



Dear Church family,

The Nominating Committee is charged with proposing candidates for the offices of Elder (Session) and Deacon to be voted on at a **Congregational meeting on August 27, 2023**, after worship.

The work of the Nominating Committee is that of prayerful discernment. We'll be seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to who might be called to lead our church at this time. We'll be seeking people of faith who attend worship regularly and are dedicated to the mission and ministry of Covington First Presbyterian Church.

We ask you to join us in this discernment. If you believe someone might be called to serve, please suggest their names to a member of the committee - *and it is perfectly appropriate to suggest yourself!* In submitting a name, we do kindly ask that you include a summary of why you feel this person has the gifts to be an elder or deacon. Below are descriptions of the offices of Elder and Deacon. In addition to monthly meetings, officers will also need to dedicate time and energy to committees or projects.

The Session is the governing board of the church, responsible for spiritual leadership, setting policy and providing oversight for all the church's ministry. The Session is made up of 12 elders. Each elder serves as the chairperson for the session committees: *Personnel, Finance, Facilities, Strategic Planning, Welcome, Witness, Marketing, Faith Formation, and Worship*. Pastor Neeley Lane serves as Moderator of Session. John McCarthy serves as Clerk of Session.

Deacons according to *the Book of Order*, (the "constitution" of the Presbyterian Church (USA)): "It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith." At FPC, we have 4 deacons. Each deacon serves as the chairpersons for the deacon committees: *Pastoral Care* and *Faith & Fellowship*. Pastor Neeley Lane serves as Moderator of Deacons.

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Deacons and Elders are "ordained" - an act by which the church sets apart persons to be presbyters (ministers of Word and Sacrament or elders) or deacons, and that is accompanied with prayer and the laying on of hands. The Session prepares candidates for ordination, and those being ordained will also answer questions regarding their faith and commitment. Both Elders and Deacons serve for 3-year terms. They may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

We encourage you to contact us with any name suggestions or questions by May 4, 2023.

To suggest a name (along with summary explanation) you may email Pastor Neeley Lane (neeley@fpccov.org) or Chair of the Nominating Committee, Louly Hay-Kapp (loulyh@ymcaatlanta.org).

We hope to present a full slate of candidates on August 27, 2023. Officer training will take place in Fall of 2023. This class of officers will begin serving January 2024.

Thank you for your support, and please keep us in prayer.

Louly Hay-Kapp (*Elder, Chair*)

The Nominating Committee:

Billy Forton (*Elder, Vice-Chair*)

Krista Firkus

Perri Walden

Michael Wilson

Mission Statement

FPC Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.