

Memo

To: 88 TDA Delegates & Alternates  
From: Marta Elders  
Re: Process of the election of candidates to the GC

As you may recall, at the end of the TDA we were asked to share our experiences and insights regarding the election of candidates to the General Council. In order to do this I am including 1) a recounting of the process as I remember it which I would like you to edit and correct, 2) some statements regarding the process which I would like you to evaluate from very poor to very good, and 3) an opportunity to provide suggestions and feedback. When you have completed this please return it to me at 143 Five Mile, Darien, CT 06820. Thanks.

1) The process we used, as I remember, was as follows: (Please edit & correct)

After some discussion we decided to vote on the 9 yr terms, 6 yr term, and 3 yr terms separately. At that point names were put in nomination. It was generally agreed that all names that had been submitted with biographies would be nominated. In addition there was an opportunity to nominate candidates from the floor. The nominees were discussed alphabetically, with the delegate or alternate who knew the nominee reasonably well providing a brief sketch of the nominees strengths and weaknesses and what qualities the candidate might bring to the General Council. Nominees who were present stepped out of the room when their nomination was discussed. After the initial introduction of the candidate other delegates and alternates provided additional information regarding their experience with and knowledge of the candidate. Following the introduction of all the candidates we broke for lunch. After returning we voted by secret ballot on the 9 yr terms. Each delegate voted for 12 candidates (12 openings) and those candidates receiving a majority (10 or more of the 18 Societies represented) were elected. As not all 9 yr seats had been filled there was a second vote. Candidates eligible in this round were those nominees who had received 5 or more votes in the first round. This process was continued until the 12 seats were filled. Voting for the 6 yr term and the 3 yr terms was conducted in the same manner, but we began each balloting process with a full list of candidates and continued the secret ballot process until an individual or individuals had been selected.

2) Please evaluate the following statements regarding your experience of the election of General Councilors as follows:

	1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very Good					
						1	2	3	4	5
1. Information that was provided on the candidates.						—	—	—	—	—
2. Opportunity (i.e. time) to find out more about candidates prior to the TDA.						—	—	—	—	—
3. Overall handling of the meeting (election part).						—	—	—	—	—
4. Introduction of the candidates.						—	—	—	—	—
5. Opportunity for comments from delegates/alternates.						—	—	—	—	—
6. Quality of the comments from delegates/alternates.						—	—	—	—	—

	1	2	3	4	5
7. Timing of lunch break (after all candidates presented)	—	—	—	—	—
8. First balloting process (12 year terms)	—	—	—	—	—
9. Second, third, & fourth balloting for 12 yr term	—	—	—	—	—
10. Balloting for the addition terms (6 yr & 3 yr)	—	—	—	—	—
11. Interactions between delegates & alternates	—	—	—	—	—
12. Spirit of the meeting	—	—	—	—	—
13. Willingness to listen carefully & openly to one another	—	—	—	—	—
14. Trustworthiness of the group	—	—	—	—	—
15. Sense that you could be as open and honest as you wanted to be	—	—	—	—	—

3) Suggestions and Comments:

1. How might the Teachings be made more visible, real, and experiential in this process? In what ways can we facilitate the Spirit shining through?

2. Suggestions to improve the election procedure:

3. Suggestions for improving the delegates' knowledge (not just facts) of the candidates:

4. What kinds of comments are appropriate for this meeting regarding the candidates and what kinds of comments are not?

5. Additional comments: Your concerns: (use additional paper if needed)