

## *To the Members of the Congregation*

Your Officer Nominating Committee has begun its work, and the committee members are Chris Daniels, Tom Evers, Sara Folks, Helen Laffitte, Alan Lord, Carolyn Taylor, and Jay Thompson (Chairman).

The committee requests that members of the congregation pray for the committee and prayerfully consider their recommendations for nomination to the offices of ruling Elder, Deacon, Elder Emeritus and Deacon Emeritus/Emerita and provide them to the committee.

Inside you will find the Scriptural qualifications for elders and deacons as given in I Timothy 3:1-13. These are the essential qualifications to be found in all church officers. Also included is the portion from our church's Book of Standards summarizing the duties of those who serve as elders and deacons. There is also a composite list of qualifications with explanations to help you in your considerations.

Those currently serving as elders or deacons are not eligible for re-election to the same office until one year has passed. They can, if qualified, be nominated for a different office in the year they complete their term. A list of their names is included on the back of this brochure. Those rotating off this year are indicated by an asterisk (\*). Previously ordained but currently inactive officers are eligible for re-election. Please do not limit your suggestions to these lists. You may nominate any person you think qualified for these offices. Your recommendations may be placed in the offering plate, the special collection boxes in the Family Life Center, Jackson Hall, the Atrium, and the Ministry Building lobby, completed online on the church website or app, emailed to the committee at nominatingcommittee@firstprescolumbia.org, or mailed to the church office. **The committee strongly recommends that nominations be supported by correspondence to the committee explaining your reasons for recommending each nominee.**

Elders are elected for a four-year term, and Deacons are elected for a three-year term. Thank you for your prayer support as the Nominating Committee conducts its work.

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt." (James 1:5, 6a)*

The Committee would appreciate receiving your suggestions by March 1, 2026.

I nominate the following people for the office indicated and, in doing so, indicate my belief that each one is fully qualified according to the Scriptures as described in this brochure. **The committee strongly recommends that nominations be supported by correspondence to the committee explaining your reasons for recommending each nominee.** Please attach a letter with your comments regarding each nominee. If you so choose, you may submit your nominations on the church app, website, or via the following email address:

[nominatingcommittee@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:nominatingcommittee@firstprescolumbia.org)

**Nominator's Name**

## Suggestions for the Office of *Elder*

(Elders serve a four-year term)

## Suggestions for the Office of *Deacon*

(Deacons serve a three-year term)

**Please do not nominate the following since they are currently serving on the Session and Diaconate. Thank you.**

## **Session**

---

|                             |                                  |                         |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mark S. Barrow              | Steven L. (Lee) Harvin           | Melvin Bond Nickles III |
| David Eric Baxley, Sr.      | James Augustus Herlong, Sr.      | Theodore H. Reading II  |
| Robert H. Belding           | *Craig E. Hess                   | John Paul Riddle        |
| Matt Bogan                  | William O. Higgins               | Christopher Robnett     |
| Trevor Bowers               | *Ryan Hudson                     | Thomas Henry Ryan, Jr.  |
| Wyman F. Bowers             | William C. James III             | O. Stanley Smith III    |
| Jerry T. Brewer             | *Harry Langford Jeffcoat         | *James W. Stands        |
| John F. Bunge               | *Boyd B. Jones                   | Bradford P. Stutts      |
| Patrick Martin Cagle        | Steven R. Joye, Sr.              | Barton Thomas Swaim     |
| Clifford Daniel Cannon, Jr. | M. Tucker Laffitte III           | David William Taylor    |
| Walter Hammond Cartin       | Lanneau (Lanny) Wm. Lambert, Jr. | *Jay Thomas Thompson    |
| *Carl B. Cease              | Edward Alan Lord                 | *Scott Timmons          |
| *Jonathan C. Dando          | Jason P. Luther                  | Reid Warren Tribble     |
| Bruce M. Easterling         | Richard S. McCain                | Glen Ward, Jr.          |
| Steven M. Folks             | *William (Will) Gourdin McMaster | *Kenneth B. Wingate     |
| *Henri G. (Ree) Hart        | William H. Neely                 | Robby Woodard           |

*\*Rotating off this year.*

## **Diaconate**

---

|                                 |                             |                               |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Edward Bryan Able               | *Seth B. Davidson           | *Helen H. Laffitte            |
| Victoria Giles Andes            | Robert Alan Drummond        | William Grayson Lambert       |
| Patrick Andrew Augustine        | *Joseph M. Eller            | *Elizabeth (Lisa) Lidikay     |
| *Rolland Lee Blythe III         | *Peter Farr                 | Marc J. Miller                |
| *Claude deTreville Bowers       | Christopher J. Faulkner     | *Rhoda Jones Paschal          |
| Julia (Julie) Roman Bowers      | Sara DeLaney Folks          | Ryan Patane                   |
| Matthew Lee Bowers              | Laura Lee Foster            | William Mark Posey            |
| Gordon Edgar Brown, Jr.         | Aldon Garrett Givens        | John H. Reading               |
| Ansel C. Bunch, Jr.             | John Steve Gryder           | Cyril (Tripp) Berwyn Rush III |
| Christopher Lee Burke           | Miriam Hair                 | William Marshall Taylor, Jr.  |
| Jeff Alan Carroll               | *W. Emmet Hough, Jr.        | Deborah Wells Thompson        |
| *Margaret Holman Cease          | *Zachary Robert Hughey      | William J. Unthank            |
| Andrew (Drew) Cheatham          | Manly Eskew Hutchinson III  | Mark A. Waller                |
| *Joe Chiles                     | *Catherine Hood Kennedy     | Gill Fitzhugh Weathers        |
| Culver Paul Choate, Jr.         | William Charles Kinney, Sr. | *James Leroy Wells III        |
| Melanie Crawford                | Jeffrey W. Koenig           | Andrew (Andy) Moore Wilson    |
| Gray Thomas Culbreath           | *Jonathan W. Kunze          | Harry O'Bannon Wilson         |
| *Catherine Anne (Katie) Currier | *Richard B. Lacy            | *Michael L. Wright            |

*\*Rotating off this year. Men who are rotating off the Diaconate this year can be nominated for the office of Elder.*

## **Qualifications for Office**

*Below is a composite list of the Scriptural qualifications required for elders and deacons.  
Use this list as you prayerfully make your recommendations.*

**Above Reproach:** Exhibiting high moral integrity in all attitudes, actions and relationships; able to be entrusted with sensitive and confidential information.

**The Husband of One Wife:** This Greek idiom does not mean “married only once,” but rather “faithful to the one wife which he has.” A similar idiom is used of women in I Timothy 5:9. The idea is that of faithfulness and purity in all sexual conduct. Unmarried candidates are not excluded by this criterion, as Paul’s example plainly shows.

*(Qualifications for Office continued on back)*

**Temperate:** Does not act irrationally or impulsively; has appetites under control, and is not governed by uncontrollable habits.

**Prudent:** Exhibits wise judgment at home, at work and in the church; applies Biblical answers to life's challenges.

**Hospitable:** Welcoming to others, especially strangers; makes people feel comfortable.

**Not Addicted to Wine:** Exhibits self-control concerning food, drink, etc.

**Not Pugnacious, but Gentle, Uncontentious:** Has temper under control; not vengeful, spiteful, bitter or grudging; exhibits gentleness and is not argumentative.

**Free From the Love of Money:** Actions not motivated by financial gain; gives generously, and practices good stewardship.

**Manages Household Well:** Keeps family priorities well, and treats spouse and children as required in Scripture.

**Not a New Convert:** Is mature in faith and spirituality, and has demonstrated a consistency in spiritual matters for a significant period of time.

**Good Reputation Outside the Church:** Respected by those outside the church for integrity, wisdom, character, etc.

**Devout:** Evidences a personal relationship with Christ through personal Bible study and prayer; faithful in worship and in service to Christ.

**Shepherding:** Practices love for God's people in caring and helpful ways; looks after the welfare of others.

**Apt to Teach** (Elder nominees only): Able to instruct in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict (Titus 1:9).

### **The Scriptural Description of an Elder**

"It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ( for if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." I Timothy 3:1-7; See also Titus 1:5-9.

### **Our Constitutional Description of Elders' Duties**

"It is the responsibility of ruling elders, both individually and jointly, to guard and promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation. They are required by their office to visit the people, especially the sick, and pray with them, to comfort the sorrowing, encourage the weak, guide the wayward and the careless, and, in general, to discharge all other duties in Christian love. Although ruling elders do represent congregations by election, they are to seek the will of God in all church court decisions."

### **The Scriptural Description of a Deacon**

"Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus." I Timothy 3:8-13

### **Our Constitutional Description of Deacons' Duties**

"The diaconate shall be responsible for the congregation's ministry to those in material need or distress. It shall also encourage practice of total stewardship among the members of the congregation. It shall plan, in collaboration with the session, the causes toward which the offerings of the congregation shall be directed; devise effective methods of securing and receiving these offerings; secure and receive special offerings as directed by the session and the high courts of the Church; and see that all offerings are properly distributed. It shall have the care of the general property of the congregation, both real and personal."