



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Recommending Candidates for Ruling Elder, Deacon and Nominating Committee Representative

The Nominating Committee of Fourth Presbyterian Church is prayerfully considering potential candidates for the Church Offices of Ruling Elder and Deacon. We are also considering candidates for the two Congregation-at-Large representatives on the Nominating Committee for 2021-22. The Nominating Committee covets your prayers as we prepare the slate of nominees for the annual congregational meeting. We also request your participation by recommending Fourth members for consideration.

#### ***What are the requirements for serving as a Ruling Elder or Deacon at Fourth Presbyterian Church?***

A Ruling Elder must be a Member in Good Standing of the church and must exhibit the qualifications for that office as set forth in the Scripture, including in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Persons who fill the office of Ruling Elder should exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all, both inside and outside of the Church, and should be bound by their calling to fulfill the duties imposed by the Scripture.

A Deacon must be a Member in Good Standing of the church and must exhibit the qualifications for that office set forth in the Scripture, including in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6. Because the office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, a Deacon must have the time and capacity to fulfill the compassion ministry of the Church and exhibit a concern for and desire to serve the needs of others, including the sick, friendless, bereaved, and those who are in any way distressed.

Candidates for both Ruling Elder and Deacon will be asked to affirm their agreement with the [Westminster Confession of Faith](#), the Westminster [Shorter](#) and [Larger](#) Catechisms, and the [Essentials of the Faith](#) as set out by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

#### ***What are the requirements for serving as a Congregation-at-Large Member of the Nominating Committee?***

Every member of the Nominating Committee must be a Member in Good Standing of the Church.

#### ***How can I nominate someone for the position of Ruling Elder, Deacon, or Congregation-at-Large Member of the Nominating Committee?***

Recommendations should be submitted as soon as possible to allow time for the Nominating Committee to review them and hold interviews with candidates. As you reflect and pray over potential candidates, please gauge their interest and obtain their consent prior to recommending them. When recommending a candidate to the Nominating Committee, please send an email with the following information to Committee Chair Steve Liston at [nominations@4thpres.org](mailto:nominations@4thpres.org).

- ❖ Candidate's name, phone number and email
- ❖ Name, phone number and email of person submitting the recommendation
- ❖ How long you have known the candidate
- ❖ How long the candidate has been a member of Fourth
- ❖ Confirmation you have discussed the recommendation with the candidate
- ❖ A brief explanation of the candidate's qualifications for church office.



***Can I recommend myself as a candidate for a church office?***

Yes. If you feel the Lord is leading you to serve in one of these positions, you may recommend yourself as a nominee. Nonetheless, we recommend you prayerfully discuss and seek to confirm your leading with trusted members and leaders at Fourth before submitting a recommendation on your own behalf.

***How was the Nominating Committee selected, and who is on it?***

As stated in the Church By-Laws, most members of the Committee were proposed by designated ministries; the congregation-at-large members were proposed by the previous year's Nominating Committee. They were then approved by the Session. The Congregation voted to approve the slate of members of the Nominating Committee for 2020-21 at the Annual Meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

Representing Session, Chairman: Steve Liston  
Representing Session, Vice Chairman: Ted Smith  
Representing the Board of Deacons: Joseph Siagian  
Representing Congregation at Large: Sandy Fischer  
Representing Congregation at Large: Michael Klitsch  
Representing Adult Education/Discipleship Ministry: Laura Cooper  
Representing Congregational Care Ministry: Donna Collins  
Representing Finance or Facilities: Robert "Skip" Berne  
Representing Men's Ministry: Rik de Voest  
Representing Outreach/Missions Ministry: Marilyn Edewaard  
Representing Women's Ministry: Anne McMurry  
Representing Worship Ministry: Cynthia Keith  
Representing Young Adult Ministry: Laura Morgan\*  
Representing Youth Ministry: Susan Kemp  
Pastor – ex officio (without vote): Dr. Todd Smedley

\*Note: Laura Morgan was appointed by Session on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, as provided in the Church By-Laws, to serve in lieu of Hanna Marra, who became unable to serve after the congregational vote.

***What is the timeline for selecting candidates to church office and the Nominating Committee?***

The Nominating Committee will be meeting weekly starting after Labor Day to consider recommendations and interview candidates. The Committee hopes to complete its work by the end of November. The list of nominees will be presented to the Session for approval. Once approved by Session, the slate of nominees and short biographies will be published at least two weeks prior to a vote by the congregation, which normally takes place at the Annual Meeting in February.

***How can I get additional information or ask additional questions?***

Please send an email to Committee Chair Steve Liston at [nominations@4thpres.org](mailto:nominations@4thpres.org) with any questions, and we will be pleased to respond as soon as possible.