

Guidelines for Nominating Men to Serve as Deacons or Elders

All Westminster members may nominate men to serve as their leaders in the positions (also known as offices) of deacon or elder during the annual nomination period. Finding the men of God's choosing to lead our fellowship is very important and we offer these biblical guidelines to assist you in making nominations¹. Please pray as the congregation nominates men asking the Lord to gift the church with godly men who will serve.

The men we nominate for deacon or elder should consistently demonstrate:

Character:

Above all else, Scripture emphasizes that leaders in Christ's Church must be full of the Spirit and consistently model Christlike character. At those times when a man sins, he should be quick to admit his wrong and seek forgiveness of all those he's offended. Scriptural qualifications for leaders list the positive characteristics they are to model and the negative characteristics they are to avoid. Much like the fruit of the Spirit, these lists are not exhaustive but representative of the type of character a man should display to be nominated as a leader:

- Positives. The person you nominate should display godly character exhibiting qualities such as: being above reproach, husband of one wife, sober-minded, disciplined, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, manages/stewards own household well, children are believers and not insubordinate, well thought of by outsiders, a lover of good, upright, holy, blameless, gentle, etc.
- Negatives. The person you nominate should not be: a drunkard, violent, quarrelsome, arrogant, quick-tempered, double-tongued, greedy, etc.

Faithfulness:

Scripture also requires a leader in Christ's Church to be faithful in his walk with Christ and his current roles and responsibilities in the home, church, and life. He must not be a recent convert but must be tested thereby displaying the staying power of the Gospel through the routine of daily life as well as seasons of rich blessing or severe trial. Additionally, Scripture encourages us not to overlook the spiritually mature and faithful who may be younger men. A nominee for office should be a demonstrated leader already serving by the Spirit's power in the areas to which you are nominating him.

Gifting:

The Lord sovereignly gifts all believers according to their ability to serve others administering God's grace to them. The person you nominate should possess the knowledge, affections/desires, and abilities/skills necessary to perform the duties for the office you're nominating him. Broadly speaking, the duties of a Deacon and Elder are:

- Deacon: Deacons provide spiritual and material aid to those in need, help the congregation to live generously, steward the church's resources and finances, and care for the church property.

¹ See 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6.1-7, 20:28-32, 1 Peter 5:1-5.

- Elders: Elders are to be men of prayer who: keep close watch over themselves; shepherd the church by teaching the members God's word, caring for their spiritual needs, and protecting them from false teaching or practices; and oversee the church by leading the flock in God's will and equipping them for what the Lord wants the church to accomplish.

Team – Ministry:

Being a part of God's family in general, and leadership in particular, involves relating to, caring and praying for, sharing with, ministering alongside, and equipping of others. The man you nominate for office should:

- Love Christ's Church and the local expression of it at Westminster
- Build God's kingdom, not his own
- Encourage and equip others to use their gifts to serve
- Present his opinions respectfully and passionately, and vote his own conscience but also support the decision of the group even if it differs from his (unless Scripture or his conscience dictate otherwise)
- Support the vision and mission of the church
- 'Mesh well' with existing the leadership team and support the team leader
- Resolve conflict biblically

Thank you for taking the time to review these scriptural qualifications for leaders in Christ's Church and to pray about who to nominate as a deacon or elder. Completed nomination forms may be submitted to the church office (in person or email office@westminsterpca.com) or placed in the white box in the Church Lobby during the open nomination period.