

May 4, 2005, 12:30 EDT

At its scheduled teleconference this morning, the Council of Elders invited three presidential candidates to come to Cincinnati next week for face-to-face interviews. Today the Council discussed the results of the weighted averages provided by Secretary, Gerald Seelig. (See the text of the article below which will appear in the *United News* for a detailed description of the process of selecting a new president.) It was the consensus of the Council after deliberation and review of the statistics that three candidates, Jim Franks, Clyde Kilough and Les McCullough, should be invited to continue the interview process which will begin Tuesday, May 10.

Following two days of intensive face-to-face interviews and deliberation on candidate merits, the Council will select the new President on May 12. Attached for reference is an article that will appear shortly in the *United News* describing the entire process and timeline for selection of the President.

--*Bob Dick*

On March 1, while meeting in San Antonio, the Council of Elders began the process of selecting a new president. In a letter from Council chairman, Clyde Kilough, all elders were invited to submit recommendation for Council consideration, offering their views on individuals they felt would serve well in that position, qualities they would like to see or issues the next president should consider as priority during the years ahead.

Three weeks was set aside for elder input and another week for Council review. All elder input was forwarded to each member of the Council and on April 4, after reviewing the recommendations, each Council member was allowed to put forward two nominees.

On April 6 the Secretary of the Council, Gerald Seelig notified each nominee of his selection, sending him a copy of the president's job description, an offer from the Council to answer questions, and a request to confirm his willingness to continue as a nominee by April 13.

On Friday, April 15 the Secretary announced the nominees: Bill Bradford, Aaron Dean, Jim Franks, Clyde Kilough and Les McCullough. Each nominee was given two weeks to return a questionnaire and vita sheet to be used by Council members in their initial assessment of the nominees.

The intended next step is to reduce the number of nominees to a maximum of four men who will be invited to Cincinnati for face-to-face interviews with the whole Council. On May 2, each Council member is to submit the names of four candidates in numerical order of preference. The Secretary will return the results in order of weighted averages to the Council. The final list of candidates will be determined from this list in a teleconference on May 4.

The final nominees will gather May 10 in Cincinnati for face-to-face interviews. Two days are set aside for discussion with the candidates and private conferring by the Council about candidates' merits. It is the Council's desire to use this time to come to a broad agreement before the actual balloting on May 12.

On May 12, according to bylaw requirements the next president will be selected by blind ballot. United's new president will be introduced to the entire General Conference of Elders the following weekend at their annual meeting and also have the opportunity to address the churches in the United States by telephone hook-up on the Sabbath, May 14.

Please join all of us on the Council of Elders in prayer and fasting that God will guide our selection and bless the new president's years of service.