

5.2.2 The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum and ratification by the district convention.

(a) Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their circuit visitors to select their circuit visitors no later than the time established by the district. When in-person meetings are burdensome (e.g., geographically large circuits), a circuit may select another manner of meeting (e.g., e-meeting technologies) that is suitable and made available to all participants, taking into consideration the need to provide for an open and fair exchange of ideas and secure, private, and confidential voting.

(b) Prior to the day of the circuit forum, nominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested by the district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district.

(c) Each circuit may adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by the representatives from each member congregation of the circuit, who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Bylaw 5.3.2).

(d) All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors whose names were nominated prior to the day of the circuit forum shall be eligible for election in accordance with section 4.3 of these Bylaws.

(1) Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor as listed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) and circuit visitor responsibilities as provided hereafter in this bylaw, each voter shall submit the names of two pastors on the initial ballot.

(2) The three pastors (or more in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate.

(3) Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, who shall be declared the nominee.

(e) Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing the results of the selection process to the secretary of the district in preparation for ratification by the district convention.

(f) In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but is no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being included on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors.

(g) The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.

(h) The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election.

### **Circuit Visitor Elections @ Circuit Forums**

**5.2.2 a:** Circuit Visitors (CV) should schedule their Circuit Forums to select their Circuit Visitors prior to the **March 1, 2018** deadline. The Forum's selection should be in the hands of the District Secretary by that date!

Forums may be held electronically. You may want to gain the approval of all participants before conducting your forum in this manner. Any complaint concerning availability or open and fair exchange could raise a question on the propriety of the selection.

**b.** Nominations must be in the hands of the CV prior to the day of the Forum! You may want to notify the District President (DP) of your Forum date. Any circuit pastor or emeriti pastor is eligible.

**c.** Voters for the election of the CV are one called and ordained pastor of a congregation or parish and one lay delegate from each congregation of the circuit.

**d.** Election process: **1.** Pertinent information concerning each candidate and the CV responsibilities are presented to the delegates.

On the first ballot, each delegate votes for two pastors. (If three or less pastors have been nominated, with a unanimous vote of all delegates to do so, you may move directly to the second ballot.)

**2.** Second ballot consists of the top three nominees (or more in the case of a tie). Delegates vote for one pastor for the remaining ballots.

**3.** The pastor receiving a simple majority in the second or succeeding ballots is selected. If no pastor receives a simple majority in the succeeding ballots, the nominee with the lowest vote count will be dropped for the next ballot.

**e.** "Immediately" report the selection to the District Secretary on the form provided.

**h.** Take note, the CV is not officially elected until ratified by and installed at the District Convention.