

Southern Presbytery

Young Adult Commissioner Programme

2023-2024



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 to 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 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 by attending:

- where possible, at least 2 of your church's session or church council meetings before and after GA (4 in total)
- at least one Presbytery Gathering (where possible) before and after GA (2 in total)
- the entire GA 2023 conference 27-30th September 2023 St Kentigern College Auckland

The Application Process.

The applicant should fill in the application form and return to Brad Kelderman by 15/5/23 (brad@southernpresbyterians.nz).



Southern Presbytery Young Adult Commissioner Programme - 2023 Application

Section A

Name
Name of Church
Length of time in a Presbyterian Church
City
Email address
Phone

Section B

Why are you applying for this role?

Section C

I understand by applying for this programme, I will be involved in online training and engage in the church's national, regional and local courts by attending:

- Where possible, at least 2 of your church's session or church council meetings before and after GA (4 in total)
- at least one Presbytery Gathering (where possible) before and after GA (2 in total)
- the entire GA 2023 conference 27-30th September 2023 St Kentigern College Auckland

Signed	Date
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