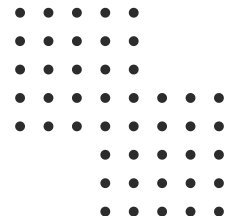




# SELECTING CONGREGATIONAL DELEGATES



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# General Assembly Congregational Delegates

Serving as a congregational delegate is a meaningful opportunity to participate in the shared leadership and discernment of the wider church. This information is designed to help congregations prayerfully select individuals for this role by outlining the responsibilities, expectations, and impact of serving as a delegate. Congregational Delegates carry the voice of their local faith communities into broader conversations that shape our collective ministry and mission. Church leaders and congregations are encouraged to review this information with care and reflection as they discern who may be called to serve in this important role.



# Essential Duties

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Congregational Delegates play an important role in representing their local church and participating in the decision-making life of the wider church. The following outlines the essential duties that help delegates serve faithfully, engage thoughtfully in conversations, and contribute to the shared work of the church. These responsibilities help ensure that each congregation's voice is heard and that delegates are prepared to participate fully in their role.

- Connecting local congregations with the general church
- Informing local congregations of topics being considered and discerned by the General Assembly
- Informing the General Board and General Assembly of important topics being discussed and considered in and among local congregations
- Facilitating opportunities for listening, learning, and discernment within and among local congregations
- Collaborating with other congregational delegates within their home congregation
- And, when necessary, voting on resolutions, statements of witness, and other business items presented to the General Assembly



# Understanding the Time Commitment of Congregational Delegates

Serving as a congregational delegate offers individuals an opportunity to participate in the life and leadership of the wider church. As congregations discern whom to select for this role, it is helpful to understand the expected time commitment. While the responsibilities are designed to be manageable, the role does require a thoughtful commitment of time and attention, particularly around the General Assembly. The following overview outlines the typical time commitment to help congregations make informed and thoughtful selections.

- **Volunteer Role:** Congregational delegates serve in a volunteer capacity.
- **Term Length:** Delegates commit to serving a 3-year term.
- **Average Monthly Commitment:** Expect to devote approximately 3 hours per month over the course of the term.
- **Peak Engagement:** About 60% of the time commitment will be spent leading up to, digitally attending, and de-briefing meetings of the General Assembly (approximately 6-8 weeks).



# The Importance of Selecting Congregational Delegates

Selecting Congregational Delegates is an important responsibility that helps ensure your congregation is meaningfully represented in the life, discernment, and decision-making of the wider church. Delegates serve as vital connectors between the local congregation and the broader body, carrying forward the voices, perspectives, and hopes of their faith community while also bringing back information, insight, and resources to share locally.

Congregational Delegates participate in the work of the General Assembly by reviewing materials, engaging in prayerful discernment, contributing to discussions, and voting on matters that help shape the mission, ministry, and future direction of the church. They also help interpret Assembly actions and conversations for their congregation, fostering understanding and engagement at the local level.

Because of this important role, congregations are encouraged to thoughtfully select individuals who are committed to the church's mission, willing to engage in collaborative decision-making, and able to communicate effectively with both their congregation and the wider church community.

By selecting faithful, engaged, and thoughtful delegates, congregations help strengthen shared leadership across the church and ensure that diverse voices and experiences help guide our collective ministry.



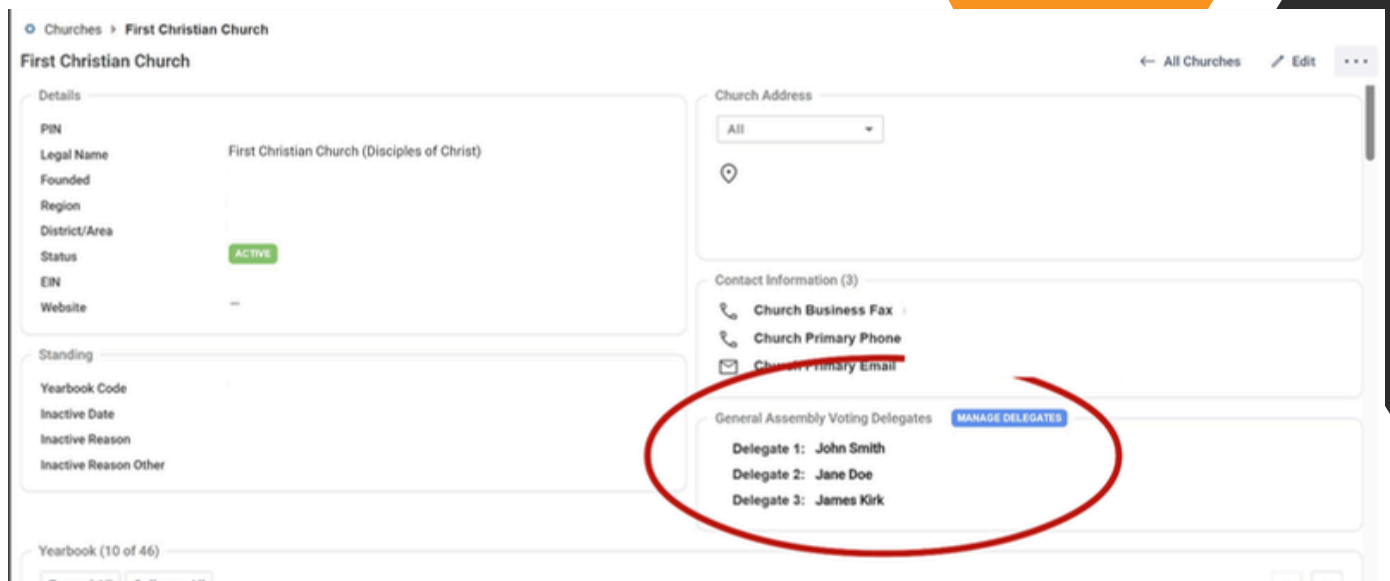
# Congregational Delegate suggested selection process

Choosing the right individuals to serve as congregational delegates is an important step in ensuring your congregation is well-represented in the wider church. A thoughtful selection process helps identify members who are not only committed to the life and mission of your congregation but also prepared to participate in the shared work of the General Assembly. The process outlined below offers guidance for engaging your congregation, considering potential delegates, and making selections that reflect both discernment and inclusivity.



Congregations can choose any method for selecting delegates. Here are some suggested processes that Congregations could use:

- Election by Congregation using regular officer election process.
- Congregations could nominate and elect one Delegate each year alongside its full slate of officers.
- Appointment by Congregational Governing Body. The governing body of the congregation could elect the Delegate.
- Selection by Constituent Groups. The congregation could designate a Delegate to be selected by a particular constituent group (women, men, youth, etc.).



# Next Steps

- Enter the names and contact information of the three congregational delegates into the portal in ALEX.
- Use the following "Blessing for Congregational Delegates" in worship on General Assembly Sunday, June 28, 2026.

# Blessing for 2026 General Assembly Congregational Delegates

based on Ephesians 3:14-21

**Leader:** For this reason, I bow my knees before the Creator from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name, and for the ways [insert names] will represent [- Christian Church -- insert name of congregation]. I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that your gifts and the hopes of our congregation will strengthen and be enriched by the wider church across the United States and Canada.

**Congregation:** May [insert names] be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit. May your lived experience, challenges, and wisdom learned in this community dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being further rooted and grounded in love.

**Leader:** I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with saints from far and near, saints from generations past and generations to come, to learn and discern what is the breadth and length and height and depth of God's vision.

**Congregation:** Blessed with the gift of time to listen and learn together, may you grow to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God as you take action and make decisions to the glory of God.

**All:** Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. To God be glory in 10 the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

