

## Nomination of Candidates To the Offices of the Church

Questions for consideration...

Who may nominate candidates?

- Any and all communicant members of this local church.
- This is part of the privileges and responsibilities of membership.

Who may be nominated as a candidate?

- Any man who meets the character qualifications as described in the Scriptures. For the elder (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). For the deacon (Acts 6:2-4; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).
- Pray and consider the task and the requirements of the office, and the potential nominee.
- Ask them if they would be willing to serve as an elder or deacon. If so, submit their name in writing to the church office via postal or electronic mail.

How long does a candidate need to be a member of CPC?

- In order to be elected and installed into full service as an elder or deacon, the candidate will have to have been a member of CPC for at least one year.
- If at the time of the election the candidate has not completed the one year membership requirement, they may be elected to the office of elder or deacon "pending the completion of their one year membership requirement." The candidate would then be encouraged to serve in an advisory capacity alongside the elders or deacons (without the ability to vote as part of the official session or diaconate) until that one year period is completed.
- At the completion of the one year period, the candidate would then be formally installed as an elder or deacon, serving fully in the office.

How long do we have to make the nominations?

- Through Sunday, January 10, 2021.

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Quotes worth consideration...

“The knowledge that Christian maturity brings, combined with the spiritual dangers that others face, obligate Christian leaders to lead. Before God, we do not have a right to say, ‘Others may be in spiritual need, but I’m not responsible for them.’ Leadership aversion for the sake of ‘personal peace and affluence’ that Christian philosopher Francis Schaeffer identified as the primary goals of most people in our culture is not Biblically defensible. God requires us to consider how our attitudes or actions will affect others.”

- Bryan Chapell, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

“True elders do not command the consciences of their brethren, but appeal to their brethren to faithfully follow God’s Word. Out of love, true elders suffer and bear the brunt of difficult people and problems so that the lambs are not bruised. They bear the misunderstanding and sins of others so that the assembly may live in peace. They lose sleep so that others may rest. They make great personal sacrifices of time and energy for the welfare of others. They see themselves as men under authority. They depend upon God for wisdom and help, not on their own power and cleverness. They face the false teachers’ fierce attacks. They guard the community’s liberty and freedom in Christ so that the saints are encouraged to develop their gifts, to mature, and to serve one another.”

- Alexander Strauch, Biblical Eldership

“What does the deacon do? He ministers in the name of Jesus among lonely, sick, elderly, orphaned, widowed, dying, poor and deprived people...The specific answer is determined by the nature of the neighborhood.”

- Tim Keller, Resources for Deacons

“A Godly congregation will be involved in service, and individuals whom the Lord calls and equips for office will rise as leaders. From Scripture, the most effective diaconal ministries are built as the deacons serve as leaders, managers, trainers, and motivators of members of the congregation as they grow in works of service.”

- PCA Digest Position Papers, “Diaconal Ministries”

“The whole first half of (1 Timothy 3) is a good example of the balance of Scripture. For there is material here both to encourage the right people to offer for pastoral ministry and to discourage the wrong ones from doing so. The discouragement is that the required standards are high and the task is arduous. The responsibility of caring for ‘God’s church’ (5) is calculated to daunt the best and the most gifted Christians. But the corresponding encouragement is that the pastorate is a noble task, a beautiful undertaking, a laudable ambition (1). It involves giving oneself to the service of others. Besides, the words episkopos and diakonos are both applied to the Lord Jesus in the New Testament. Peter called him ‘the Shepherd and Overseer (episkopos) of your souls’, and he applied to himself the verb diakonein. Could there be any greater honour than to follow in his footsteps and share in some of his episkopē and diakonia which he is willing to delegate to us?”

- John Stott, Guard the Truth

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