

Officer Nomination Form

Please place in the offering plate or hand to one of the elders

DEACON NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE SUNDAY EVENING Nov. 17, 2019

ELDER NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE SUNDAY EVENING Nov. 24, 2019

I have prayerfully considered the qualifications for officers in Christ's church, I would like to submit the following name to the DVPC Session for consideration as a nominee for: Elder Deacon (circle one)

(nominee's full name)

_____ I have read the Biblical qualifications stated in 1 Tim. 3:1-14 and Titus.

I have observed this nominee's consistency in the following areas:

- _____ His love for God and His word
- _____ His faithfulness in serving others
- _____ His faithfulness at attending worship, study & meetings of the church
- _____ His family life
- _____ His hospitality
- _____ His generosity
- _____ His love for others
- _____ His aptitude to teach in public or private (for elder only)

I am confident of his qualification for office and I offer his name in nomination and will regularly pray for him and his family should he be elected to serve at Draper's Valley Presbyterian Church.

(please sign your name)

(date)

Church Officers:

Nomination and Election Procedures

Draper's Valley Presbyterian Church, PCA

The Scriptures tell us that the desire to serve as an officer in the church is a worthy ambition (1 Tim. 3:1). The Apostle Paul goes on to describe the demanding requirements of being an elder or a deacon. So, the desire to be a spiritual leader in the church is a good thing, but not everyone is qualified to serve as an officer. Those who aspire to office in the church must meet the highest standards, and must be examined and tested (1 Tim. 3:15).

Paul describes the church as the "household of God...the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). Those are strong statements, and if we believe them, we must embrace a high view of the church, and seek only the most qualified men to lead her. Officer nominations and elections have nothing to do with popularity and everything to do with a person's consistent and deepening love for God above all things which nurtures a growing love and servant attitude toward his neighbor. In the kingdom of God a leader is first and foremost a worshipper of God, a lover of God and neighbor; and a servant to Christ and his neighbor.

THE OFFICES OF ELDER AND DEACON

Elder – The office of elder is one of spiritual oversight and government of the church (Titus 1:5ff; 1 Tim 3:1-7). In the New Testament elders are sometimes referred to as overseers (1 Tim. 3:1-2; Titus 1:7), sometimes as shepherds (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3) because they are charged with the nurture and care of the church just as a shepherd cares for his flock. Elders are also responsible for the teaching ministry of the church (1 Tim. 5:17-18). Thus, elders must both understand the truths of God's word, and be able to effectively minister in the body as one who encourages, edifies and when needed, confronts and rebukes.

Deacon - The office of deacon is one of service, extending mercy and sympathy to those in need, especially those within in the church. Deacons are first mentioned, though not by title, in Acts 6:1-6, as men who are chosen to minister to the physical needs of people within the church. The spiritual nature of the deacon's service of mercy is no less vital than the elder's rule; the health of the church is inseparably tied to both offices. In addition to mercy ministry, the deacon is called to administrate financial issues within the church – giving and distribution of gifts - and to care for the church property.

Any man assuming the office of elder or deacon must meet the qualifications listed in 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 (elder) and 1 Tim 3:8-13 (deacon). Both offices are perpetual – that is, men are ordained to the offices for life, unless extraordinary circumstances allow or call for the dissolution of one's office. The terms of office may be on a rotation, allowing for breaks in service.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICE

Based on passages in 1 Timothy and Titus

Consider these attributes when nominating men to serve

Elder

Above Reproach – Is the candidate living in such a way that no one can rightly accuse him of ungodly habits or actions?

Husband of one wife – Is the candidate, if married, a loving and faithful husband; if single, above reproach in his relationships with women? This qualification does not forbid a biblically divorced man from holding office. The focus is on a candidate's purity in thought word and deed toward women and his faithfulness to his wife.

Sober-minded – Is the candidate serious minded, reasonable, wise in thought, word and deed?

Self-controlled – Is he over indulgent in any area of life?

Hospitable – “love for strangers” does he meet people well, friendly outgoing willing to open his home, his hand and his wallet to those Christians and non – Christians he meets?

Able to Teach – can he communicate biblical truth to others one on one, in small groups or even to lead the congregation?

Not a Drunkard – Is this area of his life under control?

Not violent, but gentle – is he noted for his gentleness with others?

Not quarrelsome – Is he prone to argue, is he well-tempered?

Not a lover of money – Is accumulation of material thing a priority for him? Does he have a giving heart and hand?

Manage his own household well – Does he faithfully lead his wife and children? Do they respect him?

Not a recent convert – Does he exhibit signs of Christian maturing and growth?

Thought well of outside the church – Is he respected in the community, at work?

Able to encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it – Elders must be able to stand for the truth. He must understand and believe the system of doctrine summarized in the Westminster Standards.

Deacon *Qualifications include those noted previously as well as...*

Dignity – Does he exhibit devotion to the Lord, and have a sense of honor?

Not double-tongued – Is he honest, doing what he says he will do?

Loving what is good – Does he look for and expect the best in others?

Holding to the deep truths of the faith – Deacons are not required to teach, but must personally be committed to and believe the Westminster Standards.

Procedure for Election of Officers at Draper's Valley PCA

- **Nomination** – A man may be placed in nomination by any DVPC member in good standing after a prayerful consideration of the character and duties of the Biblical offices.
- **Session Approval of Nominees** – The current elders in the congregation have the responsibility of initially evaluating all nominees for their fitness to serve as an officer.
- **To be considered as a nominee for Elder**, a man must be nominated by at least 3 DVPC members from 3 different church households.
- **To be considered as a new Deacon**, a man must be nominated by at least 3 DVPC members from 3 different church households. If a man has already been approved and ordained as Deacon at DVPC, but is currently not actively serving, he needs to be nominated by only one church household.
- **Training and Examination** – Nominees who are approved by the elders are required to attend Officer Training Classes. The purpose of these classes is to train, educate and examine nominees in the areas of service. For the office of elder this will include Christian Experience and Call to Office, Biblical Doctrine, Church Government and Church History.
- **Election** – Approved nominees are presented to the church at a called congregational meeting. As these officers must be submitted to by the congregation a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of all ballots cast is required to elect the officers.
- **Ordination and Installation** – New officers are ordained and installed, returning officers are installed, according to the PCA Book of Order chapter 24.
- **Terms of Service**- Elders serve continually, with requested leaves of absence. Deacons serve a three-year term and may be reelected.
- **Membership responsibility** - It is the duty and privilege of each church member to prayerfully consider what men God has equipped and called to lead the church. You should then nominate those men who demonstrate the biblical qualifications for office.