For Action:

Referral of Approved National Certifying Bodies to the 225th General Assembly (2022)

Recommendation: To recommend to the 225th General Assembly the approval of the applications of the Administrative Personnel Association, the Educator Certification Committee, and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians as national certifying bodies.

Background: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s *Book of Order* calls for the General Assembly to approve national certifying bodies in order for those individuals achieving certification to be recognized in the church. [See Section G-2.11 from the *Book of Order* below.] The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly approved, at its October 2015 meeting, the application process for organizations wishing to be recognized as national certifying bodies.

Approved National Certifying Bodies are approved for the period of time starting at the close of the General Assembly where the approving action was taken to the close of the next General Assembly. These organizations must apply every two years (for consideration at the biennial General Assemblies) to maintain their status as an Approved National Certifying Body. All three of these bodies were approved as National Certifying Bodies by the 224th General Assembly (2020).

Applications were due to the Office of the General Assembly by April 4, 2022. OGA received three applications: the Administrative Personnel Association, the Educator Certification Committee, and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly is asked to **review the attached applications** and transmit appropriate applications to the General Assembly for action.

From the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s *Book of Order*

G-2.11 CERTIFIED CHURCH SERVICE

G-2.1101 Forms of Certified Church Service
Persons may be certified and called to service within congregations, councils, and church-related entities, serving in staff positions. These individuals endeavor to reflect their faith through their work and to strengthen the church through their dedication. They should be encouraged by their session and presbytery to meet, or be prepared to meet, the certification requirements in a handbook provided by a national certifying body approved by the General Assembly. Names of those who have earned certification through a national certifying body shall be transmitted to the appropriate body of the General Assembly, which will forward them to the stated clerk of the presbyteries in which those persons labor.

G-2.1102 Presbytery and Certified Church Service
The presbytery shall encourage sessions to make continuing education funds and time available to those seeking certification, and shall affirm the skill and dedication of these certified persons by providing a service of recognition at the time of certification. The presbytery may grant the privilege of voice at all its meetings to persons in certified church service.

G-2.1103 Christian Educators
a. Skills and Training
Certified Christian educators are persons certified and called to service in the ministry of education in congregations or councils. They shall have skills and training in biblical interpretation, Reformed theology, worship and sacraments, human development, faith development, religious educational theory and practice, and the polity, programs, and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

b. Presbytery Responsibility
The presbytery shall establish minimum requirements for compensation and benefits for Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators and shall provide access to the area of presbytery that oversees ministry (G-3.0307). During their term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery, Certified Christian Educators are entitled to the privilege of the floor with voice only at all presbytery meetings, and in the case of Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders, the privilege of voice and vote at all its meetings.