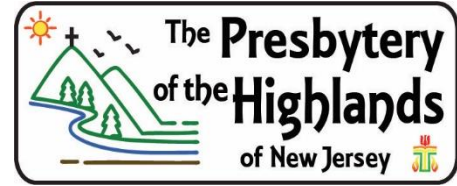


Session Membership Exemption Requests Policy November 2021



G-2.04 GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR RULING ELDERS AND DEACONS

G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation's membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership...

G-2.0404 Terms of Service Ruling elders and deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years on the session or board of deacons and may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years, and a ruling elder or deacon who has served six consecutive years shall be ineligible for election to the same board for at least one year. Election shall be to classes as nearly equal in number as possible, with the term of only one class ending each year. The presbytery may, upon written request and by majority vote, grant a congregation a waiver of this limitation on terms.

Once ordained and while they are active members of any congregation of this denomination, ruling elders or deacons not in active service on a session or board of deacons continue to bear the responsibilities of the ministry to which they have been ordained, except as provided in G-2.0406, G-2.0407, or in accordance with the Rules of Discipline.

Exemptions to G-2.0401 and/or G-2.0404

- Session must annually request an exemption
- All requests shall include:
 - The size of congregation and the size of session and/or board of deacons.
 - Demonstrate how they have made an effort to elect new leadership that expresses the diversity of the congregation.
 - An explanation why they need an exemption from G-2.0401 and/or G-2.0404
 - an explanation on size of session and/or board of deacons compared to size of membership and efforts to adjust the size of the session or deacons to fit the size of the congregation
- Exemptions need to be approved prior to annual election of the session/deacon leadership

Send exemption request to the Presbytery of Highlands at office@highlandspresbytery.nj.org