

Southern Presbytery

Young Adult Commissioner Programme

2020



Hi everyone, below is some information regarding the upcoming General Assembly which is taking place from **October 7th – 11th 2020 at Lindisfarne College in Hastings**. An application form for young adult commissioners is also included in this document. Please pass this info onto others who may be interested.

How the Presbyterian Church is structured

Three Courts

The Presbyterian Church is governed by a hierarchy of three courts or governing bodies which exercise their authority at a local, regional and national level. Talk of courts sounds forbidding. But it's not. It's really just a romantic remnant of the quaint language often at the heart of Presbyterian life.

The Church at Local Level

The Church at the local level is organised into congregations and parishes. Parishes are governed by a Session or Parish Council whose members are elected by the congregation. Sessions (another quaint old word) or Parish Councils made up of elders (quaint word #3) are responsible for the oversight of parish life. Elders, who may be young or old, are elected by the congregation.

Presbytery - The Regional Court

Each parish is represented on the Presbytery by their minister and another elder. The Presbytery has responsibility for all the parishes and other ministries in its area. Its job is to coordinate mission, look after personnel matters and make sure parishes are functioning well.

The General Assembly – the National Court

Presbyteries are accountable to the General Assembly, the highest court. The General Assembly sets the policy and the direction of the church as a whole, as well as approving the various regulations that help the church to operate as an effective organisation. The General Assembly normally meets once every two years.

Why a Young Adult Commissioner Programme?

For a number of years Presbyteries have sent a small number of young adult commissioners to General Assembly. Over the years these young adults have had much to contribute in the decision making process as our Church as it moved forward. Many of these young adults have gone on to being major leaders within the Church.

Presbyterian Youth Ministry (PYM) believe that the voice of young adults is vital to sustainability of the Presbyterian Church, and their voice should be heard at all three courts.

The GA "Youth Commissioner" programme is about young adults participating at the Presbytery level as well as the national level. Young adults who have been selected as GA commissioners to also be voting commissioners at their presbytery.

Who we are looking for

We are looking for **6 young adults aged 18-30**, who are self-assured and have a mature Christian faith. These successful candidates will be expected to be involved in online training and to engage in the church's national, regional and local courts. They will also be expected to:

- Attend at least 2 of their own church session or church council meetings (where possible) before and/or after GA

- Attend our full Presbytery Gathering in May 2020 (Oamaru) and another full Presbytery gathering after GA
- Attend the entire GA 2020 conference (7 - 11 October 2020)

The Application Process.

Please complete the application form below and return this to **Brad Kelderman by Sunday 23rd February 2020**. A decision will be made by **Friday 28th February 2020** and communicated soon after this date. The first full Presbytery meeting that young adult commissioners will be expected to attend is on **Saturday May 2nd in Oamaru**. At this meeting the General Assembly proposals will be communicated so it is really important that you are available on this date.

Attendance and travel costs

General Assembly cost: Southern Presbytery has budgeted for 6 Young Adult Commissioners to attend the General Assembly. This means that the cost to attend the General Assembly and accommodation will be paid for.

Travel cost: Southern Presbytery will fund your travel costs to and from the General Assembly.

Photo: If you could please send a photo of yourself along with your application form that would be great.

Please make sure you are available from October 7th – 11th 2020.

Please send your application form to: Brad Kelderman: brad@southernpresbyterians.nz



**Southern Presbytery –
Young Adult Commissioner Programme
Application 2020/2021**

Section A

Name
Name of Church
Email address
Phone

Section B–

Why are you applying for this role?

Section C

We ask that both you and your Parish minister / elder sign and read the information below

Young Adult Commissioner Applicant

I understand by applying for this programme, I will be involved in online training and engage in national, regional and local courts of our Church and:

- at least 2 of your churches session or church council meetings before and after GA (4 in total is possible)
- at least 1 Presbytery Gathering (where possible) before and after GA (2 in total)
- the entire GA 2020 conference (7-11 October 2020)

Applicant's signature	Date
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Parish Minister / Elder

I _____ support (name of applicant) _____
to attend the PCANZ General Assembly 2020

Minister / Elders signature	Date
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