

NOMINATION FOR RULING ELDER

First Presbyterian Church

Form of Government. Chapter 6, Concerning Ruling Elders

DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF A RULING ELDER.

- 6.1. The office of elder as set forth in the Scriptures is ordinary and perpetual in the Church. In both the Old Testament and New Testament church, God ordained elders to govern and discipline his people.
- 6.2. To this office of elder shall be chosen men of wisdom, discretion, sound faith and godly life, and who are qualified under the standards recorded in Scripture.
- 6.3. An elder shall be a member in good standing of the congregation, actively sharing in the worship and service of the Church and giving particular emphasis to the duties of his office.
- 6.4. It is the responsibility of elders, both individually and jointly, to guard and promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation. Although ruling elders do represent congregations by election, they are to seek the will of God in all church court decisions.

PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

- 6.5. The lowest court of the Church, called the Session, is charged with spiritual oversight and governance of an individual congregation within the jurisdiction of a Presbytery.

AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SESSION

- 6.6. The Session shall have as its primary responsibility the spiritual oversight of the congregation.
- 6.7. The Session shall plan, organize and administer programs designed to enable the congregation to carry on the mission of God in Christ's Church by word and deed in the community and also in the Presbytery, the General Synod and the whole world. In order to institute and supervise the general work of the congregation, the Session has the power to appoint boards, commissions, or committees of the congregation.
- 6.8. In order to carry out its responsibility, working under the proper jurisdiction of the higher courts, the Session has power:
 - A. To shepherd the members by visiting with them, especially the sick; praying with them; comforting the sorrowing, encouraging the weak, guiding the wayward and the careless, and, in general, discharging all other duties in Christian love.
 - B. To counsel with the members of the congregation and to inquire into their Christian knowledge and conduct.
 - C. To admonish, rebuke, suspend, or exclude from the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper any member of the congregation found delinquent, according to the Book of Discipline.
 - D. To encourage parents who are communicant members to present their children for the Sacrament of Baptism.
 - E. To receive applicants into communicant church membership upon profession of faith in Jesus Christ, upon reaffirmation of faith in Jesus Christ, or upon transfer of membership.
 - F. To grant the appropriate certificate of transfer for any member in good standing upon proper request.
 - G. To instruct, examine, ordain, and install elders and deacons upon their election by the congregation.
 - H. To encourage the officers of the congregation to devote themselves to their respective responsibilities.
 - I. To supervise the work of the diaconate and examine the records of its proceedings.
 - J. To develop and supervise religious and educational programs of the congregation.

- K. To employ and supervise any non-ordained church staff.
- L. To exercise, in accordance with the Directory of Public Worship, authority over the time and place of the preaching and teaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments, and over all other religious services.
- M. To assemble the people for worship in the absence of the pastor.
- N. To direct the securing, receiving, and distributing of special offerings.
- O. To devise and encourage suitable measures for the spiritual advancement of the congregation and of the Church.
- P. To observe and enforce the lawful injunctions of the higher courts.
- Q. To select from among its elders delegate(s) to the meetings of the Presbytery and the General Synod to represent the church. Such delegates shall not be instructed as to how they shall vote on matters with one exception. The exception is in a case of a proposed plan of Church union; in such a matter the session has authority to instruct their delegate(s) how to vote if they so choose. Delegates are to report to their session on the proceedings of the court.
- R. To propose to the Presbytery such measures as may be of common advantage to the whole Church.
- S. To establish, review, control, and dissolve any special groups within the congregation and in its discretion to require stated reports.
- T. To call a congregational meeting.
- U. To exercise authority over the use of the church buildings and associated properties.

I Timothy 3:1-7 *Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

After serious and prayerful consideration of the Biblical qualifications and the Form of Government requirements, I am well satisfied that the below named nominee is a worthy candidate to serve as a Ruling Elder for the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales family.

Having received the consent of this person to receive training and to serve, if elected, I nominate for Ruling Elder:

Name of Nominee(s) _____

Signed _____
Signature of person making nomination

Date