

2024 Officer Nomination Process

Officer Nominations Open

One of the regular responsibilities of the congregation is to nominate men to serve VPC as elders and deacons. The session is calling on you to enter into a season of prayer and consideration of men in the congregation who might be qualified to serve the church in this way.

VPC Officer Nominations: 1/7/24 to 2/4/24

Starting today and concluding on 2/4/24, the elders are requesting that you nominate men for the office of elder and deacon. A nomination form is included in this packet. Nomination forms will also be available in the narthex, or they may be picked up from the church office. If you are viewing this on-line, you can scroll down for a copy to print and scan.

There are three steps to nominating someone to serve:

First, pray and observe. Who is already doing the work of an elder or deacon in our church, but without the title? Who would you turn to or direct others to for spiritual care and material help? Who is God raising up amongst us that we in turn should recognize?

Second, ask. Before you nominate anyone, you should ask them if they would consider serving VPC in this way. Meet the man for coffee; invite him and his family over for lunch; send him questions via email or text. The officers of the church must agree with the system of doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechisms. As you consider men to serve in this capacity, part of your responsibility is to ask if they agree with those doctrines.

Third, nominate. No one can be considered unless they have been nominated. Please use the official form. Do not merely mention your nomination to someone; do not send an email or a text. Fill out the form and turn it in.

After all the nominations have been received, we will contact the nominees to confirm that they are willing to be considered. Those who are will be evaluated by the session to see if they are qualified to serve. A key part of the evaluation is the completion of Leadership Training and Officer Training. Any nominee who has not yet completed both classes will be asked to do so before a final interview and theological examination by the session.

Once the session determines who is eligible to stand for election, we will circulate their names, photos, and brief biographical statements for your prayerful consideration. A congregational meeting will be scheduled at least thirty days later. A nominee must receive at least a simple majority to be elected. Once the elections are completed, we will schedule a Sunday to ordain and install our new officers.

Thank you for fulfilling an important part of your responsibility as a member of Valley Presbyterian Church! May God guide us as we choose new elders and deacons to serve us.

Officer Nominations **[form attached below]**

The session of Valley Presbyterian Church is asking you to nominate men to the office of elder and deacon. Nominating godly individuals for office within the Presbyterian Church in America and Valley Presbyterian Church is a weighty and significant responsibility. No one should undertake it lightly. Godly and effective leadership is essential to the purity and peace of Christian congregations. If the church's leadership is weak, the church will also be weak.

With that in mind, please prayerfully consider the following guidelines as you answer these questions:

1. Should I nominate someone for office at VPC?
2. Should I accept a nomination for office at VPC?

To help you answer those questions, please consider the five categories below that help determine someone's qualification to serve as an officer of Christ's church.

CALLING

Calling is both an inward and outward reality. One should not only desire to serve, but also be recognized by the body of the church as one having the requisite gifts (see 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:3ff).

Some Questions to Ask

- *Has the church had sufficient time and opportunity to recognize this person's desire for service and gifts for ministry?*
- *If so, does the church as a body recognize this person's desire and gifts for ministry?*

CHARACTER

No leader is perfect; far from it. However, a leader's character must be exemplary, consistently modeling the character of Christ. Again, please see 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 for biblical guidance regarding character qualifications.

Some Questions to Ask

- *Without demanding perfection, does this person evidence a striving after holiness by God's grace?*
- *Does this person show both godly confidence and gracious humility?*

COMPETENCY

God calls officers to serve in various ways; those holding these offices should evidence the desire and ability to fulfill them.

Elders: God calls elders to shepherd people, spiritually equipping and caring for them with great gentleness, graciousness, and diligence (1 Peter 5:2ff). They should be willing to support the ministry of the local church and the work of the presbytery and denomination (see Acts 15:1-35). While elders should have a thorough understanding of Scripture and doctrine and an ability to teach the same, they should not be doctrinaire or contentious on secondary matters (2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:23; Titus 3:9). Lastly, they should be willing and able to visit and pray with members of the congregation as needed (James 5:14).

*For elder qualifications and duties please also read and consider BCO8-Elder.

Deacons: God calls deacons to care for the physical needs of Christ's people (Acts 6). Deacons should be sufficiently knowledgeable of the Scriptures, discerning and pursuing godly aims in the light of His Word (1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9). Lastly, they should be willing to serve under the authority of the elders as a way of freeing them to focus on their respective responsibilities (Acts 6).

*For deacon qualifications and duties please also read and consider BCO9-Deacon.

Some Questions to Ask

- *Does this person have an established record of worship and overall ministry participation? In other words, are they routinely and significantly involved at VPC?*
- *Is this person gentle in spirit, gracious, and dependable?*
- *Is this person well known to this body of believers?*
- *Does this person have the time necessary to serve as an elder or deacon?*
- *Is this person doctrinally sound, without being doctrinaire/contentious or divisive?*
- *Is this person a doer of the Word?*
- *If called upon, could this person competently teach people about the faith?*
- *Is this person a team-player, even able to enthusiastically support decisions of the session or deacons with which he disagrees (on matters of indifference)?*
- *Could this person make visits to and pray with members of the congregation as needed?*

COMPATIBILITY

Candidates need to understand, embrace, and fit into VPC's life and vision. Candidates also need to work well with others, generally, and be willing to work with existing elders and deacons, particularly.

Some Questions to Ask

- *Is this person compatible with the ministry philosophy and strategic vision of VPC?*
- *Will this person support the work of the other officers and equip them for the same?*

COMPREHENSION

Candidates need to understand and accept VPC's convictions about theology and church government. This involves an agreement with and commitment to the Bible's inspiration and ultimate authority, to Presbyterian church government, and to the

Westminster standards. While we can permit some stated exceptions to our secondary standards, these are typically quite limited.

Some Questions to Ask

- *Is this person well versed in the central doctrines of the Reformed faith, not enamored by theological fads or heterodox practices and beliefs?*
- *Will this person operate well within a Presbyterian framework?*

Officer Nomination Form

Only communing members in good standing may nominate qualified men for the office of Elder or Deacon at VPC.

1. PLEASE NOTE the biblical qualifications and important considerations for officer candidates prior to making any nomination.
2. VERIFY with each of your nominees that he has the desire to serve as an officer in the church and has been a member of Valley Presbyterian Church for at least one year by personally asking him if he is willing/able to serve in this way.
3. If so, then please SUBMIT the names of such verified nominees to VPC Session Clerk, RE Jaime Garcia on the form below.
4. YOU MUST SIGN & DATE THIS FORM (*nominations must be submitted in writing*).
5. FORWARD TO: Jaime Garcia, Valley Presbyterian Church, 9200 Haskell Ave., North Hills, CA 91343 or scan/screenshot and email to jygarcia@verizon.net
6. The DEADLINE to receive nominations is 2/4/24

Name Of Nominee

Phone Number

Email Address

For Elder: _____

For Deacon: _____

Reason you are nominating this person to this office:

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

Your Name (print): _____

Your Signature*: _____ Date: ____/____/____