

(To be filled out by those wishing to be a candidate)

**PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN RESERVE
INFORMATION FORM FOR MINISTER COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE**

**218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE 21-JUNE 28, 2008
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA**

Name The Rev. Francis P. Miller, II

Service to this Presbytery:

Pastor: Rome (1995-1998), Grace (1998-2003), Noble Road (2003-present)

Ministries: Leadership Development Ministry (2005-present), On the Way (Racial Reconciliation)

Mission Group (2006-present), Partners for Sacred Places (2006-present), Urban Church Initiative

(August 2007–present), PWR Taskforce initiated by Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig and Rev. Jim Gilbert

(Spring 2007-present), Ethics Team (2000-2004), Sacred Space (Spiritual Formation) Mission Group

(1998-present), Presbytery Worship Planning Group (2006), Outreach Ministry (1998-2000), Outdoor

Ministry (1997)

Service to prior presbyteries:

This is the presbytery in which I received my first call. I've been serving in the presbytery since 1995.

Service to Synod and/or the General Assembly:

Montreat Youth Conference: Co-preacher (2006), Planning Team (2004), Conference Pastor (1999),

Small Group Leader (1995, 1997, 2001)

San Francisco Theological Seminary Alumni/ae Council (1995-1998)

Community leadership roles:

Heights Interfaith Council, Heights Civility Project, Heights Community Congress Multicultural

Taskforce, Lakewood Ministerial Association

Particular interests/concern and abilities/experiences that you bring to the duties of a commissioner:

I have always been interested in being a commissioner and have finally entered a stage of life allowing me to take the time necessary for preparation and participation in the Assembly. I care deeply for the denomination and realize the importance of serving as a commissioner. I have attended several GA's as an observer and have a good understanding of the process.

I am fair-minded. I take great care to listen to all sides of a discussion and will vote with my conscience. My recent participation in two of our presbytery's mission groups has helped to keen my awareness. While serving on the presbytery taskforce initiated by Rev Jim Gilbert and Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, I have gained greater appreciation for respecting voices along the breadth of the theological spectrum of our denomination. In the On the Way (Racial Reconciliation) group, I am reminded that racism and white privilege remain within the culture and the church in the United States, deepening my advocacy for racial/ethnic voices to be valued. As we continue to struggle with welcoming minorities of all walks of life, I look forward to sharing in the work of the denomination towards just resolutions.

I have served churches in rural Ashtabula County, the near Westside of Cleveland, and, now, the near Eastside. This experience has blessed me in at least two ways: 1) it has given me opportunity to be in ministry with many of the churches in the presbytery which enhances my familiarity with you, and 2) I understand the needs of churches within a variety of contexts. I seek to use this knowledge as the foundation for my listening and activity as a commissioner at the 218th GA. Upon the completion of the Assembly, I will appreciate the opportunity to share with each of you the decisions and deliberations of the denomination.

Why do you wish to be a commissioner to the 218th General Assembly?

Our denomination continues to be in a critical era of its history. It is beset by challenges both inside and outside of its fellowship. As our culture continues to transition from Modern ways of thinking into Postmodernity, we are seeing a denomination struggling to find updated ways of sharing its treasured witness. As a GenXer, I find myself with feet in each of these two worlds; a child of the Modern church, looking for ways to offer what I know of God in Jesus Christ to my peers—and younger—many of whom haven't yet experienced a gospel of integrity. I believe I can offer a unique voice at a unique time.

We are also a denomination threatened with fracture. I desire to engage in dialogue that goes beyond shouting a particular position at “the other side.” I wish to help build bridges, while maintaining a firm conviction towards the love ethic of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is bound by our ordination vows to serve the PCUSA in a variety of ways, I look forward to fulfilling this vow by serving as commissioner to the 218th General Assembly.

Information required by the General Assembly:

Ethnic group:
(circle one)

- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- Native American (American Indian or Eskimo)
- White

Age Group:
(circle one)

- 25 and under
- 26-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- Over 65

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2007 TO:

*COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
THE PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN RESERVE
2800 EUCLID AVENUE, SUITE 500
CLEVELAND, OH 44115*