



Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church Officer Nominations

Healthy leadership is essential to the spiritual vitality of our congregation. Therefore, the importance of the process for selecting Saxe Gotha Presbyterian's leadership cannot be overstated. It is imperative that you very carefully and very prayerfully choose the individuals to suggest as nominees for either elder or deacon. Ultimately, the responsibility of every congregation to elect its own officers is a fundamental and distinctive element of our Presbyterian church government. The policy-making body of a Presbyterian congregation is the Session, which is comprised of both elders and pastors. The Senior Pastor serves as the moderator. In their role at Saxe Gotha, the deacons function alongside the elders on the various ministry teams and lead some of these teams in carrying out the work necessary to further the witness of our own church.

Terms of Service

At Saxe Gotha, the elders and deacons will be elected to serve terms of no more than three (3) years. Although they may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule, ordinarily there will be a break in service before active officers are considered again for nomination. However, no elder or deacon will be eligible to serve more than six (6) consecutive years.

Nominations and Election

Any active member of Saxe Gotha may make a nomination. All persons whose names are sent in will be notified of their nomination; and if they agree to be officially considered, they will then be interviewed by the Officer Nominating Committee. This is a group of members which is comprised of elders, deacons, and lay people from many segments of the Saxe Gotha church community. The Committee evaluates the needs anticipated by the ministries due to turnover, and the gifts of the persons who have been recommended for nomination, in order to arrive at a list of candidates to fill the vacancies and serve as elders and deacons. After a slate of nominees is established, a congregational meeting will be called and the names will be presented to our members for consideration and approval.

The Ministry of Elders

Elders are given the authority and responsibility, along with our pastors, to oversee the spiritual health of this church, and to ensure the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission. Elders will be elected by vote of the active members who are present at a Congregational Meeting called for that purpose.

The Ministry of Deacons

Deacons play a major leadership role in the ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation. As with elders, deacons may also be called on to preach, teach, and/or otherwise assume special responsibilities. Our Session assigns, directs, and provides oversight for them. Deacons at Saxe Gotha are elected by vote of the active members who are present at a congregational meeting called for that purpose.

Eligibility for Election

Any person who is currently an active member of Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, and who adheres to the Essentials Tenets of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, can be nominated to serve as an elder or a deacon. You will find the Essential Tenets at eco-pres.org.

Officer Nominations

Please read, and carefully reflect on, 1 Timothy 3:1-13 concerning officer qualifications:

1 Timothy 3:1-13 ESV

"The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

After prayer, please make sure to contact those members whose names you wish to submit in order to find out beforehand whether or not they would be willing to serve if elected.

Please email your nominations to Pansy Floyd at pfloyd@saxegotha.org or place the completed form in the offering baskets. You may also want to mail your nominations to: Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, 5503 Sunset Blvd., Lexington, SC 29072, Attn: Pansy Floyd.

Deadline for submitting officer recommendations is October 1, 2020.

My recommendations to the Nominating Committee are listed below:

Name:	Elder or Deacon	Date Contacted:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Recommended by _____