

Southern Presbytery

Young Adult Commissioner Programme

2018/19



Hi everyone, below is some information regarding the upcoming General Assembly which is taking place from **October 3rd – 7th 2018 at St Andrews College in Christchurch**. 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 of 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 the 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.

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 after GA
- Attend at least 2 full Presbytery meetings (where possible) before and after GA
- Attend the entire GA 2018 conference (3 - 7 October 2018)

The Application Process.

Please complete the application form below and return this to **Brad Kelderman by Friday 18th May 2018**. A decision will be made by **Friday 25th May 2018** and communicated soon after this date. The first full Presbytery meeting where we would hope that all young adult commissioners will be expected to attend is on **Friday 7th – Saturday 8th September**. Then of course there is attendance at General Assembly shortly after on **October 3rd - 7th**.

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: As this assembly will be held in Christchurch, there will be costs involved in travel. We have a limited budget but we are committed to covering the travel expenses for all of our Young Adult Commissioners to and from General Assembly. We will work with all of our Young Adult Commissioners to make sure this happens within our set budget.

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 3rd – 7th 2018 and that you consult with Brad Kelderman before making any travel arrangements.

Please send your application form to:

Brad Kelderman: brad@southernpresbyterians.nz

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Brad Kelderman.

Brad Kelderman

Youth Advisor

brad@southernpresbyterians.nz

0274998333

Southern Presbytery
Young Adult Commissioner Programme Application
2018/19



Section A

Name
Name of Church
Length of time you have been part of the Presbyterian Church
City
Email address
Phone

Section B

Why are you interested in applying for this role?

Section C

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 as well as attend:

- at least 2 of your churches session or church council meetings (where possible) before and after GA
- at least 2 Presbytery Gathering (where possible) before and after GA
- the entire GA 2018 conference (3-7 October 2018)

Signed	Date
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