissioner to the General Assembly?

Having worked in small and large churches as a clergywoman for twenty-five years, and also for seven as staff in this Presbytery, I believe that I could prayerfully contribute to the work and actions of the Assembly.

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know?

It is a great honor and privilege to be considered as a commissioner.

General Assembly Commissioner Nomination Form for Elders

Name: LINDA GAIL NORTHERN

Church: ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Member of this church since 1965

Give a brief statement of faith:

..I believe in God, the father and creator, Jesus Christ, my personal savior and the embodiment of God on earth and in the Holy Spirit that lives within me and around me as a comforter, a reminder of how loved I am and as a constant source of strength.

..I believe that responsibility comes with the gift of grace. I am to share the good news of Jesus Christ, nurture the earth, love my fellow man, protect and care for all living beings and live a worthwhile life.

..I believe that judgment is in God's hands. With God I can do whatever he places before me. God through the Holy Spirit often comes to me through others. Jesus Christ came to earth not only to save us from sin but to show us the way to be responsible loving people and to help us understand the nature and power of God.

Your service in your congregation:

Like most members in a small church, I have served in many capacities over the years. I am an elder, a former deacon, church school teacher (babies to college age) and superintendent, vacation bible school superintendent and teacher. At the present time, I serve on the Property Ministry team and am working with our Leasing committee.

List service in New Covenant Presbytery:

I am a new member of the Center Operations committee. In the past, I served on the Camps and Conferences committee and led a Jr. High & Sr. High youth retreat (1979) on clowning and its application in the church.

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? No. Alternate 2010 When? _____

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly by attending the presbytery's commissioner training, studying the materials for your assigned committee, taking an active part in GA committee deliberations and voting on all overtures and elections during GA Plenary session when you become a GA commissioner? Yes, very willing

Are you willing to attend the full time the General Assembly is in session? Yes

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions? Yes. I will be nervous but willing.

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer? Yes.

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected?

(1). I am a questioner with a basically open mind. I like to work my way through the important and the sideline issues until I come to the heart of the subject or the bottom line. Hearing other opinions is of value as then I can balance it all and make a good decision. (2). At twenty years of age I became a Presbyterian because I believe we are individually responsible to God and the church's polity puts the church responsibility directly in the people's hands. I belong to God and I think He expects me to use my brain, common sense and compassion and move ahead.

Why would you like to be an Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly? *It encouraged and strengthened our church when one of our members represented this presbytery in the highest court. It clearly said that any Presbyterian can be a part of and fulfill the larger church's need and have input in the government to which we adhere. It would be an honor to serve as a representative of our presbytery and as a small church elder.*

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know? *Thank you for the opportunity and I will work hard to represent this presbytery to the best of my abilities.*

N.B. If you are selected by the Nominations Committee to stand for election at the October 2011 Presbytery meeting, the above information will be provided to all delegates to the presbytery meeting in advance of the election.

General Assembly Commissioner Nomination Form for Elders

Name: Nell S. Schwartz

Church: Southminster PC, Missouri City Member of this church since 1993

Give a brief statement of faith:

I believe in one God, Whom Christians throughout the ages have understood as three in one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that this God is much greater than our efforts to conceptualize God could ever be. God created humankind to love and to live in fellowship with God and with all creation, but humans chose to break fellowship with God and pursue their selfish desires rather than live in God's will, thus bringing pain and death into God's creation. I believe that God took on human flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, who made manifest God's love, wisdom, and righteousness while physically present on earth, and whose sacrificial death and bodily resurrection made the way for us to again live in relationship with God. I believe that at the end of time Jesus Christ will come again to earth and will rule the new heaven and new earth that He has redeemed. I believe that God's Holy Spirit calls and draws us to God, puts a longing for God in our hearts, draws us together in fellowship, and reveals God's wisdom to us as we humbly and sincerely seek to be led by God. I believe that we can understand God's will for us by humbly searching God's word to us, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, with a teachable spirit, using the interpretive tools and scholarship available to us but seeking in our study to know God, not just know about God. I also believe the Holy Spirit reveals God's love to us in Christ's spiritual presence as we celebrate the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

I believe that God calls and equips men and women for all ministries of the church and for service to others in God's world. I am forever grateful that before I could know God, God knew me, and chose and called me to be one of God's own.

List service in your congregation:

Two terms on session (current chair, Worship Committee), choir, Pastor Nominating Committee, communion preparation, teaching adult Sunday School, organized and oversaw annual Spiritual Renewal Weekend twice (speakers: Dr. Ted Wardlaw and the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow), assistant cook and bottle-washer

List service in New Covenant Presbytery:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (four years), read ordination exams in Oklahoma City, served on an Investigative Committee

Have you been a Commissioner to General Assembly before? no When? _____

Are you willing to become aware of the issues to be discussed at the next General Assembly by attending the presbytery's commissioner training, studying the materials for your assigned committee, taking an active part in GA committee deliberations and voting on all overtures and elections during GA Plenary session when you become a GA commissioner?
yes

Are you willing to attend the full time the General Assembly is in session? yes

Will you be available and willing to report on the General Assembly, including a report to an appropriate meeting of Presbytery and speaking upon request to congregations/sessions? yes

Because this will be an "electronic" General Assembly, are you comfortable using a laptop computer? yes

What unique perspectives or concerns, if any, do you bring to the General Assembly if elected?

N.B. If you are selected by the Nominations Committee to stand for election at the October 2011 Presbytery meeting, the above information will be provided to all delegates to the presbytery meeting in advance of the election.

I find myself with a foot in both the progressive and evangelical camps, with many friends in both and (I'd like to think) some understanding of both the theological and social underpinnings of both groups' concerns. I am a layperson with a seminary education, which may or may not be a good thing, but I think it does give me a unique perspective.

Why would you like to be an Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly?

I am a cradle Presbyterian, I love the Presbyterian Church, and for years I have been curious about and interested in serving my church in this way.

What else would you like for the Nominating Committee to know?

I really have wanted to do this for years, and I will gladly jump in and do the best job I can, with God's help.

N.B. If you are selected by the Nominations Committee to stand for election at the October 2011 Presbytery meeting, the above information will be provided to all delegates to the presbytery meeting in advance of the election.