Proposal #2 Process for Election of General Council Commissioners

Title: Election of General Council Commissioners
Origin: Executive

What is the issue?
In the spring of 2027, the regional council will elect its Commissioners to the 46th General Council which runs from the start in St. Catharines in July 2028 through till 2031.

This will be the third time the regional council has elected Commissioners. The first time, the regional council adopted a method for electing Commissioners at its fall meeting, 2020. There were some problems with this process. For starters, in naming specific diverse groups the regional council overlooked that individuals may have multiple ways of identifying, i.e. racialized and queer, youth and Indigenous, etc.

Secondly, the deadline for nominations was during the meeting resulting in a scramble to distribute sufficient background information on nominees for regional council representatives to feel ready to make informed decisions.

Lastly, despite its good intentions, this system does not provide for a diverse slate of commissioners. It unfolds quickly relying on the nominations in hand. There is little opportunity to consider the slate as a whole or to recruit people not already nominated to broaden diversity.

The second time the Regional Council adopted the solution below for electing General Council Commissioners, which helped to address many of the challenges noted above.

Why is this important?
The decisions of the General Council impact all communities of faith and ministry personnel. It is important the Commissioners be people of vision and commitment who can bring diverse perspectives to lead to bold and daring decisions (to borrow from the Call of the Strategic Plan).

Regional Council representatives were frustrated with how voting went in 2020 and no one wants to repeat that experience. The process in 2024 went much smoother.

What might the regional council do?
The regional council might agree to:

a) **To close nominations for Commissioners to GC 46 as of midnight April 30th, 2027; To publicize the deadline in advance (website, newsletter, with registration materials)**
b) **To direct the Recruiting Team authorized by the spring 2023 meeting and appointed by the Executive to review the nominations with a view to:**

i) **Ensure a diverse cohort of Commissioners and alternates who bring both experience and new energy to the role and who are committed to the preparation and online prior requirements for General Council;**

ii) **Recruit nominees to address gaps in representation.**

c) **To vote on the slate as a whole at the spring 2027 regional council meeting.**