

How to Nominate an Elder or Deacon

We are currently receiving nominations for the offices of Ruling Elder and Deacon. If you would like to nominate someone, please read the ministry descriptions below for either office to discern whether the person is best qualified for elder or deacon. Before nominating your spouse, please discuss with them their willingness and readiness to serve if chosen. If your nominee meets these relevant criteria, submit their name, specify whether you are nominating them for elder or deacon, and a brief description of why you are nominating them to ElderNominations@GreenwoodCC.com.

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Ruling Elder Ministry Description

Appointed by the Holy Spirit and called by the congregation, a Ruling Elder is ordained as an elder, overseer and shepherd to serve under the authority of Jesus Christ on Greenwood's Elder board (Session) and in the Presbytery of the West of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The primary ministry of an elder is spiritual leadership, watching over the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

Qualifications to Serve as an Elder (in addition to EPC G10-4, 5 and 6):

The most specific biblical criteria for elders and deacons are found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. We may summarize all the requirements under the heading of a life joyfully submitted to the Lord's authority (Word) and power (Spirit). Essentially every attribute or character quality mentioned in these two chapters is taught or modeled elsewhere in Scripture. For instance, we could also say that the character qualities required of elders and deacons is reflected in a life "full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). Having said this, we may identify the following criteria:

1. They are humble, teachable people, who have demonstrated a willingness to submit to biblical authority.
2. Their character is above reproach, consistently demonstrating the "fruit of the Spirit" – "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Paul specifically mentions that they be hospitable and not quick-tempered or quarrelsome.
3. They have demonstrated faithfulness in their marriage covenant or celibacy in singleness.
4. They have demonstrated spiritual leadership beginning in their family – they are seeking to lead others into God's purposes in God's ways.
5. They are rooted in sound, biblical orthodoxy and able to teach others.
6. They are faithful and generous with God's money and give to Greenwood.
7. They are not a new convert subject to the temptation of pride.
8. They have a good reputation inside and outside the church.

Deacon Ministry Description:

The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, concern for the needs, and of serving others. Therefore, the first duty of the Deacon is sympathy and service (EPC G 9-12).

Specifically, a Deacon will serve at Greenwood in the following ministries:

1. Caring for the vulnerable: building relationships with our vulnerable people – those who are suffering from poverty, bereavement, sickness, or isolation.
2. Communion: preparing the sacrament of communion to be served monthly.

3. Congregational Needs Fund: oversee the distribution of these funds according to expressed guidelines.
4. Hospitality ministry at funerals.
5. Meal, prayer shawls, and flowers: Oversee a team who are willing to cook and deliver meals and create and distribute prayer shawls.

Qualifications to Serve as a Deacon (in addition to EPC Book of Order G9-3, 4):

The most specific biblical criteria for Deacons is found in 1 Timothy 3. We may summarize all the requirements under the heading of a life joyfully submitted to the Lord's authority (Word) and power (Spirit). Essentially every attribute or character quality mentioned in these two chapters is taught or modeled elsewhere in Scripture. For instance, we could also say that the character qualities required of elders and deacons is reflected in a life "full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). Having said this, we may identify the following criteria:

1. They are humble, teachable people, who have demonstrated a willingness to submit to biblical authority.
2. Their character is above reproach, consistently demonstrating the "fruit of the Spirit" – "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Paul specifically mentions that they must be worthy of respect.
3. They have demonstrated faithfulness in their marriage covenant or celibacy in singleness.
4. They hold to the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.
5. They have demonstrated a heart of compassion, mercy, and a willingness to serve others.