

Starting January 31st, 2021, the session will be receiving nominations for the office of elder or deacon. Your participation in this process is important since elders and deacons must be **gifted** by Christ for office (Ephesians 4:7-12), **recognized** by the congregation as being so gifted (Acts 6:1-6), **elected** by congregational vote (Acts 14:23) and then **ordained** by the elders of the church (Acts 6:6). Please do not nominate a man simply because you feel we need officers. We are looking for those men God has equipped to shepherd and serve his church however many that may be. Any single nomination will be taken seriously, but we expect that gifted men will be recognized by many in our congregation.

Remember that elders are primarily called to shepherd our church, while deacons are primarily called to lead the church in mercy. The *gifts* required for these two offices are different, but many of the *qualifications* are the same. Consider the following from the Apostle Paul:

Therefore an overseer [elder] must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. (1 Timothy 3:2-12)

...appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (Titus 1:5-9)

I am nominating: _____

For the office of: Elder Deacon (circle one)

Briefly explain your reasons for nominating this man:

I understand that my nomination does not guarantee that a nominee will become a candidate for office and that not all candidates will be presented to the congregation for election.

Print Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(You may place this form in the offering plate, give it to Pastor Matt or Pastor Jonathan, or mail to: P.O. Box 573, Grove City PA 16127)

Procedure for Election of Officers

1. Nomination

- a. Members of Christ Presbyterian Church complete a nomination form nominating those he/she believes are qualified and equipped to serve in the office. (You do not need to speak with nominees before nominating them.)
- b. All nominations are to be placed in the offering plate, given to Pastor Matt or Pastor Jonathan, or mailed to the address indicated.
- c. All nominees are to be members of Christ Presbyterian Church for at least one year.
- d. A member may nominate as many men as he/she believes are qualified, but may only submit one form for each name.

2. Training

All nominees will meet with the pastors to receive any necessary training in the work of their office, and the doctrine, government, and church history of the ARP during the spring of 2021.

3. Interviewing

- a. Before the congregational meeting called to elect officers, the Session will meet with and examine carefully every candidate for office that is nominated:
 - i. as to qualifications for office
 - ii. willingness to serve in that office at this time
- b. No nominee who is unwilling at this time or not yet qualified will be presented to the congregation.

4. Announcement

All qualified nominees will be announced from the pulpit and in the bulletin at least two weeks prior to the congregational meeting.

5. Election

Qualified nominees will be voted upon and elected at a congregational meeting when training and interviewing have been completed (sometime in mid-2021).

6. Ordination and Installation

New officers will then be ordained and installed by the session according to the procedures of the ARP Form of Government.