



December 18, 2020

Dear Christ Presbyterian Church Family,

As we begin a new year, and a new season in the life of our church, the Session has determined it appropriate to receive nominations for the office of elder and deacon. We will hold a brief congregational meeting following the 10:15am morning worship service in Roselle on Sunday, January 10, where we will explain the nomination process. That meeting will begin a two-week nomination period (ending January 24), during which CPC members may submit to the Session, in writing/e-mail, names of men whom they deem qualified to serve as elders or deacons.

You can nominate a man for the office of elder/deacon in 2 ways:

1. Submit the person's name in writing to Pastor Jon's mailbox at church
2. Submit the person's name by e-mail to cpcofficernominations@gmail.com

We do want to make a couple of comments in light of the current season we are in -- moving toward two campuses and subject to ongoing COVID-related restrictions that have recently limited our whole-church and large-group engagements and required us to meet in smaller services:

- First, we are aware that some who will be nominated for officer positions may be much better known by some members and congregants than by others, and this may depend, to some extent, on the campus and services they have been attending. We will plan to make the names of those nominated public after January 24th, as well as our plan for a time of officer training, preparation, and evaluation for those who choose to move forward with the process.
- Second, in light of this first point, we plan to structure officer training, evaluation, and preparation in ways that will include and emphasize engagement with both campuses.

Of all the actions a PCA congregation must deliberate, such nominations are the most serious. In some churches/denominations, all sorts of factors motivate nominations. Familiarity, popularity, and visibility are sometimes considered. As a PCA congregation, the standards must be very different, and solely biblical. Simply because a person has attended a church for number of years, does not mean it is "his time." Giftedness in the required biblical areas, calling to the office, spiritual maturity, and the congregation's desire to submit to his leadership must be the guiding principles for nomination.

With these preliminary remarks in mind, before nominating individuals to this office, please review carefully the following excerpts from Scripture and the PCA Book of Church Order (BCO):

1 Timothy 3:1-10: “The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.”

Titus 1:6-9: “This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

BCO 7-2: “The ordinary and perpetual classes of office in the Church are elder and deacons. Within the class of elder are the two orders of teaching elders and ruling elders. The elders jointly have the government and spiritual oversight of the church, including teaching. Only those elders who are specially gifted, called trained by God to preach may serve as teaching elders. The office of deacon is not one of rule, but rather of service both to the physical and spiritual needs of the people. In accord with Scripture, these offices are open to men only.”

Please keep in mind that this season in January is for the *nomination* of elders and deacons. After nomination, candidates for church offices must undergo extensive theological and personal reflection and examination before the Session formally approves them and recommends them for election and ordination to office.

As Paul instructs Timothy, “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure” (1 Timothy 5:22). May it be so, as we prayerfully enter this season of nominations together.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of these matters, and we'll see you on January 10.

In Christ,

Ronald D. Walkup,
For the Session