



“And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!”
1Thessalonians 5:12,13 (Message)

You must be a member in good standing to nominate a candidate for officer at Faith Christian Fellowship Church.

TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE, DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. VERIFY with your candidate that he is a member of Faith Christian Fellowship.

FOR ELDER & DEACON NOMINEES: Nominees should be a Christian **for at least three years** and a member of **FCF for at least one year**;

2. ASK your candidate if he is willing to serve as an officer of the church.

3. IF THE ANSWERS TO #1 & #2 ARE YES, you may submit their names on the form below.

4. THE NOMINATOR MUST SIGN & DATE THIS FORM (*nominations must be submitted in writing*).

FORWARD TO: Faith Christian Fellowship, Steve Sharkey, 505 East 42nd Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218
 or email form to FCFoffice@fcfchurch.org

5. DEADLINE: Last day of February



	Name	Phone Number	Email Address
For Elder:	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

For Deacon:	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

Member Name (print): _____

Member Signature* : _____

Date: ____/____/____

* I have asked all the above candidates and they have agreed to the nomination.

Qualifications of Church Officers

The Church is no mere organization. It is a spiritual entity which Scripture identifies as the 'body of Christ' (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:24) with Christ as the Head (Ephesians 4:15, 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 2:19); the collection of God's people (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Peter 2:10); a spiritual building with Jesus as the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20-22), the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:32). Therefore, the process of selecting leaders of this spiritual entity which seek to faithfully serve Christ and represent His continuing ministry in the church is a significant responsibility for her members requiring humble prayer and thoughtful examination as to what the Scriptures teach regarding the qualifications of officers.

These spiritual dynamics of the church reveal that the officers of the church are no mere organizational leaders. They are, according to biblical standards, to be Christians who demonstrate a combination of godly character, faithful commitment, and significant competence. Paul teaches that the desire to serve as an officer in the church is a worthy ambition (1 Timothy 3:1), but he outlines in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 the demanding requirements that officers must meet. It is a high calling, with significant spiritual responsibility.

According to the Scriptures, our denomination of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), recognizes two biblical offices: elder and deacon. We refer to elders as either *Teaching Elders* (theologically-trained men gifted in teaching who are specifically called to a teaching/preaching emphasis as a shepherd of God's flock) or *Ruling Elders* (lay men who are similarly called to shepherd God's flock as servant leaders, but who are usually not seminary-trained and whose teaching ministries are not pulpit based).

Despite these differences, the spiritual qualifications and ecclesiastical authority of each type of elder should be identical. The office of Elder is primarily one of spiritual oversight of the church. Elders serve by providing overall leadership to the church (1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1-2); teach/preach the Word/sound doctrine (1 Timothy 3:2, 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:13-17, 4:3; Titus 1:9); protect the church from false doctrine (Acts 20:17,28-31); equip the members to minister effectively (Ephesians 4:12); care and shepherd God's people (Acts 20:28); minister to the sick and pray (James 5:14; Acts 20:35) judge doctrinal issues (Acts 15:16), guard the integrity and witness of the church (1 Cor. 5) and protect its unity and peace. (Eph 4:1-5).

The office of Deacon is primarily one of service to the physical needs of the Body. These officers assist the elders in addressing critical tasks that would divert them from the ministry of the word and prayer (Acts 6:2-4) and the general, visionary oversight of the church. Deacons encourage, equip and coordinate the church's management of God's resources in meeting the physical, emotional and financial needs of the household of God as well as the needs of those outside the church. (Gal. 6:9,10) In this Deacons serve as leaders in the ministry of mercy and justice to promote and protect the witness of Christ (Acts 6: 1-7). Deacons often take charge of logistical concerns within the facility, enabling the worship service and related ministries to function well.

Because the spiritual qualifications for each office are virtually identical, the following is a single summary of Scriptural teaching. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these

qualifications for church officers. Note that the Scriptures do not expect that a given officer always and absolutely meets these standards; officers battle sin like the rest of us! The expectation, however, is that the candidate's life is consistently and generally characterized by these standards and lives in humble repentance.

1. GODLY CHARACTER: This is a summary of the character traits mentioned by Paul:

A. Godliness

1. *Temperate, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined* (Titus 1:7-8): not consumed with any desires of the flesh [and so demonstrates sexual purity, moderation and maturity with alcohol]; thoughtful and balanced in judgment; not rash
2. *Sincere* (1 Timothy 3:8): consistent in what he says; not 'double-tongued.'
3. *Not pursuing dishonest gain* (1 Timothy 3:8; Titus 1:7), *not a lover of money* (1 Timothy 3:3); *not greedy for money* (1 Peter 5:2): demonstrates contentment in Christ.
4. *An example to the flock* (1 Peter 5:3)
5. *Full of the Spirit* (Acts 6:3, 5): humbly dependent on God for all strength and wisdom

B. Desire to Serve (1 Timothy 3:1; 1 Peter 5:2) in humility (Acts 6:2)

C. Love for Others – *hospitable, gentle, patient, not quarrelsome* (1 Timothy 3:2-3; Titus 1:7-8): eager to share blessings with others; demonstrates Christ-like compassion; forgiving; not quick-tempered.

D. Good Reputation

1. *Blameless/Above Reproach* (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7): no grounds to accuse of improper behavior
2. *With good reputation among outsiders* (1 Timothy 3:7):

A. Devotion to the Scriptures

A deacon should know his Bible well and should believe it deeply (1 Timothy 3:9). An elder should, additionally, be able to teach Biblical truth (Titus 1:9-11) and should pray for the flock in public and in private (Acts 6:4).

B. Manages Household Well

The best way to test a person's ability to lead in the Church is to observe his management in the home (1 Timothy 3:11). The children of an officer should be respectful and obedient to their parents (1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 12; Titus 1:6). The spouse of an officer should be godly, loving and supportive of the officer's ministry.

C. Experience In Serving

The candidates must be well tested (1 Timothy 3:6, 10). The candidates must have gifts of leadership – people in our congregation should already recognize spiritual giftedness and demonstrated leadership and be benefiting from their current ministry within Faith Christian Fellowship. Candidates embrace and support the mission, vision and values of FCF.

(Note: The core material of this presentation has been adapted from Grace Redeemer Church, PCA)