

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley overtures the 213th General Assembly (2001) to direct the Office of the General Assembly to develop and distribute to presbyteries and synods guidelines concerning the [selection and] orientation of Youth Advisory Delegates.

The office of the General Assembly affirms the value of the participation of Youth Advisory Delegates in the General Assembly. That participation is enhanced when care has been given to the selection of the Youth Advisory Delegate and to their orientation to the General Assembly. Less than 50% of the Youth Advisory Delegates reported that they had had any orientation before they arrived at the General Assembly. The Office of the General Assembly has developed these basic guidelines for the selection process and for orientation.

- **Selection process criteria**

- The youth advisory delegate should be mature since the demands of the General Assembly require responsible decision-making. Reference checks should be made with their pastor or other local congregation leader
- The potential youth advisory delegate should be active in their local congregation and presbytery or campus youth ministry
- It is important that they be able to attend all of GA meeting.
- The potential YAD should verify when their the dates that the school semester ends and when they may be home and available for orientation.
- The potential YAD should have medical insurance. Insurance bought through school systems often ends at the end of the school year.
- The potential YAD and their parents should be informed that the Presbytery staff person in attendance at GA will be called upon to deal with emergencies

- **Orientation**

- The orientation should include a basic overview of the *Book of Order* and the *Book of Confessions*.
- The orientation should include all of the General Assembly orientation materials and videos.
- There should be a basic introduction to Roberts Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure.
- A review of the main issues will provide helpful background. Resources are:
 - GA issues video
 - Packets of magazines articles
 - Website
 - Background on budget issues

- **How to conduct orientation when Youth Advisory Delegate is away at college**

- The presbytery staff could contact the school to see if other YADS are students and arrange a group orientation.
- The presbytery staff could contact the local presbytery and ask to include their YAD in that orientation.

- It is possible that there may be other former YADs or Commissioners near the school that could conduct orientation for YAD
- At the minimum, the presbytery could include the YAD in by conference call during the presbytery orientation.
- The presbytery could create an individual notebook with helpful hints and FAQs
- **At the General Assembly**
- The presbytery staff should have a check-in protocol to assure the safe arrival of the Youth Advisory delegate.
- The presbytery staff should develop emergency procedures such as giving cell phone number of staff and having cell phone number of parents