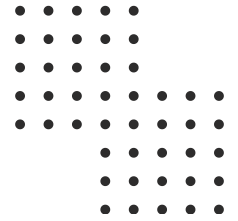




CONGREGATIONAL DELEGATES



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Resolution GA-2518

Resolution GA-2518 "Changes to the Special Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)" was adopted at General Assembly 2025 in Memphis, Tennessee. It states: "Congregations will appoint three delegates to serve three year terms, in which they will engage in dialogue, discernment, and prayer."

More people are invited to the table. More delegates are invited to make a difference. We're preparing for more dialogue, discernment, connection, and action. Thank you for reviewing this helpful guide as you prayerfully consider the possibility of serving as a congregational delegate.



General Assembly Congregational Delegates

Serving as a congregational delegate is a meaningful opportunity to participate in the shared leadership and discernment of our wider church. This information is designed to help you prayerfully consider this role by outlining the responsibilities, expectations, and impact of serving as a delegate. Congregational Delegates help carry the voice of their local faith community into broader conversations that shape our collective ministry and mission. We invite you to explore this information with curiosity and reflection as you consider how you may be called to serve in this important way.



Essential Duties

The following outlines the essential duties that help delegates serve faithfully, engage thoughtfully in conversations, and contribute to the shared work of the church. These responsibilities help ensure that each congregation's voice is heard and that delegates are prepared to participate fully in their role.

- Connecting local congregations with the general church
- Informing local congregations of topics being considered and discerned by the General Assembly
- Informing the General Board and General Assembly of important topics being discussed and considered in and among local congregations
- Facilitating opportunities for listening, learning, and discernment within and among local congregations
- Collaborating with other congregational delegates within their home congregation
- And, when necessary, voting on resolutions, statements of witness, and other business items presented to the General Assembly



Understanding the Time Commitment of Congregational Delegates

The role of Congregational Delegate is designed to be manageable and requires a thoughtful commitment of time and attention, particularly around the General Assembly. The following provides an overview of the expected time commitment for those considering this opportunity to serve.

- **Volunteer Role:** Congregational delegates serve in a volunteer capacity.
- **Term Length:** Delegates commit to serving a 3-year term.
- **Average Monthly Commitment:** Expect to devote approximately 3 hours per month over the course of the term.
- **Peak Engagement:** About 60% of the time commitment will be spent leading up to, digitally attending, and de-briefing meetings of the General Assembly (approximately 6-8 weeks).

Congregational Delegate Qualifications

Serving as a congregational delegate is both an honor and a responsibility that calls for individuals who are committed to the life, mission, and shared leadership of the church. The qualifications outlined below are intended to help congregations and potential delegates discern readiness for this role and ensure that those who serve are prepared to faithfully represent their local community while engaging in the broader work of the church.

Required Qualifications:

- Membership in a local congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

Desired Qualifications:

- Active participant in a ministry of the congregation
- Capability to be a leader in the Congregation
- Familiarity with or interest in the wider church.
- Interest in discussions that often happen at General Assembly
- Commitment to attend General Assembly sessions digitally and/or in-person.
- Be willing to serve three consecutive years in this role.
- Care and excitement for what we do together as Disciples





Next Steps

We encourage you to prayerfully consider whether serving as a congregational delegate may be a meaningful way for you to share your gifts and perspective with the wider church. Delegates play an important role in shaping our shared ministry, building connections across congregations, and helping carry the voice of their faith community into collective discernment and decision-making. Your willingness to serve can help strengthen the church's witness and work, and we invite you to reflect on how you might be called to participate in this important role.