

REPORT TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Consideration of Election Issues

May 21, 2019

Responding to Resolution 5, Election Process Study Committee, passed by the 93rd District Council, the District Presbytery entered an extended discussion of the issues in the regularly scheduled Presbytery meeting June 18 and 19, 2018. The Presbyters named the newly reformed Executive Presbytery as the study committee to investigate determined election issues under the authority of the District Presbytery.

The Executive Presbytery met at Deland First Assembly of God on Thursday and Friday, August 17 and 18, and reported to the Presbytery on October 15. The election issues were then discussed by the Presbytery in January and March, 2019. The findings to this point are:

- A nominating process by electronic means or regular mail prior to elections at District Councils is not recommended at this time. The established nominating procedure serves Peninsular Florida well. Efficiency of an electronic process nominating candidates prior to a District Council is not proven and security of a process by electronic or regular mail cannot be guaranteed.
- A nominating process prior to Council may force incumbent officers and possible nominees to make decision before they are prepared to do so. It was not decided if an incumbent would automatically be nominated or be required to go through a process with other possible candidates.
- If members of the Presbytery should be nominated it may be awkward for the Presbytery to serve as the screening committee for nominations.
- The publishing of biographies of nominated candidates would be helpful but require both additional staff and sufficient lead time to compose, edit, and publish for use at a Council. Security of the information during that period of time may be difficult. In addition, uniformity and consistency of the information to insure fairness to all candidates may be a challenge.
- If a candidate chooses to withdraw during the time between his or her nomination and the District Council, that could cause strain on the candidate and their existing pastorate or ministry. In that case, would the candidate be replaced through an additional nominating process or would the Presbytery simply forward the remaining candidates to the Council?
- Therefore, nominating candidates for election to Executive office prior to District Council is not recommended.
- A formula to manage the number of ballots needed to elect a candidate to District and/or Sectional office is recommended and will be presented to the 2019 District Council.

The District Presbytery recommends the consideration of the resolutions to this Council for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,
District and Executive Presbyteries.