

What does an Elder do, anyway?



“Ruling elders...exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. (Matt. 20:25): 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.

G-2.0301 Book of Order 2015-2017

- Attend church faithfully.
- Attend monthly Session meetings (Elders serve a 3-year term; meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month).
- Serve communion/Support Deacons with ushering and greeting if the need is evident on a given Sunday.
- Attend a yearly leadership retreat with fellow Deacons.
- Participate in our West Jersey Presbytery (volunteers are requested each month).
- Serve on one or more of the following committees:

Finance and Property: Along with the Officers of the Corporation, oversees the care of the church’s physical structures, grounds, revenues (existing and potential) and expenses.

Subcommittees: Budget; Stewardship; Development; Buildings & Grounds/Administration; Investments.

Personnel: Make salary/benefits recommendations to Session and Finance Committee in consultation with the Senior Pastor; Provide guidance and support to staff; annual staff reviews; offer mediation, if warranted.

Governance: Makes recommendations to assist Session in increasing its effectiveness, efficiency and ability to guide and govern the life of the congregation.

Nominating: Requests nominations/presents members to serve as elders and deacons.

Long Range Planning: Formulates on-going, three-year, mission and ministry plans for Session’s consideration.

Christian Education: Works with the Director of Christian Education and FPC Preschool Director to nurture and support individual journeys of faith, offer Christian guidance and provide learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Worship and Music: With pastors, work to ensure what is needed for Sunday worship, special services/assure Sacraments are in place. Assist the Minister of Music in nurturing musical gifts from God and provide outlets for spiritual growth and engagement with the church

Youth Ministry: Serve as an advisory group to the youth director or pastors/provide support for youth events including leadership and chaperoning.

Member and Pastoral Care: Provides opportunities to strengthen relationships within our church family through fellowship and caring for current and anticipated needs of our members.

Subcommittees: Hospitality; Parish Nurses; Prayer chain; Care and Share; God’s Handiwork; Caring Hearts.

Mission and Outreach: Lead church members and others in “service to all people”; “Joyful participation in Christ’s ongoing life and work”; “working for the transformation of society by seeking justice”; and the “proper use of the gifts of God’s creation.”

We have a place for you...Your energy, your talents and your interest in guiding our church, leading it forward!

“I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, any kindness I can show any fellow human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.”
-Quaker Stephen Grellet