

Elder/Deacon Nomination Form



H O P E
presbyterian church

ELDERS, ORDAINED DEACONS OR DEACONS/DEACONESSSES

You must be a member in good standing to nominate a candidate.
TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE, PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Please read over the QUALIFICATIONS OF AN OFFICER and prayerfully consider before you nominate
2. Verify with your candidate that he or she is a member of Hope Presbyterian Church.

Also, for AN **Elder**:

- Nominee should have been a Christian for at least seven years;
- A member of Hope for at least five years. But for a transfer elder, a member for two years.

Also, for AN **ORDAINED DEACON**:

- Nominee should have been a Christian for at least five years, AND
- A member of Hope for at least three years. But for a transfer ordained deacon, a member for two years.

For A **DEACON/DEACONESS**

- Nominee should have been a Christian for at least three years, AND
- A member of Hope for at least one year.

3. Ask your candidate if he or she is willing to be considered. The candidate should prayerfully consider the questions in this form.
4. If the answers to #1 and #2 are YES, you may submit their names on the form below.
5. The NOMINATING PERSON as well as the NOMINEE MUST SIGN & DATE THIS FORM.
6. Turn the form to:
 - a. Pastor Joe, or
 - b. Scan and email to PastorJoe@hopepcsd.org, or
 - c. Put in the offering box on Sunday
7. Deadline: **August 2, 2024**

Nominee Name	Nominated For:	Phone	Email
1)			

Nominating Person: _____ Nominee: _____
Signature: _____ Signature: _____
Date: _____ Date: _____

Description of the Offices



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Elders:

The elders are the shepherds of the church. They are primarily tasked with the word ministry – to preach the love of Christ truthfully and faithfully. They shepherd the flock through preaching, teaching, and discipling. Acts 6 speaks to the priority of preaching and prayer. There are two types of elders: teaching elders (TE) and ruling elders (RE) [1 Timothy 5:17]. Teaching elders teach/preach and rule, and the ruling elders rule (but they can and do teach).

Elders are overseers who exercise oversight over all matters of the local church within the boundaries set forth in the Book of Church Order. Elders are expected to know their sheep and care for them. At Hope, each Elder's shepherding role is to be first exercised in the department he oversees.

Deacons:

Deacons/Deaconesses are the servants of the church. They are involved in the deed ministry – to show the love of Christ tangibly and concretely. They are ministers of mercy showing compassion to meet the needs of those hurting.

Deacons/Deaconesses are to be spiritual servants who are to walk alongside the people serving them and showing them compassion. This office is not one of rule but rather of service both to the physical and spiritual needs of the people. Deacons/Deaconesses also work under the leadership of the elders. Their work can include administrative functions such as finance and logistics (as in Acts 6 in the distribution of provision to the widows).

Qualifications of an Officer

Many candidates struggle with knowing if they have the gifts to be an officer. Scripture gives us direction on the types of qualifications to be an officer. It is important to remember there are some reasonable qualifiers to these characteristics:

- Not chronology but maturity
- Not perfection but progress
- Not public speaking but Biblical discernment

An elder at New Life Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA, has stated, "Most churches make the mistake of choosing for officer's people who are competent, confident, and successful, because they think those individuals will be good leaders and shepherds. In reality, what you really want in a spiritual leader is an individual who has been broken by a knowledge of their own sin and then restored by an even deeper knowledge of God's grace."

Five categories of qualifications

- **Calling:** Calling is both inward and outward. A candidate should desire to serve and should 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 3 and Titus 1:5-9 offer a useful summary of the character qualifications.
- **Competency:** God calls elders, deacons and deaconesses to serve in distinct and varying ways. A candidate should evidence the inclination and ability to fulfill that particular biblical role.
 - Elder candidates 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.
 - Deacon and deaconess candidates 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:** Candidates need to understand and fit into the Hope life and vision.
- **Comprehension:** Candidates need to understand and accept Hope's convictions about theology and church government. This involves commitment to the Bible's authority, to Presbyterian Church government and to the Westminster standards.

Questions for Candidates to Prayerfully Consider:

A. Calling (1 Tim. 3)

1. **Desire** (V. 1). Are you eager for the office? Have you set your heart upon it or do other callings and ministries excite you more? Have you received affirmation from other believers based on faithfulness and fruitfulness?

B. Character (1 Tim. 1-3)

1. **Love of the law** (1:8). Is the law used properly in your own life? On the one hand, are you "free" from the law through rejoicing in the grace and imputed righteousness of Christ? On the other hand, is the law being burned onto your heart by the Spirit as you seek to emulate and please your Lord through the law?
2. **Love of the Gospel** (1:12-14). Can you think of your past, especially the dark parts, in such a way that it leads you to greater and greater praise of God's grace in your life? Has an experience of His mercy overwhelmed your sense of sin and unworthiness so you experience a confidence and boldness?
3. **Acknowledgment of sin** (1: 15). Despite this growing confidence, are you continually making new discoveries of the shape and depth of your sin? (Note Paul's present tense: "I AM the worst.")
4. **Life example** (1: 16). Is your life an example to others?
5. **Praise life** (1: 17). Is there a note of praise in your life? Do you ever break into spontaneous praise to your King? How is your corporate worship? Your private worship? Spontaneous worship?

6. **Perseverance** (1: 18-20). Are you willing to suffer persecution for the faith? Are you aware of and reconciled to the fact that Christianity is a fight and more so for Christian leaders?
7. **Prayer** (2: 1-8). Do you sense the urgency of prayer (V. 1)? Do you work hard, constantly at specific intercession for all sorts of needs (V. 2)? Do you pray for the spread of the gospel and many conversions (vv. 3-7)?
8. **If you are a man**: Does your attitude toward women have the balance between leadership and initiative (V. 12) and ministry that produces faith and love, not bitterness (V. 15)? If you are married, does your wife respect your leadership? Is it producing love in her?
9. **Relationship to women** (2: 9-10). What sort of women do you notice? Do you appreciate above all women of profound wisdom and fruit in ministry? Do the superficial aspects of beauty turn your head? Do you struggle with impure thoughts?
10. **Womanly character** (2: 11-15). If you are a woman, can you reconcile yourself with the authority of the whole Bible, including this passage? Have you understood the different callings of men and women? Can you see what things women are allowed to do and what they defer? If you are still single are you able to live without persistent sin, though perhaps with unfulfilled longings? Are you growing in faith, love, and holiness?
11. **Reputation** (1 Tim. 3: 2, 4, 8). Are you free from the besetting patterns of inconsistency that would be evident to other inside the church? Is there any charge, legal or otherwise against you that would scandalize those outside the church? Are you free of any addictions such as alcohol? Are you free of any hint of suspicion about your handling of money?
12. **Respectable** (3: 2, 10). Are you sincere-respected for integrity and responsibility? Are your words and opinion given weight around others? "Can you get people to follow you or listen to you? Have you enough Christian maturity and experience under your belt to command respect?
13. **Family** (3: 2, 4, 12). If you are married. Are you well married? Is your family life under control? If you are single. Are you exercising sexual self-control and, in dating life, are you commanding respect of onlookers with sobriety, wisdom, and responsibility?
14. **Self-control** (3: 2, 3). Are you addicted (sex, food, drink, work, spending, TV, Etc.)?
15. **Conflict management** (3: 3). Are you gentle but firm under pressure? Do you avoid contentiousness? Are you prone to anger and rash words, decisions, behavior?
16. **Generosity** (3: 3). Are you free with your money in those in need and God's causes? Are you willing to open not just your wallet but your home, life, and schedule to others? Are you approachable?

C. Competency (1 Tim. 1-2: 8)

1. **Protecting** (1: 3, 4). Are you ready to protect the flock from false teaching? On the other hand, are you willing to discourage needless controversies? What would you have to do to prepare?
2. **Nurturing** (1: 5). Are you capable of discerning if the fruit of the teaching of God's word in the congregation is love, a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith? What would you have to do to prepare?
3. **Reclaiming** (1: 6, 7). Will you be prepared to deal with wandering sheep and proud but mistaken "teachers?" What would you have to do to prepare?
4. **Reaching** (1: 9-11). Are you willing and able to make contact with the "murderers, adulterers and perverts, slave traders, liars and perjurers?" Do you avoid them? Are you skilled at bringing the "glorious gospel" to bear on such people?

D. Compatibility

1. Do you fit strategically with Hope?
2. Do you fit organizationally with Hope?
3. Do you fit interpersonally with Hope?

E. Comprehension, Knowledge (1 Tim. 3: 2, 7)

1. Do you know the Scripture enough to teach Biblical truth?
2. Are you perceived as being experienced as a Christian or are you seen as a novice?
3. Are you able to be "standard bearers" for a Presbyterian Church?

F. Grasp of the faith (1 Tim. 3: 9)

1. Though you don't need to be Biblical teachers necessarily, do you have a good grasp of the Biblical faith?
2. Do you hold it without being troubled by doubts and uncertainties?
3. Do you have a comprehension of the Westminster Standards and forms of church government?