

**Stated Clerk Nomination Committee
Nomination Process Report for COGA
April 2020**

The 2020 Stated Clerk Nomination Committee (SCNC) was elected by the 223rd General Assembly (2018) in accordance with Standing Rule H.2.b.3 to bring a nominee for Stated Clerk to the 224th (2020) General Assembly. The members of the SCNC are:

Wilson Kennedy, Candidate under care of the Presbytery of New Hope, Moderator (current member, Committee on the Office of the General Assembly)

Mark Brainerd, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Grace Presbytery (current member, Presbyterian Mission Agency Board)

Harold Ellis, Ruling Elder, Presbytery of Detroit (General Assembly Commissioner)

Moon Kyung Kim, Ruling Elder, Eastern Korean Presbytery (General Assembly Commissioner)

Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbytery of Tropical Florida (current member, Committee on the Office of the General Assembly)

Amos Joel Mendez-Gutierrez, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbiterio de Noroeste. (General Assembly Commissioner)

Aimee Moiso, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. (General Assembly Commissioner)

Kevin Porter, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbytery of Philadelphia. (Mid Council Stated Clerk)

Marcia Mount Shoop, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbytery of Western North Carolina (immediate past member, Committee on the Office of the General Assembly)

Jennifer Burns Lewis, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbytery of Wabash Valley provided staff support to the SCNC.

Meetings

The SCNC met face to face on these dates:

May 13-15, 2019, Louisville, KY

September 11-12, 2019, Columbus, OH

The SCNC also held Zoom calls on July 12 and August 8, 2019 and on January 30, March 12 and April 3, 2020.

Candidate Pool Demographics

Two individuals (one Asian Male Minister of Word and Sacrament; one Black Male Minister of Word and Sacrament) requested and were sent the application materials. One individual submitted a complete application.

Selection Process Steps

Below is detailed information on the selection process used by the SCNC.

1. Conducted interviews with nine denominational leaders on their conceptions of the role of the Stated Clerk.
2. Reviewed 2015-16 Process Report, current job description, and other documents.
3. Developed a Position Description for the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), based on the committee's reflections upon interviews and documents reviewed. The position description was translated into Korean and Spanish.

POSITION DESCRIPTION
STATED CLERK OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
Revised September 2019

Position Title: The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
Agency: The Office of the General Assembly

Status: Exempt/Grade 23

Last Revision Date: September 2019

Description and Purpose of the Position: The Stated Clerk is a Minister of the Word and Sacrament or a Ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who trusts in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and abides by the unique authority of Scripture and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) The position exists to carry out the responsibilities and functions outlined in the Book of Order, the General Assembly Organization for Mission of the General Assembly , and the Standing Rules of the Meetings of the General Assembly . The work of the Stated Clerk must be undertaken as a conscious act of discipleship to Jesus Christ. As the Organization for Mission directs, “ In partial fulfillment of his/her role as the continuing ecclesial officer and Head of Communion for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Stated Clerk will offer constitutional and spiritual leadership for the life and witness of the church and exercise pastoral authority over concerns of the church in times of crisis. The Stated Clerk is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s chief ecumenical officer and its primary representative in national and international interchurch and interfaith organizations and speaks to and for the church in matters of faith and practice except as the General Assembly directs otherwise” (Organization for Mission IV.b.2.a).

The position is located in Louisville, Kentucky. Residency in the greater Louisville metropolitan area is required.

The position requires extensive travel both internationally and nationally.

Accountability: The Stated Clerk is accountable to the General Assembly (GA) and to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA). The relationship between COGA and the Stated Clerk should "...demonstrate the unity and interdependence of the church..." (G-3.0106).

Supervises: The Stated Clerk is the chief executive officer of the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and supervises the work of its staff.

Budget Accountability: The Stated Clerk administers the OGA budget as approved by COGA, and the per capita budget in collaboration with the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) and Administrative Services Group (ASG) as directed by the GA.

Serves: The Stated Clerk serves in the following capacities: ex officio member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB); member of COGA; ex officio member on the boards of the remaining four denominational agencies; ex officio member of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation Board (A Corp. Board); and a member of the Staff Expanded Leadership Team. The Stated Clerk will serve in other capacities as needed.

Duties and Responsibilities: In conjunction with the GA Organization for Mission (Section IV) and the Standing Rules of the Meetings of the General Assembly (Section H), the Stated Clerk shall:

1. Ecclesial:

1. "Offer constitutional and spiritual leadership for the life and witness of the church and exercise pastoral authority over concerns of the church in times of crisis" (Organization for Mission IV.B.2.a).
2. Serve as the chief executive officer of the OGA. Submit budget to COGA and GA. Ensure the preservation of the records of the denomination. Conduct general correspondence of the PC(USA).
3. "Nurture the covenant community of the disciples of Christ "through the work of the GA and its agencies and councils (Book of Order G-3.0501c).

2. Administrative:

1. Cultivate proactive communication within and among agencies.
2. Model healthy interpersonal relationships.

3. Nurture a collaborative and mutually supportive organizational and inter-agency culture.
4. Promote positive and generative staff morale. Create and maintain effective administrative systems.
5. Be a “person of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and the love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord... [whose] life should be a of the Christian Gospel in the church and in the world” (Book of Order G-2.0104a). Delegate as needed to realize the above culture, morale, and atmosphere.

3. Ecumenical:

1. Represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as its chief ecumenical officer and as its primary representative in national and international interchurch and interfaith gatherings and organizations (Organization for Mission B.2.a).
2. Serve as the permanent ecumenical representative of the General Assembly and as a member of each delegation representing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in ecumenical or interchurch bodies (Organization for Mission B.2.h).
3. Uphold and promote the church’s commitment to manifest more visibly the unity of the body of Christ, seeking opportunities for conversation, cooperation, and action with other ecclesiastical groups;
4. likewise, encourage and engage in respectful dialogue and mutual relationships with entities and persons from other religious traditions, and with secular organizations of goodwill and common mission in accordance with the church’s commitment to ecumenical relationships (Book of Order G-5.0101-5.0103).

4. Constitutional:

1. Uphold and interpret the Constitution for the church.
2. Ensure publication of the most current version of the Constitution.
3. Report decisions of the GA Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) to the church.
4. Serve as ex officio member of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) and the Advisory Committee on Litigation (ACL), and other relationships as necessary.

5. Logistical:

1. Oversee all matters related to the convening of the GA.
2. Receive all reports and overtures and recommend referrals to the GA.
3. Prepare proposed docket, propose number of committees for each assembly. Serve as chief parliamentarian for all meetings of the GA.
4. Ensure reporting of GA actions and the publication of GA proceedings.

Minimum Required Qualifications:

1. A commitment to Jesus Christ and a strong understanding of the Reformed tradition.
2. Membership in good standing of a congregation or presbytery in the PC(USA).
3. Ordination as a Ruling Elder or Minister of Word and Sacrament.
4. Leadership and management experience of staff and volunteers.
5. Ability to reside in the greater metropolitan area of Louisville, Kentucky.
6. Ability to travel internationally and nationally.

Desired Qualifications:

1. 10 years of cumulative experience in all Councils of the PC(USA).
 2. Executive level leadership experience.
 3. Ecumenical and/or inter-religious experience.
 4. Experience with parliamentary process and procedures.
 5. Transitional ministry education or change management training.
 6. A Bachelors and/or advanced degree in an appropriate field of study
4. Developed job application requirements.

The application included:

1. General Information
2. Statement of Faith
3. Three references
4. Public statement and narrative questions:
 1. A one page public statement in response to the following scenario: During Sunday morning worship, an armed person shot and killed multiple people at a PC(USA) congregation. As the Stated Clerk, you are called to make a public statement about the situation. What is your response?
 2. Describe your sense of call to the office of Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA).
 3. What are you passionate about in your current ministry? How do your passions relate to the role of Stated Clerk?

4. Where would you like to see the PC(USA) in four years? What is the Stated Clerk's role in bringing that vision to fruition?
5. The Position Description for the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly names five areas for which the Stated Clerk will have major responsibility. Please indicate the fits and experience you bring to each of these areas.

Interview Format

The SCNC established a format for screening applications and conducting interviews following the December 23, 2019 deadline for receiving applications. Initial Interviews were to be

1. Zoom interviews with all applicants who submitted a completed application
2. 15 or 30 minute interviews depending on number of applicants with the following questions:
 1. Follow-up from narrative question responses.
 2. What is the Clerk's role as the church strives to live into values of unity and diversity
 3. Where do you witness our living as a connectional church? Where do you not witness this?
 4. What is your assessment of the work of the Way Forward Commission?
 5. What do you see as the greatest challenges to the future mission and ministry of the denomination? What opportunities do you see?
 6. What questions do you have for us?

Between Initial and Secondary Interviews, we planned to invite final candidates to respond to a case study and executive leadership scenario, both designed by the SCNC. We expected to conduct reference, background, and social media checks. Reference checks were completed.

On December 23, 2019, the SCNC was in receipt of one completed application. The SCNC met on January 30, 2020 via Zoom and determined that we would meet with our one candidate in Florida on April 3, 2020. On March 12, 2019, domestic travel for all OGA staff and volunteers was cancelled, so our in-person interview for April 3 became a lengthy Zoom call with the one applicant who is the current Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA). We processed the previous four years and looked ahead with questions about vision and call to the next four years. We asked questions in the areas of priorities, administration, and ecumenism. After robust discussion, we excused the applicant, the SCNC prayed again, deliberated, and recommends the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II as the SCNC's unanimous choice.

Press Release

Rick Jones
Office of the General Assembly
April 7, 2020
LOUISVILLE

The Stated Clerk Nominating Committee (SCNC) announced today that it is recommending the Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, for a second term as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Nelson, who completes his first term in June, was first elected to the post at the 222nd General Assembly (2016) in Portland, Oregon.

Per Standing Rules of the General Assembly, the Stated Clerk is elected every four years and applications are available to all ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

“In his first term as Stated Clerk, J. Herbert began the monumental work of leading our denomination away from an institution and into a movement of God’s justice, love, and peace,” said Wilson Kennedy, committee moderator. “In our conversations with him, we were convinced of his humble spirit, pastor’s heart, and prophetic vision for God’s kin-dom.”

Kennedy, who also serves on the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA), says the nominating committee felt Nelson is putting the church on the right course for growth and ministry.

“Personally, his emphasis on faithful innovation at the forefront of our common witness as Presbyterians—all the while remaining true to our Reformed heritage, Confessions and, primarily, Scripture—is a compelling vision for how we might be the church now, and in the future,” Kennedy said. “The committee is confident that God is continuing to call him to this work and trust that he will lead our church with intelligence, imagination, creativity, and love!”

Other committee members echoed that sentiment.

“I have a deep passion for the ecumenical work of the Church and see the need for transformative change and vision in this area. J. Herbert has that,” said Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin, COGA member, who also serves with the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.

“I appreciate that the Stated Clerk is real about the limitations we have to name and address,” said Marcia Mount Shoop, a former COGA member who also serves with the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. “He invites us as a church to greater adaptivity, humility and compassion. He loves God and the Church and is leading from that place.”

“The Stated Clerk offers tremendous pastoral care, which my presbytery experienced firsthand following Hurricane Maria,” said Amos Mendez-Gutierrez, GA Commissioner who also serves with Presbiterio de Noroeste. “Pastoral Care is one of his many strengths.”

Nelson says he is honored to receive the committee's recommendation and looks forward to the start of his second four years.

"I'm excited about what is in front of us. I recognize people are predicting loss in the coming year, but our communities and churches are resilient," he said. "We have expanded our relationships with cities like New York and have an opportunity to engage in the broader work in the life of Christendom. The groundwork has been set for growth in the life of the denomination to recapture essence of theology and ecclesiology moving forward."

Other members of the nominating committee include: Aimee Moiso, GA Commissioner, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee; Moon Kyung Kim, GA Commissioner, Eastern Korean Presbytery; Harold Ellis, GA Commissioner, Presbytery of Detroit; Kevin Porter, stated clerk of the Presbytery of Philadelphia; Mark Brainerd, (Presbyterian Mission Agency Board representative, with Grace Presbytery; and staff resource Jennifer Burns Lewis with the Presbytery of Wabash Valley.

The SCNC, elected by the General Assembly, meets near the end of the Stated Clerk's term of office, receives and review applications for the position and declares the nominee, no later than 60 days before the opening of the 224th General Assembly (2020).The committee began its work last October.

The General Assembly is currently scheduled for June 20-27, 2020 in Baltimore, however, COGA is considering other options in lieu of the COVID-19 outbreak.