

## **Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 20**

Immediately following worship on Sunday, August 20, we will host a congregational meeting with the purpose of hearing and voting on the Nominating Committee's selection of proposed Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2026.

### **What is a Deacon?**

A Deacon is a Servant Leader who desires to serve the church of Jesus Christ with compassion, empathy, and love! Deacons are representative of the congregation and model faithful discipleship. Deacons are called to serve for three years. Deacons shall participate in Officer Training.

#### **Responsibilities of Deacon:**

- ◆ Responsible for care and compassion of church family
- ◆ Serve on Diaconate (quarterly meetings with our deacons and Pastor)
- ◆ Chair Faith and Fellowship or Pastoral Care Committee (a Pastor serves as staff liaison; committee consists of 6-8 people)
- ◆ Oversee hospitality and care for funerals
- ◆ Serve as Deacon on Call when Pastor is out of town

#### **DEFINITION OF A PRESBYTERIAN DEACON**

*The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people and assisting with the Lord's Supper.*

# What is an Elder?

An Elder is a Servant Leader who desires to serve the church of Jesus Christ with intelligence, imagination, truth, and love! Elders are representative of the congregation and model faithful discipleship. Elders are called to serve for three years. Elders shall participate in Officer Training.

## Responsibilities of Elder:

- ◆ Participate in monthly Session meetings (no more than one hour and 15 minutes long; meeting times are set by vote preference of elders)
- ◆ Serve as Usher chair for one month out of the year (you are not required to be present if you have a team prepared to serve)
- ◆ Chair or Co-Chair a committee (you will have a staff liaison and serve alongside a committee of 6-8 people)
- ◆ Participate in administering Communion (this is done on a first come first serve sign up)
- ◆ Participate in called meetings once a quarter following worship to receive new members (30 minute time commitment)

## DEFINITION OF A RULING ELDER

FROM THE BOOK OF ORDER (G-2.0301)

*As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church.*