
ELDER & DEACON COMMITMENT

An elder or deacon serves for three-year terms, two of which may run concurrently. Once an elder or deacon serves for six consecutive years, he or she must rotate off the Session or Diaconate for at least one year. The Session and Diaconate meet once a month and all Board members serve on teams that generally meet monthly.

A decision to serve on the Session and Diaconate represent both a spiritual commitment and a commitment to participate actively in the work and the mission of First Presbyterian Church.

My Recommendation to the Nominating Committee:

I RECOMMEND FOR ELDER(S):

for the position of (*Required – See back panel*):

I RECOMMEND FOR DEACON(S):

SUBMITTED

BY: _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

The Nominating Committee requests your recommendations be returned to the Church Office by Sunday, September 29, 2019.

Please return this form to the Nominating Committee by placing it in the offering plate at worship or to the receptionist's desk in the Church Office.

OPEN POSITIONS FOR FPC ELDERS & DEACONS

- Elder for Worship
- Elder for Property
- Elder for Personnel
- Elder for Evangelism and Invitation
- Elder for First Presbyterian School Board
- Elder for Student Ministries
- Elder for Congregational Care and Concern
- Nine Deacon positions

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joe Guthrie, Elder, Moderator
Stan O'Neal, Deacon Representative
Leah Dreggors
Tiffany Freed
Dawn LaPides
Sandy Weil
Jean West

Michael Bodger, *Ex Officio*

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW CHURCH ELDER AND DEACON POSITIONS

FOR THE TERM COMMENCING
JANUARY 2020

First Presbyterian Church
DeLand, FL

*Seeking those whom
God has prepared to lead
our congregation.*

AN ELDER & DEACON'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Ruling Elders constitute the “Session” (Scottish for “presiding court”), which is our governing body of 12 people including all ordained pastors who are the congregation’s Teaching Elders. They oversee the spiritual life of the church, make policy decisions and serve as the congregational authority on all church matters.

Elders provide leadership for worship, congregational care, outreach and nurture programs for all ages. They should be spiritually mature and demonstrate graciousness in their personal walk with Christ, represent the many as opposed to only a small constituency.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church serves as the governing body of the church; this also means each Elder holds the office of Trustee of the Corporation. As stewards of the church’s resources, Trustees oversee the budget process, manage church finances and maintain repair and security of the church property.

The Office of Deacon is one of compassion, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, of brotherly or sisterly love, sincere compassion and sound judgment should be chosen for this office (Book of Order, G-6.0402).

Nominating Committee Members are responsible for prayerfully recommending to the congregation a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Session and the Diaconate.

SEEKING GOD’S SERVANTS: Nomination Guidelines

An elder is a position to which one is called by the leading of the Holy Spirit to use their gifts. It is a servant/ministry function whereby a person’s giftedness matches particular needs and ministry opportunities in the Body of Christ. ***Electing an elder (and a Deacon) is an act of the Spirit.*** An elder is a man or women who has demonstrated their Christian witness to others in consistent ways and has the heart and passion to give selflessly of their time, energy, imagination and love to the work of the church of Jesus Christ.

Members of the Session and the Diaconate should represent the diversity of the congregation and seek inclusion. All active members of the church are eligible for serving on the Session in accordance with chapter G.2 of the Book of Order. Although an elder may not be serving on Session, she or he is ordained an elder for life. Furthermore, when several Sessional vacancies become available, it is wise to provide parity between former elders and those who will be newly ordained. Furthermore, nominees should represent the full richness and diversity of the congregation.

First Presbyterian Church seeks elders and deacons who are distinctly **called** by God, **led** by the Spirit of Life, and **demonstrate** a vibrant Christ-Followership in a particular form of ministry to which the elder is gifted to accomplish.

It is not recommended to have people who are new in their faith to serve as elders or deacons. Elders and Deacons should display a depth of wisdom and discernment. It is also not recommended to keep going to the same pool of candidates, either.

All nominees for elders and deacons are to demonstrate the six pillars of Christ-Followership as outlined under the Great Ends of the Church (F-1.04). These pillars are worship, spiritual formation, care of/for others, Christian service, winsome invitation and witness, and a stewardship of all we have. To that end, a Nominating Committee will consider individual church members who can honestly say and are

personally exhibiting an active journey towards a greater intimacy in Christ and are diligently attempting to learn, live, and display the church’s goal of accomplishing the Great Ends of the Church.

Some questions revolving around the Six Pillars (or Great Ends) to keep in mind about those you are recommending:*

1. Is he or she attending worship regularly?
2. Is he or she growing deeper in their faith through regular study of Scripture in both corporate and personal devotion? Do they have a small group?
3. Does he or she possess a servant’s heart, i.e. one that reaches out to serve others in deeds of love and compassion?
4. Is it evident to outsiders that he or she is a caring Christ-follower?
5. Does he or she attempt to invite others into areas of involvement in the congregation’s life?
6. Are they committed to the church’s stewardship? An elder and deacon should be a man or woman who not only makes a pledge but pays on that pledge, too. Giving is a spiritual issue.

Furthermore, as it states in scripture,

For an elder must be blameless ... as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered. Not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. Titus 1:7-9

*These guidelines were adopted and approved by the Session on June 29, 2013.