

Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
General Council of Pastors and Elders

2016 Election Protocol

Pastor Carl A. Pierce, Sr, Election Commissioner

The Quadrennial Election of officers of the General Council of Pastors and Elders of the Church of God In Christ, Inc., will take place on Friday, November 11, 2016 during the Annual Holy Convocation of the Church Of God In Christ in St. Louis, Missouri. The following protocol shall govern the election.

PROCESS AND PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION

2016 Election of Officers to include:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Call for Nominations

Nominations on behalf of a prospective candidate for office in the General Council of Pastors and Elders may be made by any member in good standing within the Council. The name, title, church, jurisdiction and email address of the person making the nomination must accompany the nomination.

The nomination must be submitted in writing and mailed to the General Council of Pastors and Elders Nominating Committee at 13 S. Poppleton St., Baltimore, MD 21201 or emailed to CPierce@cogic.org to be received no later than the close of business on **May 11, 2016**. The nomination period will close on that date.

The following information is required for all nominees:

- The office of which the nominee is seeking
- Name
- Title
- Church
- Jurisdiction
- Bishop
- Email address
- Mailing Address
- Phone number

Nominee Qualifications

Nominees shall be in good standing with both the national church and the jurisdiction of which they are a part, and shall be the official bearer of a current valid Church Of God In Christ credential holder's card.

The candidate shall have completed the required online sexual misconduct training and shall have submitted to or be prepared to submit to (as part of the application process) a complete background check as prescribed by the national church.

Upon receipt of nomination by the Nominating Committee, an application for office will be sent to the nominee for completion.

Completed applications, including all pertinent information necessary for the vetting process, shall be submitted to the Screening Committee (including background checks) no later than **June 11, 2016**.

Screening

Upon receipt of the completed application, nominees will be scheduled for the screening process as prescribed and instituted by the national church, and shall become an official candidate for office only after the

screening process has been completed and the nominee is approved. All screenings shall be completed at least 120 days prior to the election.

Notice of the determination of the Screening Committee will be disclosed to the nominee in writing and/or by email no more than 10 business days following the nominees' actual screening.

Vetting and screening of nominees for office will be held during the AIM Convention, July 4-8, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Incumbent candidates for reelection shall follow the same screening process as incumbents for other national offices. Incumbents shall be required to complete a background check if the previous background check occurred more than 4 years prior.

Nominee Questionnaires

Nominees must submit the appropriate nominee questionnaire designed to elicit details of each nominee's relevant experience.

Information to include:

- Name
- Address and/or Email Address
- Phone Number

Information required for the approval process will include, but is not limited to the following:

1. A brief biography of recent experience, associations, and affiliations relevant to serving. (Please be as specific as possible.)
2. A description of the candidate's relevant technical and professional experience to serve.
3. Disclosure of any conflicts (real or perceived) that might arise should the candidate be elected.
4. Notice of any concerns or limitations on the candidate's ability to serve the entirety of a 4-year term.

Finalizing Candidates

The Nominating Committee shall review all submitted and completed nominations to verify compliance and adherence to the process, and shall review the nominee questionnaire to ascertain that nominees have meet the general criteria as a candidate for office.

Vetting

Screening shall follow the process prescribed and instituted by the national church.

The Screening Committee shall be comprised of four Elders who serve the national church as current members of the Screening Committee of the General Assembly, who shall follow established protocol for screening of candidates for national office.

Notification of Candidates for Office

The Screening Committee shall provide the Election Commission with the approved listing of candidates for office at the conclusion of the screening process by or no later than **July 11, 2016**, at which time a listing of candidates will be posted electronically to officially announce all candidates for office. The listing will include a biographical synopsis of each candidate for office.

Campaigning

Candidates are encouraged to campaign in a way that glorifies God and exudes the dignity of an Elder in the Lord's Church.

A Candidates' Forum will be held during the General Council of Pastors and Elders Meeting at the 2016 Annual Holy Convocation in St. Louis, Missouri, giving all candidates the opportunity to present themselves to the general membership of the Council. Campaign paraphernalia

however may be disseminated at the candidate's pleasure prior to the Forum.

Announcement of Election

Notification of the election will be disseminated at national conventions and conferences and through the General Council of Pastors and Elders public relations department.

Voting

The 2016 Election of Officers for the General Council of Pastors and Elders will be held on **Friday, November, 11, 2016** in its regular session. All members in good standing within the Council, the national church and their jurisdiction are eligible to vote.

Vote Counting and Results

The Election Commission/Committee shall tally the votes to determine the winners. Poll-watchers representing each candidate may observe the process of vote counting, but shall not interfere with the process. If requested by a candidate, the Commission shall allow the candidate to view a copy of the voting log from the election.

Tiebreak

In the event of a tie between candidates for office, candidates shall be given the opportunity to briefly readdress the Council and another vote will be taken. The Election Commission will confirm the winner of the tiebreak election, who shall be declared the winner of the election.

Term of Office

The term of office for elected officers is four years. Elected officers shall assume their offices upon certification of voting results.

Timeline

- **May 11**
Deadline for nominations/nomination period closes
- **June 11**
Completed applications including background checks due to the Screening Committee
- **June 21**
Deadline for notification of Screening Committee results to the nominees
- **July 4-8**
Screening of nominees at the AIM Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio
- **July 11**
Official announcement and listing of candidates for office
- **November 11**
The Election of Officers