

CALLED TO SERVE

In the Presbyterian Church we ordain men and women to specific forms of service. The ordained offices of the church go back to the days of Moses, when God ordained 70 elders to share the work of ministry (Numbers 11:16-17), and also to the first church in Jerusalem which ordained deacons to better serve the least of those in their community (Acts 6:1-6).

All are called to serve God in various ways with their gifts, and yet the church has set aside the offices of Ruling Elder, Deacon, and Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament) to serve God's Church through particular functions. Ordination as an Elder or a Deacon is not an honor conferred, nor does it make one holier or wiser; but rather it is a confirmation of one's calling to use his or her gifts for God's church.

God is calling new Ruling Elders and Deacons to serve our congregation. The Church's **Nominating Committee** is responsible for placing nominees for the offices of Deacon and Elder before the congregation. Please consider the requirements below for Ruling Elder and Deacon and, using the form on the back of this paper, recommend members to serve who have demonstrated strong faith, dedicated discipleship and a love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.



DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

"The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgement should be chosen for this office" (G-2.02).

Responsibilities of a Deacon:

- ◆ To minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith
- ◆ Other duties assigned by the session:
 - attend monthly board meetings
 - serve on at least one ministry committee
 - participate in retreats and joint leadership meetings with the session
 - participate in officer training
 - assist with worship as an usher, offering collector, or coffee greeter 8-9 times per year
 - serve as "Deacon on Call" twice a year, providing support to families during funeral services and making visits at the direction of the pastor
 - participate in the regular worship life and fellowship activities of the congregation, including special services and events
 - contact church members in the stewardship season

RULING ELDERS: THE MINISTRY OF DISCERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE

“[C]ongregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation, but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.”(G-2.03)

Responsibilities of a Ruling Elder:

- ✦ Serve faithfully as members of the session, the council of the local church
- ✦ Serve as commissioners when elected to higher church councils, including presbytery
- ✦ Provide for the worship, nurture and service of the people of God
- ✦ Assist in worship, serving as a Worship Greeter and Communion Server
- ✦ Equip and renew the people of God for their mission in the world
- ✦ Serve on at least one ministry committee
- ✦ Participate in retreats, officer training and joint leadership meetings with the deacons
- ✦ Serve as “Elder on Call,” providing support to families during funeral services and making visits at the direction of the pastor
- ✦ Participate in the regular worship life and fellowship activities of the congregation, including special services and events
- ✦ Receive new members and review the roll of the active members annually
- ✦ Provide programs of nurture, education and fellowship
- ✦ Encourage generosity and faithful stewardship of personal and financial resources



RECOMMENDATION FOR NOMINATION to the Office of Deacon and Ruling Elder

The **Nominating Committee** invites recommendations for nominees for the offices of Deacon and Ruling Elder using this form. Please return this form to the church office when completed. It is not required that one has been a Deacon to be nominated as a Ruling Elder. You must ask your candidate if he or she is eligible and willing to serve if nominated and elected. **The deadline to receive nominations is Monday, March 20, 2017.**

I wish to suggest _____ (Name of prospective nominee)
for the office of _____ (Ruling Elder or Deacon)

I have asked this candidate if he/she is eligible and willing to serve if nominated? **Yes/No** (circle)

Candidate's contact information: _____(email) _____(phone)

Please share some qualifications of this individual to serve as a Church Officer: _____

_____ (attach an additional page if needed)

Circle ministry areas which align with this person's gifts: Local Missions, World Missions, Evangelism, Property, Congregational Care, Worship, Personnel, Finance, Stewardship, Fellowship, Christian Education

Signed: _____