

COMMITMENT TO SERVE AS ELDER OR DEACON

An elder or deacon serves for three-year terms, two of which may run concurrently. Once an elder or deacon serves for four consecutive years, he or she must rotate off the Session or Diaconate for at least one year. The Session and Diaconate meet once a month and all officers serve on teams that generally meet monthly.

The decision to serve on the Session and Diaconate requires spiritual commitment and active participation and leadership in the work and the mission of First Presbyterian Church.

MY RECOMMENDATIONS

I RECOMMEND FOR ELDER(S):

Name: _____

Position (**required**): _____

Name: _____

Position (**required**): _____

I RECOMMEND FOR DEACON(S):

SUBMITTED BY: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return this form to the Elder Nominating Committee by placing it in offering plate at worship or the receptionist's desk in the Church Office no later than Monday, June 18, 2018.

OPEN POSITIONS FOR FPC ELDERS AND DEACONS

- Two (2) Elders for Finance
- Two (2) Elders for Membership
- One (1) Elder for Mission
- Two (2) Elders for Personnel
- One (1) Elder for Worship & Music
- Six (6) Deacon positions
- Five (5) At-Large Members for Congregational Nominating Committee

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Warren Craven, Elder & Moderator
Alicia Bresee, Elder & Vice Moderator
Kyra Battle
Paige Brody
Dr. Max Brown
Leigh Ann Henderson
Leannah Robinson
Patty Stover, Deacon

Patrick Wrisley, *Ex Officio*



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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW CHURCH ELDER AND DEACON POSITIONS

**FOR THE TERM COMMENCING
JANUARY 2019**



First Presbyterian Church
Fort Lauderdale, FL

*Seeking those whom
God has prepared to lead
our congregation.*

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

Ruling Elders constitute the “Session” (Scottish for “presiding court”), which is our governing body of 21 church members and all ordained pastors who are the congregation’s Teaching Elders. The Session oversees the spiritual life of the church, makes policy decisions, and serves as the congregational authority on all church matters.

Elders are to provide leadership for worship, congregational care, outreach, and nurture programs for all ages. They should be spiritually mature and demonstrate graciousness in their personal walk with Christ. Elders are called to represent and consider the needs of all members of the congregation, and not only a small constituency.

Because the Session serves as the governing body for our church, each Elder holds the office of Trustee of the Corporation. As stewards of the church’s resources, Elders oversee the budget process, manage church finances, and maintain repair and security of the church property.

The Office of Deacon is one of compassion, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, of brotherly or sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office (Book of Order, G-6.0402).

Congregational Nominating Committee Members are responsible for prayerfully recommending to the congregation a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Session and the Diaconate.

SEEKING GOD’S SERVANTS: Nomination Guidelines

One is called to the position of Elder and Deacon. It is not something a person sets out and “lobbies” to be, nor is it a social function or a church popularity contest. Instead, it is a servant/ministry function whereby a person’s giftedness matches particular needs and ministry opportunities in the Body of Christ. **Again, electing an Elder (and a Deacon) is an act of the Spirit and not an act of popularity.** An Elder or a Deacon is a person who has demonstrated his/her Christian witness to others in consistent ways and has the heart and passion to give selflessly of his/her time, energy, imagination, and love to the work of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Members of the Session and the Diaconate should represent the diversity of the congregation and seek inclusion. All active members of the church are eligible to serve on Session and the Board of Deacons in accordance with Chapter G-2 of the Book of Order. Once an individual is ordained as an Elder or Deacon, she or he is ordained for life. Furthermore, when several Sessional or Diaconate vacancies become available, it is wise to provide parity between former Elders and Deacons and those who will be newly ordained.

First Presbyterian Church seeks Elders and Deacons who are distinctly **called** by God, **led** by the Spirit of Life, and **demonstrate** a vibrant relationship with Christ in a particular form of ministry for which the Elder or Deacon is gifted.

Because Elders and Deacons require a depth of wisdom and discernment for their service, it is recommended that those new to their faith delay service in these capacities. In addition, First Presbyterian is dedicated to identifying new officers rather than drawing on the same pool of candidates.

All nominees for Elder and Deacon are to demonstrate the six pillars of Christ-Followership as outlined under the Great Ends of the Church (Book of Order, F-1.04). These pillars are undergirded by our church’s vision to:

- **LEAD** people to Jesus Christ,
- **LEARN** about our faith,
- **LIVE** a Christ-centered life, and
- **LOVE** our neighbor through ministries of service and compassion.

To that end, the Congregational Nominating Committee will consider individual church members who affirm and exhibit an active and diligent journey towards a greater intimacy with Christ.

Some considerations about those you are recommending:

1. Does he or she attend worship regularly?
2. Is he or she growing in personal faith through regular study of Scripture in corporate and personal devotion? Does he or she participate in a small group?
3. Does he or she possess a servant’s heart, i.e. one that reaches out to serve others in deeds of love and compassion?
4. Is it evident to outsiders that he or she is a caring Christ-follower?
5. Does he or she attempt to invite others into the life of the congregation?
6. Is she or he committed to stewardship? An Elder or Deacon should be an individual who not only makes a pledge but honors that pledge. Giving is a spiritual issue.

For an Elder must be blameless ... as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered. Not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. Titus 1:7-9