

MISSIO DEI CHURCH

360 South Park Street, P.O. Box 92
Manhattan, IL 60442

The logo for Missio Dei Church (MDC) is a black square with the letters "MDC" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

This Nomination Ballot is one of the first of many steps in the selection of Elders and Deacons to serve Missio Dei Church. Listed below is a synopsis of the responsibilities of Elders and Deacons to further help you in the nomination process.

The Office of Elder (Servant Leaders) is one of spiritual leadership. So, “He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are outside the Church.” (BCO 8-2)

They must exercise government and discipline, and take oversight not only of the spiritual interests of the particular church, but also the Church generally when called thereunto. They should visit the people at their homes, especially the sick. They should instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, nourish and guard the children of the Church. They should set a worthy example to the flock entrusted to their care by their zeal to evangelize the unconverted and make disciples. All those duties which private Christians are bound to discharge by the law of love are especially incumbent upon them by divine vocation, and are to be discharged as official duties. They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock. (BCO 8-3)

They have oversight over the conduct of the members of the congregation, one another, the deacons, and the pastor(s). They make certain that what is preached and taught in the Church is in accordance with the Holy Scripture. They assist the pastor(s) with their good counsel and the task of visitation and discipline. They seek to guard the Sacraments of the Church from being profaned.

Additionally, we are governed by collegial decision-making among elected elders. The pastor(s) do not act as "CEO" or anything of the sort. The pastor(s) and elders are called by God and affirmed by the church to serve the congregation. However, we are not a "representative government", nor do we serve "member interests". We serve the congregation by serving the mission that God has given Missio Dei Church. We are "owned" by that mission and strive to fulfill that mission.

The Office of Deacon (Leading Servants) is one of servanthood and service after the example of Christ. So, “To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.” (BCO 9-3)

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It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. In matters of special importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation.

In the discharge of their duties the deacons are under the supervision and authority of the Session. In a church in which it is impossible for any reason to secure deacons, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the ruling elders. (BCO 9-2)

We ask that you, after praying, reflecting thoughtfully, meditating over Scripture, and observing the behavior of the potential people, nominate up to four biblically qualified men for elder and four biblically qualified men for deacon, as well as suggestions (godly men and women) for assistants to the deacons.¹

Qualifications fall into five categories: calling, character, competency, compatibility and comprehension.

Calling: Calling is both inward and outward. A nominee should desire to serve and be recognized by others as possessing the gifts and graces necessary for the task.

Character: Though no leader can expect to be perfect, he or she must be exemplary, modeling in a consistent way the character of Christ. 1 Timothy 1-3 and Titus 1:5-9 offer a useful summary of the character qualifications.

Competency: God calls elders and deacons to serve in distinct and varying ways. A nominee should evidence the inclination and ability to fulfill that particular biblical role.

Elder nominees should be able to equip and care for people spiritually and should know their way around the Bible and be able to teach it. They should be comfortable praying with people in need and should be good managers.

¹ According to the [Book of Church Order 9 – 7](#), “It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need. These assistants to the deacons are not officers of the church (BCO 7-2) and, as such, are not subjects for ordination (BCO 17).”

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Deacon nominees should demonstrate a practical and caring spirit. They should be willing to serve under the authority of the elders and in such a way as to free the elders to focus on their particular responsibilities.

Compatibility: Nominees need to understand and fit into the Missio Dei's life and vision.

Comprehension: Nominees need to understand and accept Missio Dei's convictions about theology and church government. This involves commitment to the Bible's authority and to the Church government.

All nominations will be given to the Session. The Elder(s) and Pastor(s) will affirm or disqualify nominations. Elder and Deacon Nominees will be invited into the appropriate Training and Discernment Course (TDC). The purpose of the training program is designed to accomplish at least two things. First, it aims to ensure that all potential officers of the church can make an honest, informed, and wholehearted affirmation of the ordination vows (see PCA Book of Church Order 24-5). Second, it aims to equip our nominees to serve, if elected, with the knowledge and resources required for the fulfillment of the office.

After completing the TDC, nominees will be interviewed by the Session. If calling is affirmed by the elders, then the candidates will be presented to the congregation, be publically examined (if elders) and then, if not disqualified, a congregational election (indicated by a simple majority vote) is required prior to ordination/installation to the appropriate office.

You will be able to submit your nominations in two ways: 1) Write in your nominations on the attached sheet and place it in the Ballot Box that will be found on the back table on or before **Sunday, February 3**. 2) You also have the option to submit your nomination form for Elder and Deacon electronically by filling out an online ballot. The ballot (electronic and paper) will also be closed at 5:00 PM on **Sunday, February 3**.

If you have any further questions, please contact Elder Nathan Phillips (nathan@mdchurch.us) or Pastor Paul Vroom (paul@mdchurch.us).

For Christ and His Kingdom,



Paul Vroom

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Date _____

I, _____, as a Covenant Member or regular attender of the Missio Dei Church community, after much prayer, thoughtful reflection, meditation over Scripture, and graciously considering people's qualifications (calling, character, competency, compatibility and comprehension), do nominate the following people to be considered for the Office of Elder and/or Deacon, or to assist the Deacons.

Signature _____

Elder Nominations	Deacon Nominations
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
	Assistant(s) to the Deacons 1. 2. 3. 4.

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Members in Good and Regular Standing:

Michael Archbold *	Caleb Hamstra	Kandace Lickel *	Matthew Priebe †
Jennifer Archbold *	Drew Hickey	Kyle Lickel *	Cassandra Triezenberg
Eric Bailey	Rhiannon Hickey	John Meskis †	Jake VanderVelde
Molly Bailey	Sue Hickey	Leah Meskis	Ken VanderVelde
Alex Bennett	Lindsay Holley	Patricia Meyers	Lisa VanderVelde
Abigail Borhauer	Ryan Holley	Jacob Mudde †	Mark VanderVelde
Brent Borhauer †	Jennifer Hunter	Shawna Mudde	Roxanne VanderVelde
Alexcis Brouwers	Amy Kamp	Joshua Nissen	Ryan VanderVelde
Bob Chapel	Ben Kamp	Michelle Nissen	Laura Vroom
Tennille Chapel	Joy Kamp	Amanda Paben	Kortney Yoder *
Alyssa Grata	Al Kasper	Todd Paben †	Gabriel Yoder *
Kevin Grata	Carol Kasper	Nathan Phillips †	Donna Windsor
Erin Hamstra	Kati Konkol	Sarah Phillips	

† Member in good standing currently serving or as an elder or deacon or on sabbatical (may be considered for other offices)

* Member in good standing who is in the process of transferring to another evangelical church

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