



Valerie Young,
Synod Executive and Stated Clerk

November 15, 2023

Rev. Charlie Evans, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of St. Augustine
1937 University Blvd. West
Jacksonville, FL 32217

Dear Charlie,

At the November 14th meeting of the Synod of South Atlantic, a change to the synod's plan for election and participation was made that requires approval of a majority of presbyteries in the synod, in accordance with G-3.0401. The following was approved by the Assembly:

(excerpt from Manual of Operations)

Commissioners

When the Synod of South Atlantic meets, it shall consist of ~~the~~ thirty-eight (38) commissioners, thirty-two (32) elected from its constituent presbyteries and six (6) elected by the synod. Each presbytery shall elect two commissioners to staggered classes (one even year, one odd year): one Minister of the Word and Sacrament and one Ruling Elder, giving consideration to the issue of representation and inclusiveness as required by the *Book of Order*. The other six (6) commissioners shall be "At-Large" Commissioners intended to represent communities too long marginalized by the systems of the Church (BIPOC, LGBTQ). Of the six (6), three (3) shall be ruling elders, and three (3) Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, all of whom must come from different presbyteries and at least one from each state (South Carolina, Georgia, Florida).

Rationale: Currently, Commissioners are only elected by the presbyteries, which means the synod has limited ways of fulfilling our own mission priority to "Ensure full integration of diversity in all of its life and work". Recent changes to G-3.04 of the Book of Order allow for the enrollment of additional commissioners for the purposes of representation. The hope is to include more of those involved in synod-wide racial ethnic ministries and build a more inclusive body.

The synod would be grateful for your presbytery's consideration at its next meeting. I am available to answer any questions or speak about the plan if needed. I look forward to hearing the outcome from you as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Valerie Young,
Synod Executive & Stated Clerk